

AGRICULTURE**Resolution #1** Joining the Maine Grange Initiative Resolution

Submitted by: Blue Spruce Grange #574

WHEREAS: agricultural methods and processes are responsible for approximately 10% of the total US GREEN HOUSE GAS emissions and

WHEREAS: agricultural runoff of chemicals and fertilizers are negatively affecting the cleanliness and viability of our water sources, and

WHEREAS: there are innovative products and practices that can help farmers reduce their Green House Gas emissions and reduce runoffs, and

WHEREAS: the Maine State Grange is looking to expand its Farmers' Initiative, an effort to promote Sustainable Agriculture by uniting with farmers and support industries to put into practice these reduction efforts to include the other New England State Granges, therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Vermont State Grange promote the expansion of the Maine State Grange Farmers' Initiative to include Vermont and work to promote Sustainable Agriculture here in this state and throughout New England.

Resolution #2 Non-Meat Substitutes in Separate Section

Submitted by: Lake View Grange #359

WHEREAS: there is a new trend for making so-called meat from plant products, and

WHEREAS: it is not meat all, but a substitute, and

WHEREAS: it can be, and is, found in the meat section of the grocery stores, therefore be it

RESOLVED: that non-meat substitutes should be contained in their own separate section and not displayed with real meat products.

GOOD OF THE ORDER**Resolution #3** Accepted Method of Meeting as a Grange or Committee

Submitted by: Milton Grange #522

A resolution allowing Subordinate, Pomona, and related State Grange committees to have the option to continue to meet by Zoom or related technology, indefinitely for the Good of the Order.

WHEREAS: the average age of most Grange members is over sixty-five, creating age health related restrictions that often impact transportation, and with chronic health issues that restrict

attending meetings, as well as that some Grange Halls may not always meet accessibility and health codes, and

WHEREAS: local, state, and the National Grange should continue to advocate for individual and family inclusion and should be open to the usage of new technologies, and

WHEREAS: making savings in official transportation, meeting costs, as related to rental costs, heating, and related utility costs be used to educate and allow any Grange member access via Zoom or related Technologies, therefore be it:

RESOLVED: that any meeting by Zoom or related technology be accepted method of meeting as a Grange or by various Grange committees at Subordinate, Pomona, State, and National Grange. The passage of this resolution in any form at State Session will be sent for consideration by the National Grange.

Resolution #4 Words and Titles

Submitted by: Milton Grange #522

WHEREAS: the beautiful, faith based, patriotic, rich in symbolism of the various degrees and programs would not change, however, a change of terms and titles used would change, and

WHEREAS: in an effort to reach a younger, more diverse membership, the change in terms, titles, and in some situations be determined at the National Grange level with the charge not to maintain the status quo, but really support change for the future of the Grange, therefore be it

RESOLVED: that words matter! For the changes of certain titles and terms will reflect a Grange that maintains a tradition of diversity and inclusiveness. We support the changes of certain terms and titles to reflect the spirit of the Grange. The passage of this resolution must be sent to the National Grange.

Resolution #5 Name Change of Family Activities/Domestic Arts Committee

Submitted by: Kingdom Pomona #35

WHEREAS: County and State Fairs have Arts and Crafts Departments that cover the same contests as the Grange "Home Ec/Family Activities and Domestic Arts", therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Vermont State Grange, Vermont Pomona Granges, and Subordinate Granges change the name of their committee or department to "Arts and Crafts Department"

Resolution #6 Family Activities/Domestic Arts Name Change

Submitted by: Milton Grange #522

WHEREAS: the majority of people that enter the contests in this department do not know what Domestic Arts means, and

WHEREAS: most of the States (6 out of 7) in our region use Family Activities as a title for this department, and

WHEREAS: most fairs use Arts and Crafts, or Home Crafts for this type of crafts, therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Family Activities/Domestic Arts department be called Family Activities in the Vermont State Grange.

Resolution #7 Community Service Books

Submitted by: Blue Spruce Grange #574 and Champlain Valley Pomona #37

WHEREAS: many Granges in Vermont work hard to put together the Community Service Book for National judging, and

WHEREAS: it is not always possible to submit winning Community Service Books for judging to National because the minimum number of books were not submitted by 25% of Vermont Granges, and

WHEREAS: because the books cannot be judged on a national level, Granges are unable to compete for the prize money awarded by the National Grange, therefore be it

RESOLVED: when the required number of books are not collected by the Community Service Director to permit a winning book to be sent on to National, that the books be judged in Vermont and winners named, and be it further

RESOLVED: that the first three place winners be awarded a monetary prize of \$75.00 for first place, \$50.00 for second place, and \$25.00 for third place, with the funds to come out of the Community Service budget.

HEALTH, EDUCATION, & WELFARE

Resolution #8 Nurse Licensure Compact

Submitted by: Cobble Hill Grange #453

WHEREAS: the health and safety of the public are affected by the degree of compliance with and effective enforcement activities of the state nurse licensure laws, and

WHEREAS: the expanded mobility of nurses and the use of advanced communication technologies as part of our nation's health care delivery system require greater coordination and cooperation among states in the area of nurse licensure and regulation and

- WHEREAS: the current system of duplicative licensure for nurses practicing in multiple states is cumbersome and redundant for both nurses and states, and
- WHEREAS: uniformity of nurse licensure requirements such as those found in the Nurse Licensure Compact as amended by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing would promote public safety and public health benefits, and
- WHEREAS: this Compact would allow registered nurses (RN) and licensed practical or vocational nurses (LPN/VN) to be issued a Multistate License that would allow them to practice in all states party to the Compact, now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: that the Vermont State Grange encourages the Vermont Legislature to adopt the Nurse Licensure Compact.

Resolution #9 Medicare for All

Submitted by: Blue Spruce Grange #574

- WHEREAS: 72% of all bankruptcies are the result of medical bills, even though three in four patients had full medical coverage, and
- WHEREAS: in our present system, patients wait weeks and months for elective procedures, and
- WHEREAS: a Medicare for All scenario would take 4% of our taxes as opposed to around 20% of our income on health insurance premiums, therefore be it
- RESOLVED: that Grange at all levels urge lawmakers to mandate Medicare for All to ensure that all Americans benefit from the same health coverage on a level playing field.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

Resolution #10 Interstate Speed Limits

Submitted by: Lake View Grange #359 and Heart of Vermont Pomona #34

- WHEREAS: our Vermont House of Representatives is considering legislation that proposes to establish a maximum speed limit of not more than 55 miles per hour on Interstate Highways (I-89, I-91, I-93, and I-289), and
- WHEREAS: the Interstate Highways are, for the most part, designed for safe and efficient travel at greater speeds than 55 miles per hour, and
- WHEREAS: because the current mandated speeds are not enforced, as any trip between Brattleboro and Newport or White River and Highgate will confirm, it is highly unlikely that the 55 miles per hour limit will be enforced, therefore be it

- RESOLVED: that the Grange opposes the imposition of a 55 mile per hour speed limit on Interstate Highways except in those urbanized areas such as the Burlington, Brattleboro, and White River areas where the limits are already reduced, and be it further
- RESOLVED: that this resolution, if adopted, become part of the State Grange Policy Book provided to members of the Vermont General Assembly.

LEGISLATIVE

Resolution #11 Public Sector Employees Allowed to Join a Labor Union Without Holding an Election

Submitted by: Capital City Grange #469

- WHEREAS: the Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry was founded to protect the rights of farmers, the working class of the agriculture industry, and to enable farmers to work together to protect their rights, and
- WHEREAS: the Grange's mission should include support for the current members of the working class, and
- WHEREAS: workers, including public sector employees, often face stiff resistance from employers when attempting to join together to collectively negotiate better wages and working conditions, and therefore be it
- RESOLVED: that Vermont bills H.308 and S.131, which are before the Vermont Legislature during the 2021-2022 biennium, and are designed to allow public sector employees to join a labor union without holding an election if a majority of the members of the bargaining unit sign a petition to be represented by the union in collective bargaining, and be it further
- RESOLVED: that the Vermont State Grange urges the Vermont House and Senate to pass H.308 and S.131, and the Governor sign the final bill.

Resolution #12 Number Spoofing or Cloning

Submitted by: Lake View Grange #359

- WHEREAS: the cloning or "number spoofing" of telephone numbers is becoming more and more frequent, and
- WHEREAS: people answer the phone when they have caller ID and see that the call comes from a family member or a hospital that they frequent, and
- WHEREAS: this call is usually about renewing your auto insurance or some other telemarketing project rather than the actual person or business listed, and
- WHEREAS: people stop answering the phone when they see these calls when it could actually be (and sometime is) a call from one's Doctor or ill family member, therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Vermont State Grange urge the Vermont Legislature to take action to bring this practice of **Number Spoofing or Cloning** to a halt and be it further

RESOLVED: that this resolution be forwarded to the Federal Government for their action on the problem.

Resolution #13 Expansion of Container Deposit System

Submitted by: Lake View Grange #359 and Heart of Pomona Grange #34

WHEREAS: the Vermont House of Representatives has passed legislation (H.175) that would greatly expand the state's container deposit/redemption system to include water bottles, wine bottles, and containers for all non-carbonated and carbonated drinks except for milk, dairy products, plant-based beverages, and non-alcoholic cider, and

WHEREAS: while the legislation exempts such "plant-based beverages" as "milk" products made from rice, soy, nuts, oats, and hemp seed, it does not apparently exempt such plant-based beverages as fruit or vegetable juice, and

WHEREAS: the main purpose of container deposits was to assign value to materials to encourage their return rather than becoming litter along our roadsides in the days before routine recycling, and

WHEREAS: Vermont has developed a very efficient and commonly used system for recycling, as any visit to a transfer station can attest, and

WHEREAS: expansion of the deposit system would merely divert routinely recycled material through the redemption system and add physical, logistical, and bureaucratic burdens to the system, now therefore be it

RESOLVED: the Grange opposes expansion of the Vermont container deposit system, and be it further

RESOLVED: that this resolution, if adopted, become part of the State Grange Policy Book provided to members of the Vermont General Assembly.

TAXATION

Resolution #14 Solar Installations on Agricultural Lands

Submitted by: Cobble Hill Grange #453

WHEREAS: there is confusion regarding property taxes when solar installations are constructed on agricultural land, whether or not the land is still taxable under use value appraisal, and

WHEREAS: clarification of this issue is important to owners of agricultural land when considering construction of small solar installations, and

WHEREAS:

House Bill #9 under consideration in the legislature proposes to clarify the issue, now therefore be it

RESOLVED:

that the Vermont State Grange supports legislation that expands the definition of agricultural land to include the land underlying any solar generation facility that is, in the aggregate, 0.1 acre or less.