

# Adopted Resolutions 2011

## **Agriculture & Environmental Issues**

RESOLVED, that the Grange opposes any enactment of legislation to dictate production systems or husbandry practices for farm animals; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, that the Grange supports the freedom of farmers to choose ethical and humane methods of husbandry based on sound science.

RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania Grange not support a severance tax; and Be It Further

RESOLVED that the Pennsylvania State Grange support an impact fee on gas exploration and production activities that would be shared by all impacted entities.

RESOLVED, that we strongly support maintaining the County Conservation Districts' responsibility to prevent stream damage and pollution to our waterways and land as a result of gas drilling.

RESOLVED, that an all-inclusive registry of pipelines, pipeline operators, and their locations be developed and that information be available to emergency response personnel, planning agencies, and other relevant agencies and systems.

RESOLVED that PA State Grange support the repeal of parts of Act 119 of 2008 known as the "DOG LAW" which are onerous and burdensome.

RESOLVED, that we support Senate Bill 390-2011 and similar legislation that would update regulations allowing wider equipment and equipment transportation at night if proper safety precautions are taken; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, that implements of husbandry permitted width on roads be increased from 14 feet 6 inches to 16 feet if additional safety precautions are taken.

RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania State Grange supports the continued research into alternative forms of ground cover and erosion control.

RESOLVED, that the Grange supports legislative efforts to update the Fair Dealership Law to protect dealers by allowing them to sell competitive lines and other changes that give dealers the ability to thrive and better serve Pennsylvania farmers and other consumers.

## **Family Issues**

RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania State Grange strongly support funding of the arts in our public schools.

RESOLVED, to have Adult Basic insurance re-established to cover health care for low income workers.

RESOLVED, that we support reinstating 2009 levels of employment taxes in order to continue to fund Social Security and Medicare.

RESOLVED, that Pennsylvania State Grange support a bill to mandate annual training in concussion awareness for all school coaches and trainers.

RESOLVED, that when a medical professional is convicted of a crime or legally required to stop practicing medicine, a national medical roster be maintained to identify such individuals for consumer safety sake; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, that the Grange work with legislators and the medical profession to establish a medical conviction registry to assist the public in securing services from ethical and professional practitioners in the field of medicine.

RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania State Grange work with our legislators to create laws that would require a drug screening before an applicant is approved for assistance through the Department of Public Welfare and random drug screening be performed as a condition of continuing to receive such benefits.

RESOLVED, that the PA State Grange oppose the merger of Express Scripts and Medco.

RESOLVED, that the PA State Grange encourage establishment of unisex family restrooms in public places.

### **Governmental Issues**

RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania State Grange supports a commission to analyze costs associated with the General Assembly's multiple printing offices, TV and radio production studios, with the goal of reducing printing offices and TV and radio production studio expenses.

RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania State Grange supports legislation to reduce legislative staff.

RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania State Grange supports a policy to create a system of legislator records retention that not only provides for security of records but also requires legislators to pass on records to those who succeed them in office.

RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania State Grange supports a policy that requires continuation of services, including paychecks, to military personnel and their families, social security recipients and other critical social services recipients if the federal budget is not passed on time.

RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania State Grange supports a policy that prohibits state and national legislators from receiving their salary, expenses and benefits during any time in which a budget is not in effect; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, that no retroactive salary, expenses or benefits be provided once a state or national budget has been approved.

RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania State Grange supports the conversion, over time, of the state pension plan system to a state employee retirement contribution plan under Section 401(K) or other applicable section of the Tax Code.

RESOLVED, that the PA State Grange supports amending the laws such that current and former political office holders convicted of public corruption crimes will have their pensions reduced to zero.

RESOLVED, to have the COLA law for Legislators repealed.

RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania State Grange strongly oppose the use of any commission, council, or other consortium of non-elected appointees to create legislative mandates that Congress must adhere to, that are not subject to judicial review or the American system of Checks and Balances.

RESOLVED, that the PA State Grange opposes legislation to take authority away from township and borough governments.

RESOLVED, that the PA State Grange supports the passage of the Sexual Assault Forensics Evidence Registry Act of 2010 in order to assist in the linkage, identification and prosecution of perpetrators of rape and sexual assault crimes.

RESOLVED, the Pennsylvania State legislators review mandatory minimum sentences; and Be It Further RESOLVED, that legislators shall return sentencing discretion to the judges; and Be It Further RESOLVED, that the sentencing board and their two offices shall be eliminated.

RESOLVED that the PA State Grange support any proposed legislation, or, that National Grange draft legislation, that would require rear and side impact/under ride guards on all newly manufactured semi-trailers.

RESOLVED, to support retaining the existing federal fuel tax.

### **Good of the Order**

RESOLVED, that the National Grange eliminate the use of the password in its entirety and that the annual membership dues card or Lifetime membership card be recognized as official proof of membership.

RESOLVED, that Chapter 4, Section 4.3.3(A) of the National Grange Digest of Laws be amended to add the words “or U. S. Territory or the District of Columbia.” Thus, it will read as follows: 4.3.3(A) Six or more active Subordinate Granges working in a State **or U. S. Territory or the District of Columbia** may apply to the Secretary of the National Grange for authority to organize a State Grange.”

RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania State Grange reprint the 1972 white cookbook for distribution and sale.

RESOLVED, that section 1.3.10 be added to the By-Laws of the Pennsylvania State Grange stating, “E-membership – A person with an interest in the advancement of agriculture, the improvement of rural life, and the services offered by the State Grange may apply for E-membership to the State Grange, and upon payment of the annual E-membership dues as prescribed in Article X, Section 1.10.9, shall be entitled to E-membership. E-Members shall be entitled to receive electronic State Grange publications and participate in State Grange services that are available electronically. E-members shall not be entitled to vote on matters of Grange policy, or participate in Grange sponsored contests that are designated for Grange members only;” and Be It Further

RESOLVED, that a new section 1.10.9 be added stating, “(effective 2011) The dues for E-membership shall be \$12.00 per year payable via the internet at the time of E-membership application. National Grange shall remit to the State Grange of residence \$7.50 per each E-membership;” and Be It Further

RESOLVED, that the present section 1.10.9 be renumbered as section 1.10.10

RESOLVED, the National Grange develop guidelines for legal and historical Record Keeping and Retention Policy and Destruction of Records for the various levels of the Grange (Subordinate, Pomona, State, and National) by July 2012; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, the Record Keeping and Retention Policy and Destruction of Records guidelines which are developed are distributed to the various levels of the Grange (Subordinate, Pomona, State).

RESOLVED, that the Master of the Pennsylvania State Grange appoint a special committee to research and provide solution for host committee and State Session location selection at the 2012 Pennsylvania State Session to be voted upon by the delegate body.