

Writing Grange Resolutions

One of the real benefits of Grange membership is the opportunity to have an effective voice regarding the public policy issues that affect our lives because a basic precept of the Grange is its adherence to grassroots policy development. Each of the National Grange's current 1000 separate legislative policy positions all started as resolutions that were written and adopted by a Community Grange chapter somewhere across the nation.

It is therefore important that Grange members understand the correct procedure for drafting resolutions. Some people are still intimidated at the idea of writing a Grange resolution. They shouldn't be. It isn't that difficult. The following guidelines can help your Grange write and adopt successful Grange resolutions.

- A resolution is a statement of policy or position on an issue.
- Each resolution should have a clear and concise title.
- Each resolution should address only one issue.

The goal of the resolution is to inform and educate the reader in order to inspire them to take action approving the resolution. To do this, a successful resolution must do two things: 1) identify and explain the problem that needs to be addressed (the WHEREAS portion) and 2) propose a solution that will address the problem as identified (the RESOLVED portion).

The first portion of a resolution identifies and states the problem that needs to be addressed. The problem should be stated in factual terms. Opinions are not expressed in this portion of the resolution. Each fact should be listed as a separate sentence or paragraph that begins with WHEREAS, and is followed by a semi-colon. The final WHEREAS ends with a semi-colon followed by "therefore be it".

The RESOLVED portion of the resolution states the action that you propose to address the problem identified in the WHEREAS portion of the resolution. Because resolving most problems involves an exercise of judgment, this is the portion of the resolution where the author expresses their opinions. If the author proposes more than one solution, each separate solution to the problem should be listed as a separate sentence or paragraph that begins with the word "RESOLVED". When a resolution contains multiple "RESOLVED" statements, they are linked by the phrase "and be it further" at the end of each RESOLVED statement, except the last one. When properly written, this section "stands alone" or clearly restates the problem in summary form and explains to the reader the action necessary to address that problem, without having to refer back to the "Whereas" statements.

Once a resolution has been written and submitted to the Grange, it may be referred to a Resolutions Committee for consideration and action before being presented to the entire Grange. All actions reported by the committee should be by majority vote of the Committee. The Resolution Committee can take any of the following actions:

- 1.) Recommend approval of the resolution as written.
- 2.) Recommend rejection of the resolution.
- 3.) Amend the resolution or redraft it as they so decide; or
- 4.) Recommend that the resolution be transferred to another committee, be tabled, or referred for further study to avoid action on it directly.

SAMPLE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, this is the part of the resolution that explains the issue or problem; and

WHEREAS, each resolution should address only one issue or problem; and

WHEREAS, each "Whereas" statement should address only one fact, idea or supporting argument related to the issue or problem; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this is the part of the resolution that restates the basic issue or problem and proposes a solution to the issue or problem identified in the "Whereas" statements; and be it further

RESOLVED, that each "Resolved" statement should address a separate action to be taken or solution proposed to resolve the issue or problem; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the "Resolved" statement should stand alone and the action proposed therein should be clearly understood by the reader without having to refer back to the "Whereas" statements.

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