

How to Write a Resolution

The goal of a resolution is to inform and educate the reader in order to persuade them to take action on the subject matter. A successful resolution should do two things:

- 1) Identify and explain the problem or situation that's needs to be addressed
- 2) Propose a solution that will address the problem or situation identified

Make sure that your resolution can stand the test of time. The Grange has policy that dates back 75 years or more and continues to be relevant because the ideals and concepts hold true today.

The Resolution Process

First, an individual should take their issue to their Community Grange to discuss. Hopefully, other Grangers will agree that the issue should be discussed in a larger arena for inclusion in your State Grange's (or the National Grange's) legislative policy and the Community Grange will vote to adopt or reject the proposal.

Second, there is a format that works quite well called the resolution. A resolution has two parts, the 'why' and the 'what'. The whys, called there "Whereas", list the reasons why the issue is important. They spell out the need and make the case to have it be Grange policy. The what or whats, called the "Resolved" are what you want the Grange to do about the issue. For example, the why could be an issue that is commonly understood such as "low crop prices are hurting farmers."

The resolved (or resolves) need to use action words to propose specific solutions, directions, or recognitions to address the problem or situation identified in the whereas section. Each solution, direction or recognition should be written as a separate sentence. If your resolution deals with a current piece of legislation in a state or federal legislative body, try to write the resolved so that the Grange policy would cover the general topic of the piece of legislation, instead of specifically saying "The Grange is in favor of H.B. 1"

The Next Steps

Each year, State Granges across the country and the National Grange convene an annual meeting to discuss these various legislative proposals. At these meetings, resolutions are typically given to committees to review prior to being presented to the whole delegate body.

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The committee review can have several kinds of results, the committee can:

- Recommend approval of the resolution as written.
- Recommend rejection of the resolution.
- Amend the resolution or redraft it as they decide.
- Recommend that the resolution be tabled, referred to another committee, or referred back for further study.

When the committee presents the resolution and their recommendation to the delegates at the annual meeting will discuss the resolution and then vote to adopt or not adopt the committee's recommendation. The delegates also have the power to amend the resolution.

The last step takes place when newly adopted resolutions are officially included into Grange policy. These policies give guidance to State and National Grange leaders in directing our advocacy efforts. The Grange's policy making process is a grassroots process and it takes active, alert members to become involved in both writing resolutions and advocating for Grange policy.

Turning Policy into Action

Once the Grange has adopted policy on a topic, Grange members can start advocating for that policy saying that "the Grange supports or opposes x, y or z." Grange members should let their elected officials know what Grange policy is and what progress or changes the Grange would like to see. Below are some general guidelines from the National Grange Legislative Department on talking with elected officials.

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Sample Grange 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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Example a of Grange Resolution

Farm Bill of 2018

WHEREAS the Farm Bill has traditionally supported prices only in a certain number of popular crops and commodities; and

WHEREAS the Farm Bill is moving away from direct support programs to a more generic insurance-based program to cover losses for farmers of all crops and commodities; and

WHEREAS current price insurance programs are not adequately serving all agriculture sectors, crops, commodities, and/or production methods, geographical concerns, target markets, etc.; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the National Grange supports passage of a Farm Bill in 2018, which provides price insurance protection for farmers that takes into account the diversity in crops, commodities, production methods, target markets, and regional situations present across the spectrum of the agricultural industry.

(Source: 2017 National Grange Journal of Proceedings AG-117-NY)