

WRITING GRANGE RESOLUTIONS

One of the basic precepts of the Grange is its adherence to grassroots policy development. Nearly every policy statement issued by the National or State Granges begins with a local resolution originally written and adopted at a Subordinate Grange meeting. It is therefore important that Grange members understand the correct procedure for drafting resolutions. 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. 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. If there is more than one solution, link them together with the phrase "and be it further." When properly written this section clearly restates the problem in summary form and explains the action necessary to address it.

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

WHEREAS, this is the part of the resolution that explains the 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.