



Connecticut State Grange

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2008 Resolutions

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS OF RESOLUTIONS:

1.	Quarterly Reports	Rejected
2.	State Grange Office	Adopted
3.	Funding of Annual Sessions of the National Grange	Adopted
4.	Reimbursement to the Elected Members of the State Grange Executive Committee	Adopted
5.	The Kelley Farm	Adopted
6.	Subordinate Honor Grange Award	Rejected
7.	Exact Listing of Grange Halls/Meeting Places	Adopted
8.	Territorial Honor Grange Points	Rejected
9.	Farmer's Market Listings	Rejected
10.	Grange of the Year Award	Rejected
11.	Campaign Funds	Rejected
12.	Management of State Grange Accounts	Rejected
13.	The U.S. Cadet Nurse Equity Act of 2007	Rejected
14.	Update Local Grange Accounting Methods	Rejected
15.	Selling Grange Halls	Adopted
16.	Sales Tax Exemption	Adopted
17.	Sales Tax Holiday	Adopted
18.	"Honorary Grange Membership" Certificate for Conn. Farmers	Adopted
19.	Elimination of Styrofoam Products in Food Industry	Rejected
20.	Cottage at Camp Berger	Rejected
21.	Farmer's Market Listings	Rejected
22.	Highway Tolls	Rejected
23.	Invasive Plants in Connecticut	Rejected
24.	Seasonal Roadside Stands	Adopted
25.	Master's Address	Adopted
26.	Subordinate Honor Grange Award	Adopted
27.	Cabin at Camp Berger	Adopted
28.	National Convention Funding	Adopted
29.	Invasive Plants in Connecticut	Adopted
30.	The U.S. Cadet Nurse Equity Act of 2007	Adopted
31.	Elimination of Styrofoam Products in Food Industry	Adopted
32.	Investigation Into the Pricing of Diesel Fuel	Adopted
33.	Connecticut's Three Strike Law	Adopted
34.	The Connecticut Department of Agriculture	Adopted

ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS:

2. RE: STATE GRANGE OFFICE

WHEREAS the State Grange office expense for rent and utilities is over \$15,000.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the office be moved to a location, such as in a Grange hall, where rent and utilities could be less and help a Grange by giving them a donation.

3. RE: FUNDING OF ANNUAL SESSIONS OF NATIONAL GRANGE

WHEREAS the cost of hosting the annual session of the National Grange continues to rise, and

WHEREAS the National Grange has divided the country into several regions for purposes of determining where each session of the National Grange shall be held, and

WHEREAS some of these regions will have difficulty raising the necessary funds to host the National Grange in their region.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that each State Grange be assessed fifty (50) cents per member per year to be paid to the National Grange, including Golden Sheaf members who are exempt from paying dues, to defray the cost to the State Granges of hosting the annual sessions of the National Grange, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each State Grange shall have the authority to raise their assessment in any manner they choose, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proceeds of such assessment be made available to the host Region each year to reimburse its reasonable actual expenses for hosting the National Grange, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that if any funds from such assessment remain after all host region expenses of each annual session of the National Grange are paid, the remaining funds shall be placed in a dedicated account for use in reimbursing the host Regions in future years.

4. RE: REIMBURSEMENT TO THE ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE STATE GRANGE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

WHEREAS Article IX, Section 1 of the 1999 Revision of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Connecticut State Grange provides that, "The elective (sic) members (of the Executive Committee) shall receive for their services \$7.50 per day each while in actual discharge of duty, and mileage payment at 27 cents per mile round trip," and

WHEREAS the elected members of the Executive Committee frequently discharge their duties on an "as needed" basis in units of an hour or less, and

WHEREAS this creates difficulty in determining the number of days each year for which the elected members of the Executive Committee should be compensated.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the last paragraph of Section 1 of Article IX of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Connecticut State Grange is hereby revised to read, "The elected members shall receive for their services and mileage \$250 each annually."

5. RE: THE KELLEY FARM

WHEREAS the Oliver H. Kelley Farm, a restored living history farm in Minnesota which belonged to the founder of the Grange is most worthy of our support, and

WHEREAS the Friends of the Kelley Farm was formed in 2003 to help preserve and support the operation of the Kelley Farm.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange, in commemoration of Oliver H. Kelley's birthday each January, take out a Family Membership (\$50.00), and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Treasurer and Executive Committee be resourceful in finding the money.

7. RE: EXACT LISTING OF GRANGE HALLS/MEETING PLACES

WHEREAS visiting Granges should be encouraged and finding their meeting places should be made as convenient as possible, and

WHEREAS locating these halls/meeting places are often done by using Mapquest on the internet and other G.P.S. (global positioning systems).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that each Grange be asked to make sure they have provided the State Grange office their hall/ meeting place street number and name so this complete information can be listed in the State Grange Directory as well as listed on the State Grange website, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this information is also provided to the publishers of the Pomona handbooks.

15. RE: SELLING GRANGE HALLS

WHEREAS there are Granges where the membership has declined to the point that the members find the maintenance of a Grange Hall causes a large burden on the small numbers of members participating, and

WHEREAS this condition causes present Granges to consider selling the Grange Hall at the present low market value of real estate, and

WHEREAS a large portion of the sale value goes in the State Grange for safe keeping as a result of National Grange regulations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the State Grange investigate the possibility and feasibility of creating a completely separate Connecticut Grange Historical and Educational Corporation which can directly take over the Grange Halls and make them available for educational activities and historical museums related to Grange History and the arts of agriculture and the home.

16. RE: SALES TAX EXEMPTION

WHEREAS the 6 percent sales tax has been on purchases of shoes and clothing costing over \$50.00 for many years, and

WHEREAS inflation has risen the price of shoes and clothing over these many years, so that a purchase now of \$50.00 results in less shoes and clothing.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange ask the Governor and our State Representatives to raise the \$50.00 amount to \$100.00 at the next legislative session.

17. RE: SALES TAX HOLIDAY

WHEREAS the annual sales tax holiday on shoes and clothing for purchases below \$300.00 runs one week in August, and

WHEREAS parents of children who attend school buy shoes and clothing at times other than in August, and

WHEREAS some stores in the month of August change the clothing from summer to fall and winter and summer clothing is desired.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the sales tax holiday be extended to include a week in July also and that this week be selected by the General Assembly.

18. **RE: "HONORARY GRANGE MEMBERSHIP" CERTIFICATE FOR CONNECTICUT FARMERS**

WHEREAS the Grange has its roots in agriculture, and

WHEREAS Connecticut has a declining number of farms with less representation of farmers in Grange membership, and

WHEREAS the Connecticut State Grange is attempting to increase public awareness of the organization's mission and purpose through increased publicity and promotion, and

WHEREAS the "HONORARY GRANGE MEMBERSHIP" certificate could be designed and printed by computer and would identify the recipient(s), name and location of the farm, the date and signed by the State Master in office on that date, and

WHEREAS the "HONORARY GRANGE MEMBERSHIP" certificate would be a form of recognition and appreciation only, with no cost or obligation to the recipient(s), and would be a one time occurrence, and

WHEREAS Subordinate Grange members would identify recipient(s), request as printed completed certificate and present the certificate to the recipient(s), and

WHEREAS an invitation would be given to the recipient(s) for presentation to be made at a local Grange meeting and the certificate be available for public viewing, and

WHEREAS upon presentation, a photo be taken and submitted to local papers including the Connecticut Granger with suitable caption.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in an effort to recognize existing Connecticut farms, the Connecticut State Grange design and establish method for distribution for the certificates in conjunction with the appropriate Subordinate Grange, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Master appoint a member of the Agricultural Committee for supplying the certificates, reporting the details of the issued certificates to the Connecticut Granger for publication, and to keep a list of farms recognized each year as recipients of the certificates.

24. **RE: SEASONAL ROADSIDE STANDS**

WHEREAS Connecticut consumers continually seek healthful and safe produce, and

WHEREAS domestic and imported produce has not always met these standards, and

WHEREAS the seasonal fruits and vegetables of our Connecticut small and backyard farms have a long history of meeting the consumer's needs in both quality and safety, and

WHEREAS some towns require buildings and parking lots which is cost prohibitive to small or backyard farms, and

WHEREAS the current Farmer's Markets do not satisfy the small stand farmer as to locations and hours.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Legislature be requested by the Connecticut State Grange Legislative Committee to enact such legislation that permits roadside stands on all state and town rights of way (Except thru-ways - i.e. four lane roads).

25. **RE: MASTER'S ADDRESS**

WHEREAS the Master of the Connecticut State Grange has reported to the 124th Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange through his printed and spoken Master's address of the complete activities and actions of the Connecticut State Grange, and
WHEREAS much time and thought was invested in the preparation and writing of this report, and
WHEREAS we thank the Worthy Master for his leadership in directing the State Grange into the future.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we commend him on this fine report, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the body accept this report with great thanks and order it printed in the Journal of Proceedings of the 124th Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange.

26. **RE: SUBORDINATE HONOR GRANGE AWARD**

WHEREAS the Connecticut State Grange recognizes each Subordinate Grange as an "Honor Grange" who earns 4,000 points or more, and
WHEREAS the Subordinate Grange earning the highest number of points will be known as "Grange of the Year," and
WHEREAS it is hard for the under 50 membership Granges to compete against the 51 and over membership Granges for the "Grange of the Year" award, and
WHEREAS the 51 and over and the under 50 membership categories worked well for the Community Service Project this year.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Master consider this possibility for the 2009 year.

27. **RE: CABIN AT CAMP BERGER**

WHEREAS one of the cabins at Camp Berger was built by Pioneer Pomona #12, and
WHEREAS North Central Pomona #13, not having a cabin of their own, assumed responsibility for the maintenance of the cabin when Pioneer Pomona #12 merged with Fairfield County Pomona #9.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Trustees of Camp Berger have an additional sign made and placed on the cabin stating: "Built by Pioneer Pomona #12."

28. **RE: NATIONAL CONVENTION FUNDING**

WHEREAS the funding of National Grange Conventions has become a regional responsibility, and
WHEREAS the Connecticut State Grange will be required to contribute annually to the hosting fund, and
WHEREAS having the State Grange raise these funds through fundraisers would be much more favorable than an additional assessment on our Subordinate Granges, and
WHEREAS the current National Hosting Committee is only responsible for the 2008 National Convention.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the State Master appoint a standing committee charged with the responsibility of raising the necessary funds required to meet our National Grange Convention funding obligation.

29. **RE: INVASIVE PLANTS IN CONNECTICUT**

WHEREAS many of our roadsides are being overrun with Japanese Knot Weed and other invasive plants and the trees are being choked out by the Bittersweet Vines and dying, and
WHEREAS if these plants are not stopped, the native plants in our state will be overrun and disappear forever, and
WHEREAS information on eradication of these plants can be obtained from the Department of Agriculture, County Extension Service or the Department of Environmental Protection.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange encourage its Community Granges to provide a program to educate its citizens on the local level of the threat of these invasive plants and methods of their eradication.

30. **RE: THE U.S. CADET NURSE EQUITY ACT OF 2007**

WHEREAS in 1943, as a solution to the critical shortage of nurses in the military and in essential civilian hospitals, Congress passed "The Bolton Act" which established the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps (USCNC) to be administered by the U.S. Public Health Service, and
WHEREAS while the graduate nurses and doctors joined the services and went off to war, the Cadets staffed Federal military and civilian hospitals, Indian reservations, public health and rural health services all over the nation, and
WHEREAS the Cadets joined a uniformed service in time of war under the command of the Surgeon General of the United States and were issued uniforms, insignias and an I.D. card with a serial number, and
WHEREAS the WACS, WAVES and WASPS, who also served on the homefront, have been recognized as veterans of World War II.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the nurses of the USCNC deserve to be recognized for their contributions to our nation during World War II and for the decades that followed, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange support the passage of legislation to provide that service of the members of the organization known as the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II constituted active military service for purposes of laws administered by the Veterans Administration including HR 3423, The U.S. Cadet Nurse Equity Act of 2007, and
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the next session of the National Grange together with a recommendation for favorable action thereon.

31. **RE: ELIMINATION OF STYROFOAM PRODUCTS IN FOOD INDUSTRY**

WHEREAS styrofoam material has poor ability for biodegrading, and
WHEREAS Connecticut has concern and appropriate approaches in the management of disposed waste at landfills, and
WHEREAS there are numerous alternatives, such as paper/cardboard products and recyclable plastics are available for the food service industry, including fast food establishments, and
WHEREAS styrofoam products including "take out" containers could be substituted with environmentally friendly disposable or dishwasher safe items that are reusable.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange request the Connecticut General Assembly to pass legislation to encourage biodegradable or recyclable products to be used in the food service industry.

32. RE: INVESTIGATION INTO THE PRICING OF DIESEL FUEL

WHEREAS diesel fuel used to be priced considerably less than gasoline, and
WHEREAS gasoline prices are coming down to much lower levels than before, and
WHEREAS diesel prices have remained at least over a dollar per gallon higher than corresponding gasoline prices, and
WHEREAS the economic lifeblood (e.g. food and other consumer goods) is primarily carried across our nation by vehicles using diesel fuel, and
WHEREAS this puts an increased burden on small business and small farmers all across America which is ultimately passed on to the consumer.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Grange encourage our National Department of Energy to investigate the continued high price of diesel fuel.

33. RE: CONNECTICUT'S THREE STRIKE LAW

WHEREAS violent crimes and home invasions continue to escalate in our country, and
WHEREAS our judicial system has become more discretionary in sentencing the offenders, and
WHEREAS government has the duty to protect its citizens, and
WHEREAS the earlier three strikes proposal failed in the Connecticut General Assembly last year.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange support a three strikes law which will remove judicial discretion at sentencing so that a felon with a third conviction for a violent offense would receive an automatic life sentence.

34. RE: THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WHEREAS the State of Connecticut is experiencing a decline in expected revenue due to the present economic conditions, and
WHEREAS the General Assembly must, by law, pass a balanced budget for each biennium, and
WHEREAS the Governor has directed all State agencies to reduce spending, and
WHEREAS within the last ten years there have been proposals to eliminate the Department of Agriculture as a State agency and divide its functions among other agencies, and
WHEREAS it is essential to Connecticut's agriculture industry that we have a strong Department of Agriculture.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange urge the State of Connecticut to maintain its Department of Agriculture as a State agency with adequate funding to accomplish its statutory responsibilities, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange Legislative Committee is authorized and requested to oppose any and all proposed legislation that would cause the Connecticut Department of Agriculture to become part of another State agency or would otherwise diminish the stature of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, and
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange Legislative Committee is authorized to take any lobbying or similar action it deems appropriate to accomplish the purposes of this resolution.