

WSG 2017 RESOLUTION
EDUCATION
HIGH SCHOOL CAREER PATH TRAINING
Resolution #2017-34-1103

- Whereas high school students, grades 11 and 12, historically complete a set of general standardized and elective credits to graduate; and
- Whereas grades 11 and 12 elective curriculum, is often times "place holder" classes that have little, if any relevance, to a student's chosen career path, and
- Whereas often times a student, by the 11th grade, has a good idea what path of advanced training or higher education that will fit their chosen career path best; therefore be it
- Resolved that the Grange support the curricular programs that provide technical, apprenticeship or higher education while still attending high school.

END HIGH-STAKES STANDARDIZED TESTING
Resolution #2017-37-1104

- Whereas the National Research Council has concluded that the huge expansion in high-stakes examinations has not improved student learning; and
- Whereas Washington state is spending over \$20 million yearly on high-stakes testing for federal compliance; and
- Whereas local school districts are estimated to be spending upwards of \$30 million yearly to meet state testing requirements; therefore be it
- Resolved that the Washington State Grange encourage the legislature to consider an alternative approach to standardized testing that will lessen the impact of lost instructional time.

GRANGE ACTIVITIES
REPORT OF ELECTIONS SENT TO POMONA
#2017-16-1401

- Whereas the importance of keeping the Pomona Secretary informed about changes in the Subordinate Granges is well documented; and

Whereas the Subordinate Secretary's Quarterly Report already includes instructions, on the bottom of page two, to send a copy to the Pomona Secretary; therefore be it

Resolved that the annual Report of Elections include directions at the top of page one, following the phrase "(Send in even if you elect every 2 yrs).": Send original to WSG headquarters, a copy to Pomona Secretary, and keep a copy for your records.

**GRANGE DEPARTMENT REPORT FORMS
#2017-39-1402**

Whereas some of the report forms on the Washington State Grange Website are not formatted to fill out on the computer; and

Whereas they must be printed from the computer and then filled out by hand; and

Whereas the computer has replaced the typewriter; therefore be it

Resolved that all report forms on the Washington State Grange website be formatted to allow the form to be filled out on the computer.

**GRANGE LAW
APPLYING THE TERMINATION OF GRANGE MEMBERSHIP IN ONE
STATE TO A SECOND STATE
#2017-33-1506**

Whereas the National Grange Digest of Laws Chapter 4 By Laws, Article VI, Paragraph 4.6.16 defines the processes necessary for the suspension or termination of membership in a subordinate or Pomona Grange; and

Whereas additional causes for suspension or termination of membership is defined in the National Grange Digest of Laws, Chapter 10 Code of All Granges, Paragraphs 10.9.1 and 10.9.3; and

Whereas the National Grange Digest of laws, Chapter 12 Code of Judicial Law, Paragraphs 12.2.13, 12.2.23, and 12.2.32 defines the procedures to be used if a guilty finding is determined in a Grange Trial Court; and

Whereas there are Grange members who are regular members of a Grange in one state and affiliate members of a Grange in a different state; and

Whereas the authority of the Trial Court appears to be limited to the state in which the trial court occurs as dual state Grange membership is not addressed in the National Grange Digest of Laws; therefore be it

Resolved that a new paragraph be added to the National Grange Digest of Laws stating that a guilty finding by a Grange Trial Court terminating Grange membership in one state will also apply to Grange membership in a second state thus terminating membership in the second state as well.

VETERANS' ISSUES

#2017-36-1508

Whereas a debt of gratitude is owed our Veterans for their Service, and

Whereas it can be difficult to find the position of the Washington State Grange on various Veterans' issues in the Legislative Handbook; therefore be it

Resolved that a new Standing Committee be formed to deal with Veterans' issues; and be it further

Resolved that all sections of the Legislative Handbook dealing with Veterans be consolidated under a new heading entitled Veterans issues.

ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE AT POMONA MEETINGS

#2017-40-1509

Whereas in today's busy world, with the constraints of time and distance, Grange members often have hardships and are unable to set and/or attend meeting days or times; and

Whereas Grange business cannot be conducted without a quorum, therefore be it

Resolved that Pomona Granges be able to participate in meeting via telephonic or other electronic means, and that such attendance count toward establishing a quorum.

HEALTH, HEALTH CARE AND SAFETY
IN-DEPTH MARIJUANA STUDIES FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES
#2017-42-1600

- Whereas there have not been complete, comprehensive in-depth studies of the use of marijuana in many of its derivative forms for benefit as medical treatment; therefore be it
- Resolved that the Washington State Grange support in-depth medical studies on the benefits of the use of marijuana in the treatment of disease; and be it further
- Resolved that the Washington State Grange urge the National Grange to support in-depth medical studies on the benefits of the use of marijuana in the treatment of disease.

STATE LEGISLATIVE

Washington State Public Records Act
Resolution #2016-04-2501

- Whereas the Public Records Act is being abused and is becoming a real burden on government entities in Washington State when people request large volumes of information because they are mad at the government or trying to make a profit from the government when they make a mistake trying to fulfill the request; and
- Resolved that the Washington State Grange lobby to have the Washington State Public Records Act rewritten so that it is not such a burden on the government and that people cannot make a profit from this act.

Auto Insurance

Resolution #2016-37-2511

- Whereas currently in the state of Washington auto insurance is tied to the owner of the vehicle: and
- Whereas if a person allows someone else to drive their vehicle and has an incident (accident) the owners insurance is fully responsible for the cost; and
- Whereas the cost of the premium is based on the worse driver, within your family.
- Whereas if you have more vehicles then drivers you will be paying more for insurance; therefore be it

Resolved that the Washington State Grange encourage the State of Washington Insurance Commission to adopt policy making driver's liability insurance primary to the vehicle owner's liability insurance.

**CORRECTION TO WASHINGTON STATE ADVERSE POSSESSION LAW
CONCERNING BELIEVE OF OWNERSHIP
#2017-06-2502**

Whereas in the State of Washington under the doctrine of Adverse Possession a person can claim real property of another by meeting the following four, requirements: It Must be "Hostile" (without permission of the actual owner; It must be "Actual" (Actually has control over the property); It must be "Exclusive" (In the possession of the trespasser alone); and it must be "Continuous for the statutory period" (10 years, if the possessor is not paying the, taxes on the land; 7 years, if they are paying the taxes on the land).

Whereas in the State of Washington it was recently passed that a person claiming Adverse Possession is entitled to compensation for lawyer expenses from the owner of the property should they be awarded the property in question. This can be very costly to the owner often resulting in giving up their property because they cannot afford to defend themselves.

Whereas two additional requirements are in the Oregon Adverse possession law differing it from Washington's law making it more difficult to take property under this doctrine:

1. In Oregon the trespasser must believe they actually own the property in question.
2. In Oregon the use of someone's property for grazing of livestock does not justify a reason to take possession of the property under the Adverse Possession Law; therefore be it

Resolved that in order to protect the unjust taking of one's property through the doctrine of Adverse possession, The Washington law be changed to include under the four current requirements that there must also be a belief that the land belongs to the trespasser; and be it further

Resolved the Washington State Grange work with the legislature to make these changes to the current Washington State Adverse Possession law to better protect the owner's of real property from the unjust taking of one's property.

**REMOVAL OF CANDIDATES FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY
ELECTION BALLOTT
#2017-08-2503**

- Whereas filing for the State of Washington Presidential Primary Election is well before the nation-wide primary process begins; and
- Whereas some candidates withdraw from the election oftentimes before the election, prior to ballot printing deadline; and
- Whereas it would benefit the citizens of Washington State to have these names removed from the ballot, thus eliminating confusion for the voters; therefore be it
- Resolved that we support legislation that will allow candidates' names to be removed from the Presidential Primary Election Ballot if they withdraw from the election or suspend their campaign.

**UNAFFILIATED BALLOTS IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION
#2017-09-2504**

- Whereas current laws require a declaration of a political party affiliation in the State of Washington Presidential Primary Election; and
- Whereas the voters in Washington State tend to be more independent, rather than affiliated with any political party; and
- Whereas there are voters who decline to vote in the Presidential Primary Election because of the requirement to declare a party affiliation; therefore be it
- Resolved that we support legislation that create an "unaffiliated ballot" for the State of Washington Presidential Primary Election; and be it further
- Resolved that the "unaffiliated ballots" be tallied separately from those with a political party affiliation.

**DATE OF THE WASHINGTON STATE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION
#2017-10-2505**

- Whereas the State of Washington currently has a Presidential Primary Election scheduled for the fourth Tuesday in May; and

Whereas this date appears to be much too late to have significant influence in the selection of Presidential finalists; therefore be it

Resolved that we support legislation that would move the date of the Presidential Primary Election to an earlier date in the series of Presidential Primary Elections.

**COUNTY OFFICES TO BECOME NON-PARTISAN
#2017-12-2507**

Whereas elected county offices in the State of Washington are considered partisan offices; and

Whereas elected county offices in the State of Washington may include, but are not limited to, Auditor, Treasurer, Assessor, Clerk, Coroner, and Sheriff; and

Whereas it could be beneficial to the citizens of each county to eliminate partisan politics from these offices; therefore be it

Resolved that we support legislation that will eliminate the political party affiliation for all elected county offices in the State of Washington, with the exception of County Council and/or Board of County Commissioners in non-charted counties.

**CERTAIN STATE OFFICES TO BECOME NON-PARTISAN
#2017-14-2509**

Whereas in the State of Washington, we currently elect the partisan offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Auditor, State Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner; and Commissioner of Public Lands; and

Whereas the Superintendent of Public Instruction is currently considered non-partisan; and

Whereas it may better serve the citizens of the State of Washington if some of the other officers were considered non-partisan as well; therefore be it

Resolved that we support the positions of State Auditor, State Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner, and Commissioner of Public Lands to be non-partisan in the State of Washington.

CIVIL ASSET FORFEITURE

#2017-16-2510

- Whereas civil asset forfeiture is being used as budget enhancement by far too many policing jurisdictions; and
- Whereas far too many of the people suffering from civil asset forfeiture are never charged with any crime; and
- Whereas it is next to impossible to recover any and/or all properties seized; therefore be it
- Resolved Washington State revise its Civil Asset Forfeiture laws to mirror Nebraska's revised Civil Asset Forfeiture laws (LB 1106) requiring the reasonable standard to be raised from "preponderance of the evidence" to "clear and convincing"; and be it further
- Resolved that before civil asset forfeiture can be utilized, the defendant SHALL be convicted by a court of law; and be it further
- Resolved that on passage of this resolution, it be forwarded to National Grange and that they support pending Federal legislation updating civil asset forfeiture laws.

FAIR FUNDING

#2017-27-2511

- Whereas the fairs in Washington State are very helpful teaching kids and a big part of the communities around the state and
- Whereas the state funding of fairs is always in jeopardy and only gets added in at the last moment therefore be it
- Resolved the Grange lobby to get funding for fairs from the state as a more stable source of income and be it further
- Resolved that the Grange lobby year around for fair funding so that we do not have this last- minute funding fight.

TRANSPORTATION

Standing Committee Resolution #1

Whereas currently the WSDOT is investigating road usage charge assessments; therefore be it

Resolved that the Washington State Grange support further research of road usage charge assessments to determine the feasibility of transitioning to road usage charges in place of current fuel taxes.

HIGHWAY RUMBLE STRIPS

#2017-15-2700

Whereas studies have shown that rumble strips are an effective countermeasure for reducing auto collisions and crashes; and

Whereas the noise and vibrations created by driving on rumble strips assists to alert drivers that they are either crossing the centerline or leaving the highway altogether; and

Whereas studies indicate that rumble strips have little, if any, negative effect on the pavement when installed in good to fair condition pavement; therefore be it

Resolved that we encourage the Federal Highway Administration of the US Department of Transportation to continue with the installation of rumble strips on all interstate highways; and be it further

Resolved that we encourage the Washington State Department of Transportation to continue with the installation of rumble strips on all state highways.

MANDATORY HEADLIGHT ILLUMINATION FOR ALL VEHICLES

#2017-18-2701

Whereas some weather conditions make it very difficult to see approaching vehicles; and

Whereas certain colors of cars can also be hard to be seen; therefore be it

Resolved that all vehicles be mandated to travel at all times with headlights on; and be it further

Resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to National Grange for the support of Federal Legislation mandating that headlights on all vehicles be on at all times.