

# COLORADO STATE GRANGE MASTER'S NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2016

CINDY GREER, 7629 C.R. 100, Hesperus, CO 81326

hcrdgreer@frontier.net

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!** This newsletter is filled with the resolutions that were passed at the National Convention in November. I've only included the resolved portions. Some resolution sent to National were already policy or were included in the policy statements. This newsletter also includes an opportunity that I hope each Grange will take advantage of. National will be producing a quarterly magazine to keep members informed. The first issue of Good Day is scheduled to come out in February. The subscription rate is only \$14.00. I hope you encourage your members to subscribe or that your Grange will take one subscription and share it.

I look forward to seeing many of you in the coming months.

Cindy Greer

## **Resolutions passed at National:**

### **Agriculture:**

- Oppose any effort to exempt commodity check-off funds from being subject to the Freedom of Information Act, to continue transparency.
- Urge reform of Federal Milk Marketing Order regulations so that excess milk can more easily be donated to food banks while still protecting milk processors from unfair pricing practices and protecting the price being paid to farmers for their milk and encourages the idea of having fundraisers to purchase excess milk to donate to food banks.
- Requests Federal, state, and county governments to streamline the process to transfer farms and other small businesses from one family member to another so that the cost of compliance and tax consequences do not prevent the transfer from occurring.
- Oppose the expansion of the areas considered navigable waters under the Clean Water Act.
- Support the full scale production of industrial hemp when production is done within the guidelines of applicable state and federal laws.
- Supports continued efforts to improve honeybee health.
- Oppose the federal Environmental Protection Agency's proposed increased requirements for recertification of private and commercial pesticide applicators licenses.
- Supports public awareness initiatives for rural road safety involving the presence of agricultural equipment, through improved signage, educational awareness, and promotional efforts.
- Urge the USDA to review and recommend changes to current EBT eligibility guidelines in order to avoid unintended consequences to the beneficiaries.
- Support legislation efforts that would allow individuals involved in agriculture as well as independent mechanic to have access to diagnostic software, information and other necessary technology tools used to repair modern farm equipment.
- Urge the U.S. Congress to direct the USDA food and nutrition service to amend their rules to allow consumption of grapes, whole milk and white potato agricultural products

by students in school meal programs and that language to that effect be inserted into the 2018 Farm Bill.

- Supports efforts to enhance new economic opportunities for urban agriculture by supporting programs that provide mentorship and education.
- Support legislation that would permanently change the timeline for depreciation deductions of agriculture equipment and machinery from seven to five years.
- Insist that trade pacts require ALL imported products from signatory countries, not just agricultural products, meet the same strict standards as domestically produced goods for environmental protection residues, labeling, and worker safety. These standards must be strictly enforced.
- Trade pacts should not cede judicial power to foreign tribunals, such as the World Trade Organization, not bound by the Constitution and Laws of the United States.
- Insist that the President renegotiate the Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade agreement so that domestically made products are not put at a competitive disadvantage and manufacturing jobs are not lost to foreign competitors. If the TPP is not amended to address these concerns. The Grange shall oppose the TPP.

### **Citizenship and Transportation:**

- Encourage our Legislators to raise the Social Security Death Benefit to at least \$500.00
- Oppose any relinquishing of control of the American Internet access to the UN or any foreign entity.
- Encourage the Department of Veterans Affairs to continue the use of Veterans Administration Medical centers and allow Veterans to seek community based medical attention and that all veterans medical services be paid for by the Department of Veterans Affairs Services.
- National Grange, during this 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year prepare certificates that subordinate Granges can order and frame or have framed to present to their local Post office and that an appropriate certificate be presented to the Smithsonian Rural Free exhibit building that already commemorates National Grange's contribution to the Rural Free Delivery System.
- Lobby Congress to reject the United Nations "Small Arms Treaty".
- Supports Maintaining November 11<sup>th</sup> as Veterans Day.
- Supports a law requiring individual to show appropriate/proper identification at the polls and/or anyone requesting an absentee ballot, to verify they are a legal voter within in this country and proper state.

### **Conservation**

- Encourages the use of alternative bags such as canvas, cotton, mesh, biodegradable paper or other biodegradable products.
- Encourages voluntary "energy efficient" construction of new structures without mandating retrofitting existing structures.
- Endorse and promote the continuation of the State and federal subsidies for home and business generation of solar energy.
- Encourages the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Retention of the Administration of the National Bison Range.

- Oppose the creation of the Owyhee Canyonlands Monument in Oregon & Idaho.

### **Education and Health**

- Work with other organization to urge the Medicare Payment advisory Commission to reject proposals to increase patient out of pocket costs and co-pays for low-income beneficiaries under the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit (Part D).
- encourages all continued legal and legislative action necessary to eliminate the sources of counterfeit medications and to pursue the prosecution of those found responsible for the making and marketing of them and also support increased efforts to educate the public on the dangers of obtaining medications from unreliable sources.
- Encourages the continued efforts of the FDA and the USDA to establish a viable definition for the term “Natural” on food labeling.
- National, State and local Granges participate with various national, state and local agencies and commissions striving to eliminate the unintended and intended abuse of heroin and opioid addiction and support systems to limit the over prescribing of opioids and the education of the application of Naloxone (Narcan), pursuant to State Regulations; and the Grange be proactive in support of a variety of treatment solutions and programs.
- Encourages civics classes be included in high school graduation requirements as suggested by the Federal Department of Education.
- Supports legislation that would require adjustments to child nutrition programs as necessary to promote better consumption of milk by the nation’s students and to permit schools to offer all varieties of milk consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, including low-fat flavored milk containing no more than 150 calories per 8-ounce serving, as well as provisions for meeting the needs of lactose-intolerant children.
- Support inclusion of fresh farm products into schools and public private efforts to assist Food banks in meeting recipients’ needs for fresh produce and other farm products and that Grange members be encouraged to support and volunteer to assist local food banks in achieving their mission.
- Translate some Grange material into other secondary languages to be more welcoming to more people who do not have English as their primary language.
- Create a template Memorandum of Understanding between the Grange, The FFA and the 4-H organizations that may be used in each state to establish Grange youth Fair participation.
- That the Assembly of Demeter be tasked with researching the condition of the historical documents and artifacts held by the National Grange and the steps necessary to preserve these materials and that a report of the findings and recommendations be presented at 2017 Session.

### **TRANSPORTATION, LABOR, AND JUDICIARY**

- Urges the necessary changes to the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) that would exempt volunteer worker member co-operatives from minimum wage requirements, allowing members access to quality foods at affordable prices.
- Supports continuation of the Write Your Own (local Insurance agent) model of securing Flood insurance.
- Urges the Federal level, a law of national reciprocity between states be created so that a legal permit to carry weapons from one state be recognized by all states.

## **GRANGE LAW**

- All Granges may substitute an audit statement of a certified Public Accountant in lieu of the committee audit. (annually)
- National Grange may amend By-Laws with a 5/6 vote of delegates except for dues. If the vote in favor of adoption is less than five-sixths, but more than two thirds, the proposal shall lay over until the next annual session, where it will require a two-thirds vote for adoption.
- Affiliate members in a Subordinate and Pomona Grange may hold office in any Grange in which they hold membership; provided, however, an Affiliate Member shall not hold the office of Master in two Subordinate or two Pomona Granges.
- 4.3.9. Dissolution of a Grange – When a Grange which has been incorporated under state law surrenders its charter or its charter is revoked and all appeals are exhausted, it shall be the duty of the Master of that State Grange to immediately take steps to take control of the incorporation and file the appropriate documents as required by the state
- Minutes of a Subordinate or Pomona Grange must be printed and accessible for the historical record. A Grange should not keep their minutes only a computer!
- strongly encourage states to adopt policy regarding Virtual/Electronic participation in Subordinate Grange meetings.  
(Topics that should be considered by those states who choose to allow Virtual/electronic participation):
  - Procedures for verification of Identity of a member participating virtually.
  - The Rights of the participants.
  - The definition of a quorum in regard to physical/virtual participation.
  - Voting format in preserving the integrity of secret ballots.
  - Accessibility to technology of participants.
  - Consistent and transparent notification measures.
  - Reporting requirement for Subordinate Granges. Be it further

RESOLVED that State Granges shall report their Virtual/Electronic participation policy for Subordinate Grange meetings to the National Grange.