# LEGISLATIVE

**VERMONT GRANGERS WORKING IN OUR COMMUNITIES**

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The Granges should focus their Legislative endeavors on local government and issues. This will allow communities to see what Grangers are concerned within their communities.

Programs to consider might be:

* Host a candidate night for local offices – be sure to invite ALL candidates.
* Sponsor school or town budget meeting review prior to Annual Meeting
* Hold a public meeting highlighting a community concern such as a discussion on zoning or community development plans.

These ideas are just a sample of how your Grange can **serve the future of your** community. By assisting local Boards and inviting local officials to your meetings, you can strengthen involvement in the community and in your Grange.

**Duties of Subordinate/Community Legislative Chair**

* Report at each Grange meeting on Legislative matters at local, county, state, and national levels
* Assist the Grange Members in writing resolutions.
* Attend Pomona and State Workshops

**Duties of Pomona Legislative Chair**

* Pomona is the Legislative Leader for the Subordinate Granges and needs to reach out to those Granges to insure they are informed on Grange policy concerning legislative matters
* Report at each Pomona meeting on Legislative matters at the county, state, and national levels
* Assist the Pomona members in writing resolutions (Host a Resolution Writing Workshop)

**Legislative Day 2024 will be announced in the Green Mountain Granger**

* Each Subordinate and Pomona Grange should be represented at the event.

**Resources**

The National Grange website (www.nationalgrange.org) is a great source of National policy updates.

* Refer to it for monthly updates of National Policy at www.nationalgrange.org/category/policy-updatesnews/
  + Under Policy and Advocacy, you can find the history of the Grange and many of its Legislative policies.
* At Vermont Farm Bureau - Policy (vtfb.org) you can find Ag related legislation approved by Vermont Farm Bureau. You can sign up for their publication Vermont Farm Bureau - Under the Golden Dome (vtfb.org). “Under the Golden Dome”, is emailed weekly to subscribing members to keep Vermonters apprised of legislative developments at the Vermont Statehouse that affect agriculture.
* Vermont State Grange Legislative Policy Book – Updated each year after state session a copy is sent to each Grange and is available on the state website (www.vtstategrange.org). This covers all the current policies voted on by the delegates that are still current.

**Resolution Process**

1. All Subordinate Granges will send a copy of any resolutions to their respective Pomona Secretary who will present it at the Pomona meeting. The Pomona Legislative Person should lead the discussion if possible.
2. The Secretary of the Subordinate Grange is responsible for sending their resolutions to the State Grange Secretary by the August 1st deadline.
3. Pomona resolutions must be sent to the State Secretary by the Pomona Secretary. All Subordinate Resolutions passed or changed (new approved sections or wording) by Pomona must be agreed upon by the Subordinate Grange who wrote the resolution.
4. Subordinate resolutions not supported by Pomona can be sent by the Subordinate Grange but must say not supported or acted upon by Pomona. In this way, Pomona can still assist Subordinate Granges with the resolution process and still have their own. They can send a joint resolution stating: ‘offered by the Pomona and the original Subordinate Grange’.
5. The Pomona Legislative person will send information about resolutions (passed or not) to the State Legislative Director for information purposes in their report.

**Writing a Grange Resolution**[[1]](#footnote-1)

***The Title*** - The title should clearly state the issue to be addressed. Be clear about the topic, the more specific you are the easy it is to differentiate between resolutions on similar topics.

***The Body*** - The body of the resolution is where you get to make your argument for why this resolution is necessary. This section does not become policy but explains to other Grangers why the issue is important and provides details, data, and other reference material so they can be better educated on voting for the issue. It is important to note that these should be rooted in facts and not based on the opinions of the writer.

***The Conclusion*** - The conclusion must be a complete sentence which sums up what your resolution is trying to achieve and *can stand alone without any of the supporting information*.

***Example - Deregulation of the Postal Service***

WHEREAS the federal government imposes unreasonable regulations and mandates on the U.S. Postal Service but no longer funds any of the organization’s operating costs; and

WHEREAS the U.S. Postal Service will continue to be forced to close local post offices and reduce services under such a business model; and

WHEREAS the U.S. Postal Service could survive and compete if allowed to create its own business model free of Congressional oversight; and

WHEREAS the National Grange has a rich tradition in helping to ensure the rural free delivery of mail; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the National Grange support legislation that creates an autonomous U.S. Postal Service, which can set its own operating procedures and business model without the undue regulation of the federal government.

## **LEGISLATIVE** **ANNUAL**

## **SUBORDINATE GRANGE 2023-2024 REPORT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Grange Name & Number |  |
| Legislative Chairperson |  |

Did your Grange sponsor a Legislative meeting open to the public? **YES / NO**

If YES provide additional information below and attach any

newspaper articles available.

Sponsor a Legislative Event or Forum in your Grange such as a

Candidates Night, Town, or School Budget meeting. **YES / NO**

* If YES provide additional information below.

Did Host a community planning meeting, zoning, or community

master plan or another Community-centered event? **YES / NO**

* If YES provide additional information below.

Did you invite a local official to a Grange meeting? **YES / NO**

* If YES provide additional information below

Did you have a Junior/Youth make a poster on a topic **YES / NO**

or issue of interest to the Grange?

* Describe or provide a picture

Did you report on Legislative topics at 6 meetings? **YES / NO**

List Topics Date of meeting

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

**You need to provide evidence to earn your points**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **SUBORDINATE/COMMUNITY GRANGE SEAL REQUIREMENT** | | Points Earned |
| 30pts | Submit Completed Report |  |
| 20pts | Junior/Youth made a poster on a topic/issue of interest to the Grange? |  |
| 20pts | Grange sponsored a Legislative meeting open to public |  |
| 20pts | Sponsor a Legislative Event or Forum in your Grange such as a  Candidates Night, Town or School Budget meeting. |  |
| 20pts | Host a community planning meeting, zoning, or community master plan or another Community-centered event. |  |
| 20pts | Submit a resolution |  |
| 20pts | Invite a local official to a Grange meeting |  |
| 20pts | Attend Legislative Day 2024 |  |
| 20pts | Attend National Legislative Grange Fly IN in-person or by ZOOM |  |
| 20pts | Report at meetings (see documentation) |  |
| 20pts | Invite Pomona Legislative Chair to your Grange |  |
| 20pts | Invite VT State Legislative Chair to your Grange |  |
| 20pts | Visit another subordinate Grange |  |
| **Must total at least 80 points to receive a seal – Total your Points Here** | |  |

## **LEGISLATIVE** **ANNUAL POMONA GRANGE 2023-2024 REPORT**

Pomona Grange Name & Number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Pomona Committee Chair’s serve on the Vermont State Grange Committee to help the State Director and are the communication link to subordinate/community Granges.***

How many Subordinate Granges are in your Pomona? \_\_\_\_\_\_

Did you contact the Legislative Chair (or Master) of each of your subordinate Granges to offer to visit, talk about the Legislative program, offer assistance? Document date, Grange name, contact person, topics on separate piece of paper and attach to this form.

Did you attend Subordinate meetings in your Pomona when the Legislative Chair did the program? Document visits below and give brief descriptions of the theme and activities.

Subordinate Grange Invite Attended Date Activity

A few sentences of what was reported at Pomona meetings. (Minimum of 4 meetings)

Date Topic

1

2

3

4

Did you have a Legislative program for your Pomona. YES or NO

Please write a short paragraph outlining your topic and activities associated with it.

Did you submit at least one resolution to State Grange Secretary

by August 1, 2024 deadline? YES or NO

Attach copy.

**You need to provide evidence to earn your points**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **POMONA GRANGE SEAL REQUIREMENT** | | |
| 30pts | Submit Completed Legislative Report |  |
| 20pts | Points for each Subordinate Visit |  |
| 20pts | Submit a Resolution at Pomona level |  |
| 10pts | Reported at Pomona Meeting (minimum 4 meetings) |  |
| 20pts | Present a Legislative Program on a topic of interest |  |
| 30pts | Host a Resolution Writing Workshop for your Pomona |  |
| 20pts | Submit a resolution to State |  |
| 30pts | Contact all the Subordinate Grange Legislative Chairman in your Pomona via letter or email on a regular basis? Attach copies |  |
| 20pts | Invite Vermont State Legislative Director to your meeting |  |
| 20pts | Attend State Legislative Committee meeting (in-person or ZOOM) |  |
| **Must total at least 80 points to receive a seal – Total your Points Here** | |  |

1. From National Grange website on 5-30-2021; Writing a Grange Resolution - The National Grange; [www.nationalgrange.org/writing-grange-resolution/](http://www.nationalgrange.org/writing-grange-resolution/) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)