

Oregon State Grange  
Policy for  
Virtual/Electronic Participation at Subordinate Grange Meetings

This policy only applies to Subordinate/Community Granges in Oregon. Virtual/electronic participation by Junior, Pomona and the State Grange is not allowed.

Our order was founded on group participation and discussion of ideas and issues. A passage from our Declaration of Purposes says *"We propose meeting together, talking together, working together, and in general, acting together for mutual protection and advancement. We shall constantly strive to secure harmony, good will, and brotherhood, and to make our Order perpetual. We shall earnestly endeavor to suppress personal, local, sectional, and national prejudices, all unhealthy rivalry and all selfish ambition. Faithful adherence to these principles will insure our mental, moral, social and material advancement."* Based on these principles no policy of virtual participation should ever try to take the place of coming together as a family and community organization, rather any policy adopted should only be used to enhance our structure and objectives.

In today's world members are more mobile than ever before, and there is an increasing amount of technology that can allow for participation within a group by members who are not physically present. And while this policy may be used to allow members who are unable to attend a specific meeting to engage in discussion and participation, it should in no way be used to replace the fellowship and community spirit of a Grange meeting.

The following rules must be followed for participation in the Oregon State Grange Virtual/Electronic Meeting Program:

1. In order to participate in this program a Subordinate/Community Grange must adopt a resolution by majority vote at a regular meeting in which a quorum is present. The Master of the Subordinate/Community Grange must notify the State Master in writing of the decision to participate in the program. This notification must include a copy of the resolution adopted by the Grange with the Master's and Secretary's signatures and the Grange seal and a copy of the minutes from the meeting at which the resolution was adopted.
2. Adopted policies must include the following.
  - a. A physical quorum of seven members must be present
  - b. A stated method of participation that allows communication between all participants, both virtual and those physically present. The method must be one that all members of the Grange would have access to.
  - c. A method for voting that, if necessary, would allow for a secret ballot.
    - i. If this is not possible, the only votes that virtual members can participate in would be votes taken by the voting sign of the order if visual communication is used. If audio only a roll call vote must be used.
  - d. The normal order of business must be followed.

- e. All normal rules of parliamentary procedure as pertains to the Grange will still apply.
  - f. All by-laws of the participating Subordinate/Community Grange, the by-laws of the Oregon State Grange and the Digest and by-laws of the National Grange must be observed.
3. The Master of the Oregon State Grange has the authority to remove a Grange from participation in or deny a Grange future participation in the Virtual/Electronic Meeting Program if he/she has reason to believe that the rules as set by the Oregon State Grange Executive Committee are not being followed.

Adopted by the Oregon State Grange Executive Committee on June 3, 2017