



THE
CALIFORNIA
STATE
GRANGE

GRANGER

Volume 2015
Issue 2

The Official News Source for the California State Grange

In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.



A Peek into History of the California State Grange

In our Grange records, little was known about the first Master of the California State Grange. Brother J.W.A. Wright served a single term as Master and then was elected as State Grange Lecturer. After some web research, we found a digital copy of an article from the Pacific Rural Press, Volume 8, Number 1, 4 July 1874. It was printed shortly after the death of J.W.A. Wright, and reprinted here.

J.W.A. Wright, Lecturer of California State Grange.

Perhaps no one person has been more prominently identified with the Grange movement in this State, especially in its earlier stages, than the subject of this sketch J.W.A. Wright, first Master of the State Grange of California, whose likeness is herewith

In This Issue

History of the State Grange.....	1
State President's Message	2
Secretary's Notes.....	3
Prop 1 Water Spending Plan	3
Grange Expo	4
Lecturer's Bulletin	4
Words From the Chaplain	4
National Legislative Update.....	5
Quilt Block Contest	6
Honor Vietnam Veterans	7
2015 Distinguished Grange Award	7
Grange Events.....	7
How to Write A Resolution	8
USDA Invests in Beginning Farmers...9	
Regional Meetings Set	11

The California Granger

The California Granger is the Official Publication of the California State Grange. A chartered division of the National Grange, and the only State Grange in California.

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The following positions will be filled prior to the annual session: Overseer, Steward, Treasurer, Gatekeeper, Ceres and Musician

Visit us on the Web

California State Grange:
<http://www.CAStateGrange.org>

Cover Photo

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President's Message

Ed Komski, State President

California State Court Allows National Grange to File Amended Complaint; McFarland Group Requests Trial Date Be Delayed

The Sacramento Superior Court granted the National Grange's motion for leave to file an amended complaint. The amendment was necessary to reflect the "major material changes in the status of the parties within the Order of the Grange since the last amendment of the pleadings" – namely, the



Ed Komski,
State President

departure of the McFarland group from the Grange in 2013 and the reorganization of the California State Grange in 2014. The court also granted the McFarland group's request to postpone the trial date. This will delay the trial by at least several months, but the motions for summary judgment filed by the California State Grange and the National Grange remain set for hearing at the end of April. The Court's order and the parties' briefs regarding the motion to amend the National Grange's complaint are available to download. Please contact me for link. As always, I encourage you to read the documents and reach your own conclusions.

The National Grange's amended complaint will not change the merits of the lawsuit. When the National Grange filed its last complaint, the California State Grange was inactive because its Charter had been revoked; the complaint therefore asked the court to transfer its property to the National Grange pursuant to Section 4.12.2 of the Digest of Laws. Since that time, however, the California State Grange has been reorganized and its Charter has been restored. Under Section 4.12.2(b), there no longer is any need to transfer the property to the National Grange. Accordingly, the amended complaint will ask the court to declare that the Grange property in the McFarland group's possession belongs to the California State Grange, and not the McFarland group.

Notably, the amendment does **not** mean that the property of any active Subordinate or Pomona Grange in California is now at issue in the lawsuit. All Granges control and may use the Grange property they hold pursuant to the rules of the Order, so long as they have a Charter. No Charter of any Subordinate or Pomona Grange has been suspend-

Continued on Page 12

Prop 1 Water Spending Draft Plan Released

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The California Natural Resources Agency released a draft schedule detailing the benchmarks for the first year of the ten year expenditure period of the water bond (Proposition 1) that was passed by voters in November 2014. Also, draft guidelines for applications for grants made available by the bond will be available on the Bond Accountability website to assist grant-making organizations and applicants.

"Voters overwhelmingly supported Proposition 1 in November because they understand how important it is to California's water future to make sound, strategic investments," said California Natural Resources Agency Secretary John Laird. "With funding from the bond, the California Water Action Plan provides a roadmap for investments in projects that provide water reliability, restore critical natural habitat, and ensures the resilience of our water delivery infrastructure."

Laird continued: "The draft schedule and grant guidelines are a vital part of ensuring the transparent, expeditious, and accountable spending of the \$7.5 billion bond."

The requirements from the bond that must be met prior to funds being distributed are outlined below:

Draft Grant guidelines: The water bond requires that the creation of grant guidelines is a transparent and public process. Prior to disbursing grants or loans pursuant to the bond measure, each state agency that administers a competitive grant or loan program must develop and adopt project solicitation and evaluation guidelines. Additionally, before disbursing grants or loans, at least three public meetings are required throughout the state to consider public comments prior to finalizing the guidelines. Also, the draft solicitation and evaluation guidelines are required to be posted on the website of the issuing state entity at least 30 days before the public meetings.

Bond accountability website: Information is reported to the public via the Bond Accountability website, which posts information about how bond funds are spent and details about funded projects, and



provides allocation balances twice-yearly. Proposition 1 information has been added to the website.

Public notice of all grant guidelines on Natural Resources Agency website: All Proposition 1 guidelines will be reviewed by the Secretary for Natural Resources and all guidelines will be posted to a central place on the Bond Accountability website.

Secretary's Notes

Lillian Booth, State Secretary

Granges in Good Standing:

The California State Grange By-Laws, adopted July 12, 2014, (Section 21.1.7) states "A Grange in Good Standing is one whose quarterly dues to this Grange are not more than one quarter in arrears, and meets all the conditions for a chartered Grange."



**Lillian Booth
State Secretary**

Reports From the State Secretary's Office:

To help the local Grange Secretaries, once the quarterly report is received from a Grange, a report is sent back to the local Secretary showing what was processed, accompanied by an updated membership list with any recent changes. This is done to verify the changes submitted have been made correctly. When you receive this report, please review and advise of any additional changes or corrections.

Necessary Information:

Asking for dates of birth, date the member joined, e-mail and telephone numbers is necessary. The date of birth verifies eligibility for Junior and Youth contests. For the adult members, a year of birth is adequate. E-mail addresses help cut down on postage and printing costs since many documents can

Continued on Page 8

Lecturer's Bulletin

Barbara Geiger, State Lecturer

Convention time is coming. June 25-27th. Let's all start planning something for the Talent Showcase. There will be 2 categories, Youth: Variety, Vocal and instrumental. Youth will be age 14 and under. Adult: Variety, Vocal and instrumental. Send me your name, age (Youth), Grange that you attend and what you are planning on performing. You can e-mail it to me at barbaraleegeiger@aol.com



Official Grange Logo. As shown above, this logo should appear on all official Grange communications.

Grange Expo

Katie Squire, State Expo Director

Did you hear the California Grange Expo is back! Our mission continues to be to bring together the best of the farm, home, and family to encourage other people to good works. Grange Expo exhibits will be on display this year at the 140th Annual California State Grange convention in June.

The California Grange Expo includes all of the contests developed by the National Grange Youth and Junior Grange Departments as well as the National Grange Lecturer and Legislative, and other departments.

All of the state competitions that you remember; art, baking, canning, crafts, needlework, photography, quilting, and sewing, are back. We have new contests as well, including a Parliamentary Procedure competition. Some of the state competitions are prerequisite to exhibiting at the National Grange in November. In other cases, especially for Junior Grange members, all entries will be submitted to the National competitions after our judging.

Winter, spring, and early summer are prime time for working on entries for the Grange Exposition. Some Granges open their halls and offer classes that can result in potential Expo exhibits. You can also invite your community to participate as "Guest Exhibitors" under your Grange's sponsorship. This is a great way to offer individuals the chance to "test drive" your Grange. The California Grange Expo is a wonderful way to showcase the talents of your members.

The complete California Grange Expo Handbook with competition descriptions and rules will soon be ready for release. Please visit our Facebook page at California Grange Expo. You can also reach us by email at expo@CASTategrange.org Please share with everyone!!!

Words From The Chaplain

Bill Compton, State Chaplain

From a secular and religious viewpoint few people would suggest that February was not a unique month. Normally 28 days, but then every fourth year an additional day is added creating Leap Year for a total of 29 days for this unique month.

Also, in what other month do we observe little furry critters to determine what we are to expect from the weather, should the animal see or not see its shadow?

February is also noted for being a romantic month... well deserved... and while secular in nature, Valentine's day obtained its name from a holy man of long ago who provided dowries to poor young women so they would be eligible to meet a nice young man to marry. Do you remember in grade school trying to determine who was going

to receive that special valentine you had to give in hope of receiving one from that particular person in return?

Romantic yes, but not as secular as first thought, because Valentine's day is much deeper and longer lasting. It reflects the love, affection, admiration and prayers we show throughout the year to our family, friends, work associates and of course members of our grange family. It is not always the big gifts people remember us as having given to them, but the small positive feelings of acceptance can count the most.

Think now in terms of our Chartered California Grange, which like the mythological Phoenix has risen from the ashes to continue to inspire to us with a belief in the National Grange Constitution and By-Laws as found in the Obligation Oath we all took when joining our subordinate Grange. Many good and faithful grangers throughout our state, for whatever the reason, seem to have questioned our Obligation Oath adding to the present situation, and we will gladly welcome them back with open arms into our State Grange family.

National Legislative Update

J Burton Eller Jr., Legislative Director

Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS)

The EPA officially withdrew its Interpretive rule that defined "normal farming practices" in their proposal to create and regulate many new classifications of water. The withdrawn guidance stipulated farms and ranches would only be exempt from Clean Water Act permits for 56 routine farming practices if these practices complied with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) standards. This proposal gave no merit to the individual producer's existing good stewardship practices and would have placed NRCS in a role of enforcer rather than a trusted resource and advisory agency. EPA's withdrawal in response to a mandate Congress included in the Omnibus FY '15 spending package passed in December. However, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy told the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee the agency is trying to address the myriad concerns but intends to finalize the overarching WOTUS Rule by spring. In related clean water developments, the City of Des Moines, Iowa has threatened to sue three northwest Iowa counties for allegedly polluting central Iowa's drinking water supply. The potential lawsuit has the attention of farmers, ranchers and rural landowners. The case could reopen a decades-long fight over who is responsible for water pollution that could originate hundreds of miles away.

Immigration

Republicans in Congress are nearly unanimous in their quest to overturn the President's unilateral executive order on immigration. Some Democrats could support a clean bill to rescind. But the "how to do it" debate is mired down on Capitol Hill. Before Congress adjourned in December, it funded the Federal Government through FY '15 (September 30), except the Department of Home-



**J. Burton Eller Jr.
NG Legislative Director**

land Security and its U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service which were funded only until February 27. The aim was to come back to Washington in January, pass a measure to fund DHS for the remainder of the year, but stipulate no funds could be used to implement President Obama's amnesty order. If Congress were to be successful in passing such legislation, the big decision would be shifted to the President; he could sign it and put his amnesty order on hold, or he could veto it and force a DHS shut-down. Right now, however, the House is embroiled in debate on several amendments that among other things, would undo all the President's executive orders on immigration back to early 2011. Moderate Democrats and some Republicans will have a harder time supporting such inclusive language. If Congress fails to act, DHS will automatically shut down and Republicans take the blame.

Medicare Part D

The National Grange joined the Council on Affordable Health Care and over 300 other groups in urging Congress to oppose proposals that weaken Medicare Part D for senior and individuals with disabilities. Health care groups say Part D has set the standard for delivering better service at a lower cost. The Administration has called for a mandatory Part D rebate which could increase beneficiary premiums, restrict access to medicines and jeopardize patient adherence to needed medicines. These would not be rebates to subscribing patients as one might presume; rebates would essentially be taxes paid by drug manufacturers to the Federal government but would not be used to advance new drugs or to lower patient prescription costs.

Net Neutrality/Broadband

Rural Americans are still among the most underserved consumers of high-speed broadband Internet. The National Grange has always supported efforts that foster a competitive marketplace for faster and more reliable Internet expansion across the country. The current debate over Internet regulation known as net neutrality will require continued Grange involvement and scrutiny. This week, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced it would move to regulate Internet service like a public utility. Those supporting net neutrality say regulation under Title II of the Communications

Continued on Page 6

Act will allow service to be fast, fair, open and prevent paid prioritization Internet "super highways." Opponents of Title II regulation say these rules were written in the 1930's for the wired monopoly phone era and will stifle investment and innovation. Congress is now entering the debate and considering legislation which could achieve compromise and mitigate the debate. If all attempts for a compromise fail, it's likely the major Internet service providers will sue the FCC.

GMO-Free Labels

The most heated food industry debate these days is about labeling foods which may contain genetically modified ingredients. While interest groups wage war in the media, state legislatures and Congress, products "certified" as containing no GMO's are making their way to grocery stores and food counters. This is a bow to customer demands according to food companies. Perhaps it's not a bad idea. The only problem is that most of these products have not been through an official verification process of uniform compliance standards to be classified as "Certified GMO-Free." On the other hand, the USDA's "organic" seal is a guarantee that the product has been produced under organic standards which include no genetically engineered ingredients. This lack of a verifiable certification guarantee for GMO-Free labels is sure to be questioned sooner or later.

White Potatoes

Remember the surprise when it was announced that white potatoes would no longer be approved for government feeding programs including school lunch and WIC? Well, now USDA has added the white potato back to its official list of approved foods for feeding programs, saying white potatoes are a cost-effective vegetable that recipients meet their recommended intake of fiber and potassium. The issue had become a hot potato in Congress. A bipartisan group of lawmakers from potato-producing states included language in the Omnibus spending bill directing USDA to reinstate the potato.

Single Food Safety Agency

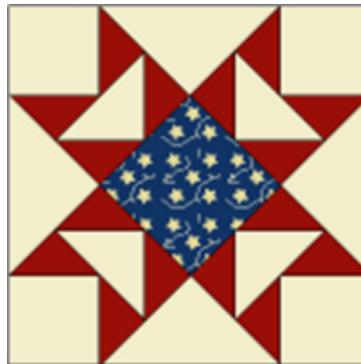
The proposal to create a single government-wide food safety agency received a cool reception when it reached the Hill as part of the Administration's proposed FY'16 budget. Creating the new food safe-

ty agency would move meat and poultry inspection from USDA to Health and Human Services (HHS) where oversight for meat safety would be combined with the food safety responsibilities of the Food and Drug Administration (within HHS) which has responsibility for the rest of the food supply. Consumer advocates also seemed to be cool to the proposed agencies consolidation commenting that a new agency at HHS would be lost among the other priorities of the department. The track record of assuring safe food has traditionally been much better at USDA than at HHS.

2015 Quilt Block Contest

Show off your talents!

The National Grange Quilt Block Contest is a program promoted by the National Grange Lecturer to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the National Grange in 2016. The idea behind the contest is to create a vehicle for our members to share their creative talents. SO LET'S START!



Contest Rules: The period of the contest runs from January 1, 2015 until September 15, 2015.

Quilt Pattern: The pattern for 2015 is a red, white and blue Northumberland Star .

Score Sheet: Judging will be based on 3 categories; appearance, workmanship and finishing.

Get More Information: Visit www.castategrange.org and look under Programs for more details and to download rules and



Annual Session Dates Set

Annual Session of the California State Grange has been set for June 25th to 27th, 2015 in the Sacramento area. Watch for more details.

Honor Vietnam Veterans

Certificates Available!

The certificates used to recognize your Vietnam vet, can be ordered from Bryan Marchefsky, Communications Manager of the National Grange. To request the certificate, please make sure to include the following information: name of veteran, name of Grange they belong to or who is giving it out, the name of the local master and lecturer, the city and town the Grange/Veteran is located in and a shipping address. There is no cost to you or your Grange for program material or the certificates. This program is sponsored by Potomac Grange #1.



If you missed out on the program information for WWII and Korea they are still available to order. All you need to do is contact Communications Manager, Bryan Marchefsky, at bmar-chefsky@nationalgrange.org or call at 888-4-Grange. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Bryan.

2015 Distinguished Grange Program

We all know that our Subordinate Grange is special, but did you know that now it can be recognized as such!

The Distinguished Grange Program honors Subordinate and State Granges that fulfill their responsibilities as part of the National Grange, while excelling in the areas of membership, fundraising, and service to their communities.

The program is presented annually at National Session. The 2014-15 Distinguished Granges will be honored for their work done from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. The deadline to register as a Distinguished Grange will be August 14, 2015.

Distinguished Granges will be honored at a special reception at National Session, and will be recognized



Grange Events!!

Sunday March 1, Morgan Hill Pancake Breakfast @ Morgan Hill Grange Hall 40 E. 4th St., Morgan Hill, CA

Sunday March 8, Orangevale Grange Breakfast @ Orangevale Grange Hall, 5807 Walnut, Orangevale, CA

Saturday Nights in March, 7PM
— Aptos Grange Youth Cotillion Class @ Aptos Grange Hall, 2555 Mar Vista Dr., Aptos, CA



Saturday March 21, 5:00 to 6:30 pm Wyandotte Grange Dinner @ Wyandotte Grange Hall, 4910 Foothill Blvd Oroville 95965-

Sunday March 22, 12:00 to 4:00 pm
—Orangevale Grange 2nd Annual Wedding Fair @ Orangevale Grange Hall, 5807 Walnut, Orangevale, CA

Saturday March 28, 10:30am to 4:30 PM
— Aptos Grange Sewing Event
@ Aptos Grange Hall, 2555 Mar Vista Dr., Aptos, CA

in the Annual Honors Booklet. They will receive a certificate to commemorate the occasion, along with a ribbon for the Subordinate or State Master at Convention. Granges that are considered distinguished for five consecutive years will receive a plaque for their hall.

Bob Clouse has been appointed the California Director to coordinate this program here in California. All applications must be postmarked by August 14, 2015 for consideration. Applications received AFTER this deadline WILL NOT BE accepted.

You can get applications and more information at our website (www.castategrange.org look under Program for more information).

be sent electronically. Please be assured – the membership lists are not released or sold to any outside entity.

Adding New Members:

When adding members, you do not have to wait for the end of the quarter to send the information. Please use the Quick Start form and send that in right after the obligating meeting. We can add the member then so they can start receiving membership cards, newsletters, and other membership information.

June Annual Session—Resolutions:

The dates for the Annual Session are: Thursday thru Saturday, June 25, 26 & 27 at Orangevale Grange Hall. Resolutions to amend the State Grange By-Laws or the Funds Section of the By-Laws must be RECEIVED by April 23, 2015.

All other resolutions must be received by May 23, 2015. Send to State Secretary PO BOX 1442 Paradise, CA 95967-1442

Delegate Credentials:

Delegate credential forms will be mailed to Granges in good standing during the month of April. . .

Secretary's – you sometimes might have a greater share of the work – but you get to talk to all of your members at one time or another. And that is the fun part!!! Thank you for all you do.

How to Write a Resolution

The easiest way to write a resolution is to do it backwards! And using word processing software makes this even easier! There are three basic parts; the heading, the perambulatory clauses and the operative clauses.

Step 1: Have an idea! For this example, let's suppose that it is required that all food products treated with the pesticide Diphenylamine be labeled with a warning to the consumer.

Step 2: Start with the RESOLVED: (It should be all caps and followed by a colon.) Next add the state-

ment of what you want to accomplish. In this case a warning label if Diphenylamine had been used. The resolved would look like this.

RESOLVED: *That all food products for sale in the United States currently treated with the pesticide Diphenylamine (known as DPA), shall require a warning label, advising the consumer that this pesticide was used in the production of this food product.*

Remember, that the Resolved should stand on its own. In other words, if I only had the Resolved, I would know that action was to be taken.

Step 3: The next step in the process is to tell why you want the warning labels. This is done with a series of one or more whereas statements. Each whereas should be a single complete statement. Don't run together too much in the whereas. Again, the word Whereas should be all caps, followed by a colon.

WHEREAS: *The pesticide Diphenylamine (known as DPA) is commonly applied to about 80% of all apples, except for organic apples, and is used to prevent storage scald, blacking or browning of the apple skin when in cold storage, and*

WHEREAS: *The use of DPA has been banned in the European Union over safety concerns, therefore be it:*

Step 4: Now you need a title. Again, simple and to the point is best, and followed by who is submitting the resolution.

Require warning labels when Diphenylamine is used on food products.

Submitted by Mygrange # 100

Step 5: Now using your word processor, rearrange the parts and present to your Grange for adoption.

A more complete version of this article can be found on the CSG website in the Forms & More/Publication section.

USDA Invests \$18 Million to Train Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

U.S. Department of Agriculture's Deputy Secretary Krysta Harden (USDA) announced more than \$18 million in grants to educate, mentor, and enhance the sustainability of the next generation of farmers. The grants are available through the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) administered by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), which was authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Farm Bill).

"As new farmers and ranchers get started, they are really looking to their community for support. The Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program empowers these farmers and ranchers to bring innovative ideas to the table when it comes to addressing food security, creating economic enterprises, and building communities," said Deputy Secretary Krysta Harden. As we celebrate the first anniversary of the 2014 Farm Bill, programs like these are evidence that an investment in beginning farmers and ranchers is an investment in our future.

The grant announcement was made at Recirculating Farms Coalition in New Orleans. Recirculating Farms received a BFRDP grant to develop training sessions focusing on soil-based production and aquaculture for new and beginning farmers in New Orleans.

The BFRDP program, first established by the 2008 Farm Bill, aims to support those who have farmed or railed less than 10 years with workshops, educational teams, training, and technical assistance throughout the United States. NIFA awards grants to organizations that implement programs to train beginning farmers and ranchers. This program was funded by the 2014 Farm Bill, which continued authorization of this program.

The 2014 Farm Bill mandated at least five percent of BFRDP funding support veterans and socially disadvantaged farmers. Among today's announcement, more than 15 percent of the funded projects have a substantial component that supports veterans and farming, while about 50 percent of the projects focus mainly on socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. A fact sheet with a complete list

of awardees and project descriptions is available on the USDA website.

- Since 2009, 184 awards have been made for more than \$90 million through the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program. These awards are part of USDA's deep commitment to beginning farmers and ranchers. Additional USDA investment in beginning farmers and ranchers include:
 - Since 2009, FSA has issued more than 895,000 direct and guaranteed farm operating and farm ownership loans to beginning farmers and ranchers.
 - FSA's microloan program, an important access point to credit for some new farmers and ranchers, has issued more than 9,600 microloans totaling \$188 million. Seventy percent of these loans have gone to beginning farmers. Recently, USDA raised the ceiling for microloan from \$35,000 to \$50,000, giving new farmers access to more credit.
 - The 2014 Farm Bill also strengthens the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program for new producers by reducing the premiums on buy-up level coverage by 50 percent for new farmers and waiving their application fee. USDA announced this new tool for farmers and ranchers in 2015.
 - USDA's Value-Added Producer Grants program gives priority to beginning farmers and ranchers to help them increase revenues through value-added agriculture, marketing, and new product development. Since 2009, more than 25 percent of 853 awarded Value Added Producer Grants went to beginning farmers and ranchers.

More information about USDA support for new farmers and ranchers is available at www.usda.gov/newfarmers.

The Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program is currently accepting applications for the 2015 grant cycle. Applications are due March 13, 2015.

Source: Release No. 0022.15 United States Department of Agriculture

shown. Most of our readers are familiar with his name and his writings, for he has long been a correspondent of the Rural Press, both in an official capacity and under the nom de plume of "Ralph Rambler;" for these reasons, and because of his active part in the Grange movement, we feel sure that our readers will be interested in the following sketch of his life, which we have supplemented by an admirable likeness of himself.

Mr. Wright was born at Columbus, Mississippi, July 28th, 1834. His father, David Wright, was a Presbyterian minister, and at one time a missionary to the Choctaw Indians. His mother was a Virginian, Mr. Wright is a nephew of Colonel John Albert, of Washington, D. C, for over 30 years Chief of Topographical Engineers of the U. S. Army. At the age of six years, being the only survivor of four children, he was left, by the death of his father, in charge of a widowed mother, who devoted all of her remaining life to the welfare of her son. She was a woman of remarkable force of character. Left to depend on her own exertions for support, she taught her son to work and to appreciate the dignity and worth of labor. He early learned from her teachings that he must depend for success upon his own exertions, under the blessings of Providence. In his boyhood Mr. Wright worked for part of his time in a cabinet shop, to learn the use of tools, and wrote for a while as a copyist in a Chancery Clerk's office. But his mother labored to leave him that best of legacies—a sound education; by her economy and good management, coupled with some assistance from friends and the earnings of his own labors as teacher, he was enabled to secure the advantages of a thorough education. He prepared, for college in the schools of Mississippi and Alabama. After spending two and a half years at Greene Springs, Alabama, under Prof. Henry Tutwiler, whose eldest daughter he afterwards married, he entered the junior class at Princeton in 1855, and graduated as valedictorian of his class in 1857. In the fall of that year he returned to Alabama, and began teaching school as assistant to Prof. Tutwiler. As teacher, after completing his college course, his classes consisted of

young men in Latin and Greek through the full course, French, rhetoric, and the higher mathematics. He also devoted much of his leisure time to natural history and botany, as his special and favorite studies, having been convinced of the practical value of these sciences at Princeton, by the admirable lectures on geology and physical geography in the two years' course of Prof. Guyot, "the companion and friend of Agassiz." Princeton conferred upon Mr. Wright the degree of A.M. in 1860. After our lamentable civil war broke out he continued teaching for a year; but having been raised with convictions concerning State's Rights, in which all Southern men were educated, and being convinced that the only clear line of duty was to stand by his State in the unfortunate position in which the logic of events

had placed her; feeling, as well, that she needed the aid of all her sons in that terrible and ever-to-be-regretted emergency, he raised a company and entered the Confederate service in March, 1862, in the 36th Alabama Regiment. He served as Captain and Major of infantry, being frequently in command of his regiment,



**J.W.A. Wright,
first Master of the
California State Grange**

until he gave his parole in May, 1865. He was always actively employed. He was in the battles of Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, and also in Gen. Joe Johnston's and Hoods campaigns; and in the defiance of Spanish Fort at Mobile from the 3rd to the 9th of April 1865. He was severely wounded, disabled and captured at Missionary Ridge in November, 1863, and remained in the hospital and prison at Chattanooga, Nashville and Camp Chase, until he effected his escape from the cars, while enroute with Morgan and other Confederate officers to be confined in Fort Delaware in March 1864. He then made an adventurous trip through Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Vermont, to Canada, thence by schooner down the St. Lawrence, and by a sea voyage of 30 days to the Bermuda's; thence by blockade runner to Wil-

**Thank you for
being a Grange
member!**



mington, and was restored to his family and command in June, 1864, after having been numbered among the dead for three months. On his return he enjoyed the odd experience of reading his obituary; but, as well as we can judge, he still has some life left, although ten years have elapsed, and those sad memories are almost forgotten. Far from retaining any bitterness from the lamentable struggle, the subject of this sketch is known to be a lover of his whole country, and eagerly joins in all efforts to secure our public good. By parentage, education and natural disposition he is liberal and devoted to the interest of all our people. He gave his parole in May, 1865, and returned to Greene Springs, where he resumed his occupation of teaching.

Believing that all enterprise and prosperity were dead in the Southern States, and desiring a more active life, he came to California in the spring of 1868, and purchased land in Stanislaus and Fresno counties, and has engaged actively in developing the resources of the State as a farmer, ever since. Year before last he cultivated some 4,000 acres of land, but, on account of the unfavorable season, harvested but 1,700 acres, and indeed has suffered in each of the dry years with his brother farmers in the valley, in endeavoring to bring his farming operations to success. Last year Mr. Wright cultivated 1,500 acres of land in Stanislaus and Fresno counties. Five years experience in grain raising in California has convinced him, among other practical farmers, that irrigation is the only certain mode of farming in the interior valleys of the State. In June, 1873, when the Farmers' Movement began to excite so much interest in California, a Grange was formed in Turlock, Stanislaus county, his place of residence, of which he was elected Master. On the 15th of July, when the California State Grange was organized in Napa, Mr. Wright was elected its first Master. He was the author of the declaration of purposes, which mapped out the work of the Order in California. This year he went East as a delegate to the National Grange, and had the honor of drawing up the famous "declaration of principles" (called by some one a second Sermon on the Mount), of which so much has been said. Mr. Wright's term as Master having expired at San Jose, he was elected State Lecturer, giving him in that way a more varied work, in the work of organization and maintenance of the Order in this State. He was ex officio Chairman of the first executive committee, which inaugurated the business agencies of the Granges in California.

Being naturally fond of retirement, Mr. Wright has

always preferred life in the country and on a farm. His associations have been almost constantly with farm life. This experience has made him an earnest advocate of the farmer's life, as the most independent and the happiest in the world, when the farmer can be favored with good seasons and fair dealing in handling his products and supplies. Although having from a sense of duty, as a citizen, taken an active part in shaping the politics of his locality, he has actively tried to work against corruption, bribery and political wire working, Mr. Wright has never been in the slightest sense a professional politician. In his work as an officer, he has organized 33 of the Granges in this State. He has paid considerable attention to meteorology, and kept an accurate rainfall and weather record of his locality. Our readers will, most of them, remember reading his observations on the climate of the San Joaquin valley, and will remember as well his illustrated articles on the botany of California, published in the Rural, at various times. Mr. Wright has made a host of friends in his travels throughout California, and as many of them are readers of our journal, we deem it unnecessary to call to their minds recollections of his genial manner, his intelligent conversational powers, good nature, and polite bearing to all with whom he comes in contact. The sketch which we have engraved, shown on this page, is an admirable likeness of Mr. Wright.

Regional Meetings Set

Two Regional Meetings have been set for the Grange members in California. These are informational meetings and an opportunity to meet with the Board of Directors. Topics will include an update on the current legal issues, Secretary of State requirements for Granges, and Grange Programs.

*Save
the
Date !!*

These meetings are open to all Grange members, from any Grange, except those who have withdrawn their membership from the Order of Patrons of Husbandry in the State of California.



Saturday March 21, 2015
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
Orangevale Grange Hall
5807 Walnut Avenue, Orangevale, CA



Sunday, April 12, 2015
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
Morgan Hill Grange Hall
40 E. 4th Street, Morgan Hill, CA

See you there!!!

State President's Message Continued from page 2

ed or revoked since the problems caused by the McFarland group began.

However, holding a Charter comes with certain requirements. This week, I went to my Subordinate Grange (the Rainbow Valley Grange No. 689) and read the following on the Charter hanging in its Grange Hall:

"Application has been made to the National Grange for a Permanent Charter or Warrant, confirming a perpetual right of succession, and securing to them all the rights and privileges of a regular constituted Grange, and a copy of their By-Laws having been submitted to our inspection and received our approval. Now, Know Ye That we the National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry, for the purposes of diffusing the benefits of the Order, and of promoting the interests, welfare and happiness of its members, do issue this Charter to Rainbow Valley Grange No. 689. And hereby recognize it as a regularly constituted Grange, under the jurisdiction of the National Grange, and of the State Grange of California, whose seal is hereunto attached."

"Provided, Nevertheless, That the Officers and Members of the Grange hereby constituted, and their successors, shall at all times comply with the Constitution of the National Grange and the State of Grange before mentioned, and all laws, rules and regulations passed in accordance therewith. Otherwise this Charter shall be forfeited, and the rights and privileges hereby conveyed be void and of no effect."

As I have expressed before, I want to do everything I can to make sure that all Subordinate and Pomona Granges remain in good standing in the Order, and that no Grange risks losing its Charter because of any confusion caused by the McFarland group. To be clear: **the McFarland group is not a Grange, and it is not a part of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry.** Mr. McFarland and the other defendants have admitted in the lawsuit that they are not members of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, and that no part of the dues they have collected has gone to the National Grange. I understand that the McFarland group, contrary to the rules of the Order, still holds itself out as a Grange, and this may be confusing to our membership in California. Therefore, we put in place an amnesty program whereby any Grange that has been paying dues to the McFarland group may return to good standing in the Order of Patrons of Husbandry by paying dues to the California State Grange going forward, no questions asked. The response to the amnesty program so far has been very positive, and I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions about whether your Grange should participate in it.

Additionally, we have made arrangements so that no

Grange's tax exempt status will be at risk if it decides to remain in good standing in the Order. No Grange needs to follow the McFarland group only out of fear that it will lose its tax exempt status. Again, I am available to discuss if you have any questions about tax exemption.

Finally, it recently came to my attention that National Master Luttrell and others may be listed erroneously as the officers of the corporation that the California State Grange formed in 2014. If there is in fact such a listing, it is a mistake that will soon be corrected. When the McFarland group left the Grange, they refused to return control of the California State Grange's corporation, its headquarters building at 3830 U Street in Sacramento, or its website, telephone numbers, accounts, etc. Due to the efforts of dozens of Subordinate Granges, a meeting was held in February 2014 to discuss reorganization of the California State Grange. Because the McFarland group had hijacked the California State Grange's corporation and the California State Grange was inactive until its Charter was restored, the National Master (pursuant to his duty under Section 4.3.8 of the Digest of Laws) caused a new corporation to be created in February 2014 that would be transferred to the officers of the California State Grange following its reorganization. That corporation was intended to hold the accounts and property of the California State Grange until its original corporation could be recovered from the McFarland group. On July 12, 2014, after the California State Grange's Charter was restored, I and the newly installed Executive Committee members were appointed directors of the 2014 corporation. A copy of that appointment is available upon request. I am investigating whether I and the other Executive Committee members are in fact listed as officers with the Secretary of State. If it turns out that the Secretary of State's information has not been updated since last July, I will take steps to rectify that immediately.

These past several years have been a trying time for the California State Grange, to say the least. But I am confident that resolution of the problems caused by the McFarland group is at hand. The California State Grange and the National Grange have both filed motions for summary judgment (copies of which I sent to you last week, and which I encourage you to read), and I expect that the judge will rule on them by May. In the meantime, I expect that more misinformation will come from the McFarland group. As always, I urge you to read the rules of the California State Grange and the National Grange, and the documents filed in the lawsuit, and reach your own conclusions as to whether what the McFarland group is saying is accurate. And, of course, I am here to serve all Grangers in California. If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything at all, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at (760) 310-6500 or by e-mail at ekomski@castategrange.org.

Fraternally yours,
Ed Komske