



The Official News Source for the California State Grange

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

THE CALIFORNIA



State Grange Reorganized

On July 12th, 2014 the California State Grange was reorganized. It was just several days shy of the 141st anniversary of the founding of the State Grange.

But the story of the State Grange starts some many years ago, on July 15th, 1873 in the town of Napa, where the California State Grange was organized by W. H. Baxter who was appointed Deputy of the National Grange for California in August 1871.

Representatives from the 28 Granges (Napa Grange, W. San Joaquin Grange, Stanislaus Grange, Vacaville Grange, Chico Grange, Merced Grange, Salida Grange, Suisun Valley Grange, San Jose Grange, Hollister Grange, Sacramento Grange, Yolo Grange,

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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 detail.

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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Flora	Etta Smith
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The following positions will be filled prior to the annual session. Overseer, Steward, Treasurer, Gatekeeper, Ceres and Musician

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

Save the Grange Some \$\$

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"Half Dome from Glacier Point, Yosemite NP - Diliff" by Diliff - Own work. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution-

President's Message

Ed Komski, State President

Happy New Year! 2015 will be a very busy year for the California State Grange. We are excited about the future of our Grange and the opportunities that have developed after the difficulties of the past several years.

National Grange and all of the State Grange delegates at national convention embraced the reorganization of the California State Grange and the reaffirmation of California Grangers of their commitment to support and follow the rules of the Grange. At the national convention, I thought about how Grangers in other states must have felt as 36 states followed the laws of the Grange while one renegade did not. I was humbled as delegates expressed their feelings about those issues and their appreciation for and excitement about the actions we all have taken in the past year to restore the California State Grange to its place within the Grange Fraternity.

We have committed as the California State Grange to ensure that Grange laws are followed in California, just as they are in every other state. Unfortunately, the hijacking of our name and property by the McFarland group has required spending hard-earned and donated assets to enforce our fraternal laws. While this will pass and there is no question that there is only one California State Grange, enforcing this fact and securing the return of the California State Grange's name and property through the judicial process unfortunately will be costly. It is amazing how much money is being spent because former Grangers have refused to live up to their obligations and honor the oaths they swore to abide by the rules of the Grange when they joined the Grange and took office.

As you can see, we believe that communication is key in these turbulent times. This newsletter will be published monthly to provide all California Grangers with updates about the happenings in the California State Grange. Our website and Facebook page are being updated. We will continue to provide real-time e-mail updates to our membership about the lawsuits against the McFarland group. This is the most cost-effective method for us to provide information so please help us; until we regain access to our computers and records via the courts, please keep providing e-mail addresses to us. It means a great deal to everyone to be informed. The e-mails we send you will contain only factual, informative, substantive, and verifiable information about the lawsuits; you will receive no propaganda or spin pieces. As always, I encourage you to read the documents we send and the rules of the Grange so that you can be fully informed about what is happening.

As for events within the California State Grange during the upcoming year, we are excited about the 140th California State Grange Convention to take place in June. Because our state charter was suspended in 2012 and revoked in

2013, this is the first opportunity since 2011 to have a convention in compliance with Grange law. We look forward to what promises to be a wonderful event.

We are also resurrecting our Expo program, which should excite many members. We are on Facebook at California-Grange-Expo.

Per our by-laws, we are filling positions as the board believes is needed. These somewhat temporary positions will be voted on at convention.

Finally, we plan to use 2015 to assess the membership status of Community Granges in California. I know that there has been a great deal of confusion caused by the departure of the McFarland group from the Grange and their continued, improper use of the California State Grange's name and property. It is my sincere wish that no Granger run afoul of the rules of the Grange because he or she does not have full information. To that end, I am doing my best to inform all Grangers that there is only one California State Grange that has a Charter and is a part of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry Please note – **NO** member or Grange has been suspended or revoked as of this time by this administration. The **ONLY** members that are no longer part of the Grange are Bob McFarland, Kathy Bergeron, Bill Thomas, Jon Luvaas (suspended under grange judicial process), Damian Parr, Takashi Yogi, Lawrence Jaffe and Leo Bergeron. They all signed the 11/8/13 disaffiliation letter by which they unequivocally expressed their decision to withdraw from the Grange. In order to remain a member of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry going forward, however, you must belong to a Community Grange that is in good standing within the Order. That means your Community Grange must be complying with its obligations under Grange law, including by submitting reports and paying dues to the chartered California State Grange. To enable each of you to know whether you're good standing in the Grange is at risk, we have identified 5 categories of membership status and the steps that a Community Grange in each category should take to ensure that it is in good standing in the Grange:

1. Community Granges that are in good standing or active because they have submitted dues and reports to the chartered California State Grange for all reporting periods in 2014: no further action is required.

2. Community Granges that **have paid dues** to the National Grange since 2012 but have not paid dues to the California State Grange since July 2014: they must submit the required quarterly reports, a complete membership and officers list, and dues as applicable from the point where delinquency begins to the California State Grange.

Members Attend National Grange Session

The 148th annual session of the National Grange was held November 11th to 15th in Sandusky Ohio. With a theme of a "Midwest Safari", the Midwest Region states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Ohio hosted this years session.

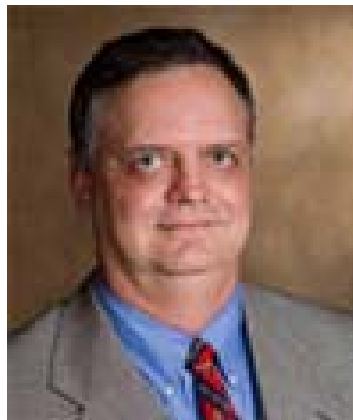
State President Ed Komski and his wife Cynthia were our delegates to this session. Bob Clouse, Past State Master and Past National Executive Committee Member also attended the session. Lillian Booth, State Secretary attended as the National Grange Junior Development Director, along with her husband, Bill Booth, Past State Master.

Two Elected to National Grange Executive Committee

BY SUZY RAMM,
DCI Communications Fellow

Two Wisconsin Grangers will hold seats on the National Grange Executive Committee simultaneously after several rounds of balloting by delegates to the 148th Session Thursday for the two open positions.

Leroy Watson, a 42-year Grange member, who serves as Treasurer of Fox Valley Good Earth Grange #776 in Neenah, Wisc., and Overseer of Potomac Grange #1, D.C., picked up his first seat as an officer of the National Grange with Thursday's vote.



LeRoy Watson

Grange to serve them on their Executive Committee. I am looking forward to working with the fellow

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To Ensure the Best Outcomes for Rural Americans, Better Provisions Needed in Federal Broadband Plan

By **Joan C. Smith,**
President, Potomac Grange #1

Today's global economy demands that every participant have access to reliable, high-speed Internet in order to attain a level playing field to actively participate in the virtual business marketplace. Although rural America constitutes 15% of our total population, it is these men and women and families who keep food on our tables, fuel in our cars and provide energy for our homes and businesses. We owe it to them to implement the infrastructure to provide broadband internet services. Americans living in rural areas still lack access to this vital resource.

Historically, rural areas have been the last to gain access to new conveniences. Broadband Internet, however, is not merely a convenience—it is essential to the business of agriculture, farming and ranching and nearly every other aspect of life in rural America. Rural communities are profoundly and adversely affected by poor access to high-speed Internet. Right now we have the chance to change that once and for all with appropriate reforms during Phase II of the Connect America Fund (CAF) plan; it's up to the Federal Communications Commission to make the right choices.

The National Grange has always advocated for updating rural infrastructure, as it did for the railroads and rural postal delivery, and now the emphasis is with rural broadband Internet. Modern farming and ranching is like any other business; it relies heavily on technology and information. Data shared in real time between different farms and the marketplace. Commodities prices can also be followed.

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



CAF was first developed in 2011, with the goal of connecting as many as 7 million un-served rural Americans by 2017 and all of the country's 19 million un-served individuals living in rural areas by 2020; yet it still is not finalized and hasn't even begun to be put into practice. CAF calls for \$1.8 billion in funding, but how best to use this funding to effectively build out broadband infrastructure to rural areas is the real issue at hand.

Consider the way in which broadband coverage is measured. Right now, "Census blocks" are used, and as long as part of the block has access, it is counted as being covered. Yet within each "block" there are households left without the service, perpetuating the digital divide for those individuals and families while keeping up the appearance of closing the gap in access.

Moreover, unlicensed, fixed Wireless Internet Services, or WISPs, are being treated as suitable alternatives to real facilities-based fiber infrastructure, not true. The FCC's regulatory assumption is that a WISP provides reliable connectivity to an entire area, but that just isn't accurate. Capacity can be very limited in these networks.

Providers still need better incentives to build out the infrastructure to reach rural areas, the most isolated, and hard-to-reach areas. Connect America Fund (CAF) resources can be used to share some of the financial burden for those efforts.

Perhaps most important, our families and communities can be strengthened through better access and higher download speeds. Jobs can be created and local economies improved. Services that eliminate some travel over large distances in many rural areas, such as telemedicine and distance learning, can save energy, develop a better rural workforce and improve quality of life. The majority of our nation's farmers and ranchers are small business owners, internet utilization informs them of new agricultural technologies to enhance their production thereby providing higher yields to meet our growing demand for food, fiber and fuel.

Rural Americans need and deserve equal access to

top-notch broadband Internet service. As a fifth-generation Granger myself, I urge the FCC to enact the “right rules and regulations” to get the most out of the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase II represents.

Joan C. Smith is President of Potomac Grange #1, Washington, DC. The National Grange, founded in 1867, is a nonprofit, nonpartisan fraternal organization that advocates for rural America and agriculture. With a strong history in grassroots activism, family values and community service, the Grange is part of more than 2,100 hometowns across the United States. Reprinted from www.nationalgrange.org

Phone Fraud Scam Targeting Taxpayers

WASHINGTON — The Treasury Inspector General for Taxpayer Administration (TIGTA) issued a warning to taxpayers to beware of phone calls from individuals claiming to represent the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in an effort to defraud them.

“This is the largest scam of its kind that we have ever seen,” said J. Russell George, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration. George noted that TIGTA has received reports of over 20,000 contacts and has become aware of thousands of victims who have collectively paid over \$1 million as a result of the scam, in which individuals make unsolicited calls to taxpayers fraudulently claiming to be IRS officials.

Inspector General George urged taxpayers to heed warnings about the sophisticated phone scam targeting taxpayers, noting that the scam has hit taxpayers in nearly every State in the country. Callers claiming to be from the IRS tell intended victims they owe taxes and must pay using a pre-paid debit card or wire transfer. The scammers threaten those who refuse to pay with arrest, deportation or loss of a business or driver’s license.

The truth is the IRS usually first contacts people by mail – not by phone – about unpaid taxes. And the IRS won’t ask for payment using a pre-paid debit card or wire transfer. The IRS also won’t ask for a credit card number over the phone.

The callers who commit this fraud often:

- Use common names and fake IRS badge numbers.
- Know the last four digits of the victim’s Social Security Number.
- Make caller ID information appear as if the IRS is calling.
- Send bogus IRS e-mails to support their scam.
- Call a second time claiming to be the police or department of motor vehicles, and the caller ID again supports their claim.



If you get a call from someone claiming to be with the IRS asking for a payment, here’s what to do:

- If you owe Federal taxes, or think you might owe taxes, hang up and call the IRS at 800-829-1040. IRS workers can help you with your payment questions.
- If you don’t owe taxes, call and report the incident to TIGTA at 800-366-4484.
- You can also file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at www.FTC.gov. Add “IRS Telephone Scam” to the comments in your complaint.

TIGTA and the IRS encourage taxpayers to be alert for phone and e-mail scams that use the IRS name. The IRS will never request personal or financial information by e-mail, texting or any social media. You should forward scam e-mails to phishing@irs.gov. Don’t open any attachments or click on any links in those e-mails.

Read more about tax scams on the genuine IRS website at www.irs.gov.

Continued on Next Page

Member Recognition

The following members are hereby recognized for their years of membership in the Grange.

October 2014.

65 Years - Wilma Ash (Gilroy Grange No. 398)
45 Years - Louise Daniels (Empire Grange No. 521)
25 Years - Alyce Vinyard (Rainbow Valley Grange No. 689)
25 Years - Bill Compton (Grover City Grange No. 746)
25 Years - Joan Compton (Grover City Grange No. 746)
15 Years - KayLynn Booth (De Sabla Grange No. 762)
10 Years - Raphael Barrios (San Bernardo Grange No. 506)

November 2014

50 Years - Elizabeth Doran (Buena Vista Grange No. 564)
50 Years - Robert Doran (Buena Vista Grange No. 564)
25 Years - Daren Heatherly (Bellevue Grange No. 374)
25 Years - Irma Ramirez-Heather (Bellevue Grange No. 374)
25 Years - Hank Modena (Cupertino Grange No. 739)
20 Years - Earl Latham (Whitesboro Grange No. 766)
20 Years - Betty Latham (Whitesboro Grange No. 766)
15 Years - Nancy Goldbloom (Grover City Grange No. 746)
15 Years - Wayne Gularte (Buena Vista Grange No. 564)
15 Years - Doris Gularte (Buena Vista Grange No. 564)
5 Years - LuEllen Pettengell (Orangevale Grange No. 354)

December 2014

60 Years - Sonny Rianda (Buena Vista Grange No. 564)
45 Years - Paul Schunemann (Cupertino Grange No. 739)
45 Years - Barbara Schunemann (Cupertino Grange No. 739)
45 Years - Kathleen Anderson (Rincon Valley Grange No. 710)
40 Years - Phyllis Duncil (Central Union Grange No. 559)
20 Years - Randy Coats (Rosedale Grange No. 565)
15 Years - Carolyn Dunkak (Gilroy Grange No. 398)
5 Years - Peter LoPresti (Orangevale Grange No. 354)

January 2015

60 Years - Marjorie George (Prunedale Grange No. 388)
60 Years - Lillian Rianda (Buena Vista Grange No. 564)
45 Years - Kathleen Ellsworth (Prunedale Grange No. 388)
35 Years - Paul Hanks (Rio Linda Grange No. 403)
35 Years - Vera Wunsch (Rincon Valley Grange No. 710)
30 Years - Frederick Morse (Bellevue Grange No. 374)
25 Years - Ronnie Branson (Rainbow Valley Grange No. 689)
15 Years - Sigrid Laskowski (Rosedale Grange No. 565)
15 Years - Mariane Pearse (Rosedale Grange No. 565)
15 Years - Mark Pearse (Rosedale Grange No. 565)
5 Years - Diane Wittmann (San Bernardo Grange No. 506)
5 Years - Francisca (Gabby) Geisler (Prunedale Grange No. 388)

February 2015

60 Years - Frances Lucas (Wyandotte Grange No. 495)
55 Years - Marjorie Brown (Orangevale Grange No. 354)
45 Years - Linda Bannon (Wyandotte Grange No. 495)
45 Years - Larry Bannon (Wyandotte Grange No. 495)
35 Years - Monte Larick (Buena Vista Grange No. 564)
35 Years - Sandra Larick (Buena Vista Grange No. 564)
35 Years - Vesta Holloway (Wyandotte Grange No. 495)

March 2015

55 Years - Bob Clouse (Orangevale Grange No. 354)
50 Years - Barbara Sedain (Cupertino Grange No. 739)
45 Years - Diana Sherry (Rosedale Grange No. 565)
40 Years - Edie Capps (San Bernardo Grange No. 506)
40 Years - Sandra Wingfield (Rosedale Grange No. 565)
35 Years - Patrick Ferriera (Prunedale Grange No. 388)
30 Years - Robert Freeman (Orangevale Grange No. 354)
25 Years - Avery Scoggins (Wyandotte Grange No. 495)
25 Years - Janice Scoggins (Wyandotte Grange No. 495)
25 Years - Jeffrey Proft (Cupertino Grange No. 739)

Junior Grange

2015 Junior Grange program looks to future

BY SUZY RAMM, DCI Communications Fellow

Grange had a great year celebrating its 125th Anniversary in 2014, and is using that enthusiasm to move into its next year.

This week, National Grange Junior Development Director Lillian Booth announced the new theme for 2015: "Join Us Now In Our Red Shoes."

Programs are being developed to teach Juniors "how to ask others to join the Grange," Booth said. Through these programs, Juniors will learn critical thinking skills and as develop confidence and ability in public speaking.

Additionally, the programs can be adapted to the needs of the individual States Granges or individuals Grange members whether they are a chartered Junior Grange or 1+

members of a Subordinate Grange.

Booth said she believes we must also work to educate and develop Junior leaders.

"Junior Grange leaders are the key to the success of the program. To that end, a Junior Leader enrichment event will be rolled out in the spring of 2015, starting in Oregon," Booth said.

She expects to do such training through "hands on, interactive activities for Junior Leaders and potential leaders."

"It will provide direction and skills for those working with our Juniors," she said.

Additionally, the Junior Grange department will be actively looking for sponsors and grants for activities and contests, Booth said she also hopes to partner with other groups who share similar goals.



Agriculture, Interior Dept. Partner to Measure Conservation Impacts on Water Quality

ALTON, Ill., -The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) announced a new partnership agreement that will provide a clearer picture of the benefits of farmers' conservation practices on the quality of our Nation's water. Working together, USDA's NRCS and DOI's USGS will quantify the benefits of voluntary agricultural practices at a watershed scale. This information will strengthen the effectiveness of state and federal nutrient reduction strategies while protecting the privacy of individual farmers. The agreement was announced at the Mississippi River Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force Meeting.

"On a voluntary basis, the agricultural community has put extensive effort into the management of nutrients and reducing runoff into waterways. This collaboration will help evaluate the impact of farmers' conservation efforts on improving water quality," said Ann Mills, USDA's deputy under secretary for Natural Resources and Environment.

The U.S. Geological Survey will now use Natural Resources Conservation Service data on conservation work to factor into its surface water quality models, which track how rivers receive and transport nutrients from natural and human sources to downstream reservoirs and estuaries. This information will help provide a more accurate picture of the conservation systems in the watershed that contribute to water quality improvement and will provide crucial information for voluntary nutrient management strategies and watershed planning.

Working together, NRCS and USGS will develop conservation intensity data sets that reflect the value of conservation actions, but do not reveal private information about individual farms, ranches or forests. Protecting the trust relationship between NRCS and farmers and their private information protected by law is vital to the continued success of voluntary conservation on private lands.

"We know our farmers are doing great work to protect our natural resources." Mills said. "Farmers invest heavily in conservation systems to improve water quality, and we want to aid their decisions with the best science and information available."

The conservation intensity products developed through the agreement will provide a uniform representation of conservation activities for use in water quality assessments at local, regional, and national scales.

Source: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=STELPRDB1262495>

The Small Farmer

The Grange has long and proud history of working with the small farmer. In California, since the founding of the first Grange in 1870, small farmers have been a key element in our Organization. To this end, each issue, we will feature some aspect of small farming.

Taking Advantage of the Local and Niche Market for Meats



The market for local and niche meats from small farms continues to grow as consumers look for higher quality

meats. As the restaurant industry has also embraced the use meats from local and niche markets, demand continues to grow.

What are Niche Meats?

Raised locally, certified organic, grass-fed, no hormones or antibiotics, certified humane—the term “niche” broadly refers to many types of market differentiation in meat production. For more information, see these websites;

www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/ag_systems/in_focus/family_farm_niche_meat.html or
www.nichemeatprocessing.org/

Secretary's Notes

Lillian Booth, State Secretary

"Worthy Secretary, your duties are the most arduous of all..." (Installing Master to the Secretary).

Grangers are record-keepers. Accurate records of the events in your Community or Pomona Grange is essential. The Secretary is the keeper of the past and the present. Your records will help to influence the future.

"How?" you ask. If you tell an accurate story, paint a picture if you will, of the tone and tenets of your Grange, your words may help the next generation of Grange members to overcome obstacles and resolve problems. If the words are murky and the meaning is blurred, then the next generation may not be able to clearly understand how it was "way back when".

There is so much a Secretary does. Keeping minutes of meetings, officer lists, filing reports with the State Grange office. You work with the Treasurer, the Master and the Executive Committee. You have binders, computers and books full of Grange information. Paint a picture with your words. It will benefit the next generation coming after we finish our duties.

"When you read a piece of writing that you admire, send a note of thanks to the author." Sherman Alexie

Reorganization

Continued from Page 1

Bennett Valley Grange, Santa Rosa Grange, Healdsburg Grange, Elmira Grange, Dixon Grange, Guenoc Grange, Yountville Grange, Grand Island Grange, Petaluma Grange, Salinas Grange, Turlock Grange, St. Helena Grange, Greyson Grange, Pescadero Grange, Bodega Grange, Temescal Grange) were present to organize the new State Grange.



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

In an eloquent and instructive address by N.W. Garretson, who was representing the Master of the National Grange, he left the following advice that would serve us today;

"With clean hands and pure hearts should we come to such a work. Therefore let each lay upon the common altar of this new Order whatever he may have of selfish ambition, or of mercenary motive, and, joining hands, let us covenant, upon the very threshold of our organization, that the meetings, the counsels and the labors of the Order in California, shall be dedicated to the cause of justice and humanity.

That we pledge each to the other that we will labor faithfully' patiently, earnestly and persistently, to purify the moral, social, business and political atmosphere of our State and Nation, bearing ever in mind that if we would triumph in the unequal conflict upon which we now enter, we must fear God, obey our laws and maintain our honor, not forgetting that a good Matron, as also a good Husbandman, is noted at all times and everywhere for his or her fidelity."



**Ed Komski,
first Master of the reorganized
California State Grange**

At that meeting, J.W.A. Wright was elected the first Master of the California State Grange. It should be remembered that Bro. Wright was the author of the Declaration of Purposes of Order.

Over the years the State Grange experiences its share of ups and downs. It almost disappeared in the early 1900's with membership dropping below 4,000 member.

The membership persevered, and by the 1970, membership was over 50,000 members. And once again, Granges were found all across our great State.

On April 5th, 2013, after a series of disagreements between the National Grange and the State Grange regarding adherences to Grange Laws, the charter



Reorganization Meeting—July 12, 2014. Elected Officers and Others, front row (left to right) Inger Bevans, Lillian Booth, Johnny Squire, Bob Clouse and Ed Komski.

of the State Grange was revoked after all efforts to bring the State Grange into compliance with Grange Laws failed.

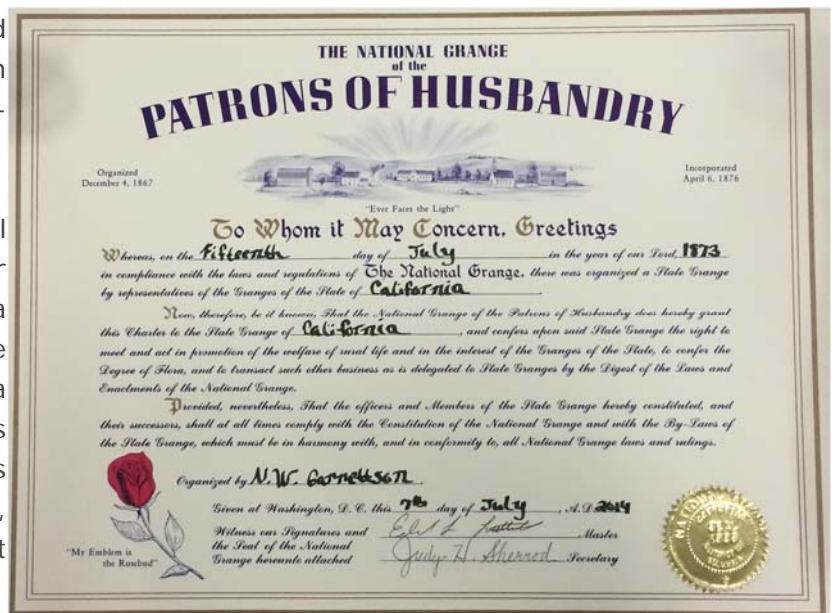
On February 15th, 2014, representatives from the Subordinate Granges, who continued to pay dues to the National Grange, and were thus in Good Standing gathered at the Orangevale Grange Hall in Sacramento County. Representatives from the following Granges were in attendance;

Aptos Grange, Central Union Grange, Corral de Tierra Grange, Cupertino Grange, Grover City Grange, Los Molinos Grange, Marina Grange, Merced Colony Grange, Orangevale Grange, Prunedale Grange, Rio Linda Grange, Rosedale Grange, Three Forks Grange and Wyandotte Grange. Members from several other Granges were present, but unable to vote as their Granges were not in good standing.

A presentation was made by the National Master to the representatives. He explained how it came to

pass that the Charter of the California State Grange was first suspended and then revoked.

The representative were then asked if it was their desire that the National Grange reorganize the Cal-



New Charter for the California State Grange, issued July 7th, 2014

Which Came First—The Chicken Or The Egg.

We all know that the answer to the question, which came first, the chicken or the egg is still unanswered.

But, in the Grange, the question which came first, the Subordinate (Community) Grange or the State Grange is easy to answer! The Subordinate Grange came first. Not long after the National Grange was organized in December of 1867, the original seven founder created the Subordinate Grange as the basic local community level of the Grange. The first Grange was Grange #1 in Fredonia, NY, organized by Oliver Hudson Kelley, one of the seven founders.



Two Elected to National Grange Executive Committee — *Continued from Page 2*

Watson, a native of Vermont where he still owns and operates his family farm, has served as the Special Director for Trademark Protection and Brand Management since August 2007. He was also the Legislative Director from 1999 until 2010 and Legislative Assistant from 1985-95.

He also served as Legislative Director of the Vermont State Grange, and as legislative assistant for both the Vermont Farm Bureau and Vermont State Employees Association.

He has a degree in political science from the University of Vermont, and a law degree from George Mason University in Arlington, VA. He also studied administrative law at the University of Exeter in Exeter, England, and is admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

Watson and his wife, Cheri, and daughter, Rachel,

12, reside in Appleton, Wisc., but will soon relocate to Walpool, N.H.

He is Overseer for Potomac Grange #1 and serves on the National Grange Historical Committee.

Duane Scott, Master of the Wisconsin State Grange, returns to the Executive Committee for his third term. Scott was National Grange Steward from 2001-07. He has served twice as Wisconsin State Master from 1997-2003 and reelected in 2009, serving through today.

Since he was 5, Scott has been affiliated with the same Grange, first as a Junior Granger with La Prairie Junior Grange #19, then as a subordinate member of La Prairie Grange #79. He has held nearly every office open to a man in the Grange.

Scott, of Fort Atkinson, Wisc., said upon re-election he plans to “continue working to build membership and encourage our members to gear up for the 150th Anniversary” as well as “re-forge our fraternal bonds and grow our family organization.”

He has been employed at the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office since 1986 and currently holds the rank of Captain.

Scott is married to his wife Kymm for 29 years and were members of the 1996 National Grange Youth Team. They have a daughter, Amber, 23.

Granges in the News

Riverside Grange:

Riverside Grange Youth will have a small showing at the Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival at the Indio Fairgrounds the week of February 15-22. They invite anyone to come and support their Youth and Juniors. The members are selling a market goat and three market pigs, showing breeding boers, dairy goats, and a breeding lamb. Junior Livestock auction is February 21st, starting at 10:00 a.m.

*Send your Grange activity information to
Editor@CAStateGrange.org*

Youth Service Project Helps Veterans

BY KARIE BLASINGAME & LINDSAY SCHROEDER
DCI Communications Fellows

Grange Youth from across the nation went to the Ohio Veterans Home to participate in a community service project on Thursday after touring a NASA facility in Sandusky, Ohio.

The 99-acre Ohio Veterans Home has the capability of housing up to 700 residents. It includes both an independent living wing and a nursing home.

Dwayne Henson, the grounds manager of the facility, instructed the youth on their duties, including raking leaves and hanging Christmas lights in a courtyard area of the home.

More than 50 youth and chaperones participated in the clean up and decoration efforts. Trevor Gervais, of Connecticut, said that giving back, especially to veterans, is important to him.

"It's really cool to help out veterans, especially since Veteran's Day was this week," said Rory Neer, Ambassador from North Carolina.

Lexi Gegare, of Wisconsin, said she was also excited to work with veterans.

"I'm really excited to be working at a VA home, it's great to give back to people who gave for us," Gegare said. Gegare has been running a project for



Wadsworth (PA) help out at the Ohio Veterans Home cleaning up

the past three years collecting holiday cards for active duty soldiers and will be doing so again at con-

vention this year.

National Grange Youth Development Director Charlene Espenshade said this project was different than what had been done by youth at convention in the past because of its tie to the holidays but that it was well-received.

It took the youth about an hour to hang lights on six balconies, three Christmas trees and other spots around the courtyard. They also cleared the entire courtyard of leaves as well as a ramp from the second story.

Meet the New Legislative Director

BY SUZY RAMM,
DCI Communications Fellow

J. Burton Eller Jr. recently became the Director of Legislative Affairs for the National Grange. He had met with Worthy Master Luttrell to see if there was something he could help with while options for the department were considered. The relationship worked well, and he became a permanent part of the staff.

Eller is looking forward to working with an organization that is "compatible with his background and values."



**J. Burton Eller Jr. National
Grange Legislative Director**

His "parents met at a corn judging contest sponsored by the local Grange" in Atkins, Virginia. His dad "won the contest, and the girl."

He operates a farm in southwest Virginia that has been in his family since 1868 and over the years has been very diversified in its production. It is currently in grass, hay and beef cattle. The farm contains a lot of steep terrain and is not really feasible for cultivated crops. He has recently joined Potomac Grange #1 in Washington, D.C.

3. Community Granges that **have not been paying** dues to the National Grange or to the McFarland group: they must pay their back dues as applicable and submit the required quarterly reports and a complete membership and officers list in order to return to good standing in the California State Grange.

4. Community Granges that **have paid dues** to the National Grange since 2012, **but currently are reporting and paying dues** to the McFarland group: they must cease paying dues to the McFarland group and submit the required quarterly reports, a complete membership and officers list, and dues to the California State Grange. The California State Grange must verify the amount and dates of payments to the McFarland group since the third quarter of 2012 to the date they request the reaffirmation of membership in the California State Grange.

5. Community Grange that have **paid dues to the McFarland group** at all times since 2012: they must cease paying dues to the McFarland group and submit the required quarterly reports, a complete membership and officers list, and dues to the California State Grange. The California State Grange must verify the amount and dates of payments to the McFarland group since the third quarter of 2012 to the date they request reaffirmation of membership to the California State Grange.

The California State Grange has instituted an amnesty program for any Community Grange in Categories 2-5 that has not paid dues or is otherwise delinquent in its obligations under Grange law. In order to qualify for amnesty, a Community Grange must submit the required quarterly report for the last quarter of 2014, a complete membership and officers list, and dues for the last quarter of 2014. Upon that submission, a Community Grange shall be considered in good standing in the California State Grange. To remain current, the quarterly report, a complete membership and officers list, and dues must be submitted each quarter going forward as provided in the California State Grange By-Laws. All Community Granges should understand that your non-profit status is NOT at risk, as provisions have been made by the National Grange and the California State Grange for Community Granges seeking to return to good standing in the Grange to keep their non-profit status. For further information please review my email entitled Non-Profit IRS, SOS & FTB.

Please note that the McFarland group has **NOT** sent any dues to National Grange since 3Q 2012. If you believe that you are somehow current with the National Grange as a

Community Grange or individual because your Grange has paid dues to the McFarland group, you unfortunately are mistaken.

Nevertheless, through the amnesty program outlined above, you and your Community Grange may easily regain good standing in the Grange. But going forward, any Community Grange that reports to or makes payment of dues to the McFarland group shall be considered in violation of the laws and usages of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, which places the Charter of such Grange in jeopardy.

This information is given to all our members with this intent:

- This is **NOT** a power play or a money grab.
- This is about getting the California State Grange's house in order with our members following the disruption of the past several years.
- Every member is being informed of what is required to be in good standing in the Grange.
- We are providing solutions to return to good standing for those Community Granges that have followed the McFarland group or that are otherwise delinquent for any reason.
- We don't want to lose any member that might be confused about what is required to remain in good standing in the Grange. However, those members who choose to ignore the rules of the Grange and the California State Grange's By-Laws and fail to live up to their obligation as Grangers, to follow and uphold those laws, will need to make critical decisions about their membership.

The Grange is a voluntary membership fraternal organization. The California State Grange is a subordinate part of that organization. The Grange has rules that all of its members and constituent parts must follow. You undertook the obligation to follow those rules when you joined the Grange.

We sincerely hope that you will choose to continue following those rules and remain a Granger.



*"May your labors be pleasant,
and your duties faithfully per-
formed to the satisfaction of all
working under you. Be cheerful.
Be united. Behold how good and
how pleasant it is for brethren to
dwell together in unity."*

Installing Officer's Closing Charge.