



Brothers and Sisters:

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 by 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 money to enforce our fraternal laws. While this will pass and there is no question that ours is the only 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, pledge and promise 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 will also be updated regularly. 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. The Expo program is on Facebook at California-Grange-Expo and will also be available on our website.

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.
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

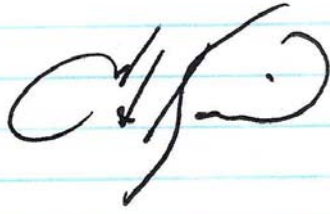
have been made by the National Grange and the California State Grange for Community Granges seeking to return to good standing in the Grange to keep their non-profit status. For further information please review my email entitled Non-Profit IRS, SOS & FTB.

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Kowski', is positioned on the left side of the page. The signature is written over a background of light blue horizontal lines.

Ed Kowski, President, CEO and Master  
California State Grange

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