



Brothers and Sisters:

For the past three years, Mr. McFarland has insisted that he would have his day in court, and Community Granges should observe the "status quo" until then. Mr. McFarland has now had two days in two different courts (state and federal), and he lost both times. The courts have spoken clearly and emphatically. The rules of The Grange -- including the National Digest of Laws, the California State Grange Constitution and By-Laws, and the Charter -- have meaning, and apply to all Granges. Mr. McFarland and the other defendants were not free to disregard those rules, and they cannot continue to call themselves a Grange or hold Grange property acquired by generations of Grangers in California over the past 140+ years.

Now that the courts have ruled and squarely rejected all of his arguments, Mr. McFarland is no longer saying "let the courts decide." Instead, he is threatening to use every delay tactic at his disposal to drag the litigation out for several more years, "or until one side or the other runs out of money." It may take time, but these appeals will fail, and the court orders will be upheld. Mr. McFarland promises only a senseless waste of Grange money that should be used to strengthen and grow our Order.

This message is meant simply to make clear to every Grange in California that the courts have now ruled clearly that Grange rules matter. The "status quo" **is** that a Grange must honor the obligations it agreed to undertake when it received its Charter. We cannot stress enough to every Grange Officer and Member that they should READ the complete orders in the federal trademark action and the state court property action. They are available [here](#) and [here](#). I would suggest that before you sign, attend, rent, sponsor, pay dues, donate, forward letters, encourage, enroll, register, invite, pay, or allow use of ANY Grange activity or property to the McFarland Group (or Guild, as they now seem to be calling themselves) that you fully understand the consequences of that action under the rules of The Grange.

The obligations of every Subordinate and Pomona Grange are spelled out clearly in their Charters, the National Digest of Laws, and the California Constitution and By-Laws. Those rules prohibit what the McFarland Group is trying to do, and taking the actions requested by Mr. McFarland in his recent communications may put the Charters of Community Granges and the memberships of individuals in jeopardy. There can be no further claims of confusion on this point going forward. Our rules are clear, as are the court rulings enforcing those rules. Please make sure that you consider those rules, and that your Granges and fellow Grangers understand that they apply, as you consider your actions going forward.

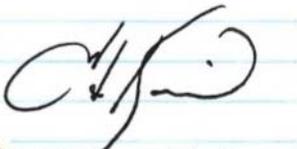
As always, if you have any questions or would like to discuss these issues in more depth, you can reach me any time by phone or e-mail.

Fraternally yours,

Ed Kowski

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Ed Kowski, President, Master and CEO
California State Grange

The Grange of the State of California's Order of Patrons of Husbandry, Chartered
a California non-profit Corporation

