



# NATIONAL GRANGE

## OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

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*American Values. Hometown Roots.*

Last week Judge William Shubb issued the final ruling and closed the Federal Trademark Case in favor of the National Grange.

On Friday, Mr. McFarland issued a press release that claimed "TRADEMARK RULING FAVORS THE CSG".

Mr. McFarland and his allies are demonstrating a desire to spread confusion both in and out of the Grange to avoid acknowledging both the seriousness of the results of this case and of the state court case.

In the press release, the claim is made that the National Grange's "more ominous pleadings were denied by the Court." The Judge granted everything that was in the case as it was filed. What he didn't give the National Grange was what was included in our final request to the Court due to Mr. McFarland's actions since the July ruling on the Motion for Summary Judgement.

While our counsel may disagree with that small portion of the final ruling, that disagreement is based upon a different interpretation of the pleadings in the case and the law, and we will respect Judge Shubb's ruling as interpreting the law is his job. However, if Mr. McFarland does indeed pursue an appeal of the trademark ruling, then the National Grange will file a cross-appeal of the issues that Judge Shubb determined last week.

Being awarded no damages was not a victory for Mr. McFarland, but the choice of the National Grange. We chose not to go to trial and seek damages and court costs as we desired to quickly obtain the injunction. First, Mr. McFarland continues to attempt to confuse members and non-members by using Grange terms and by misappropriating Grange history and processes; we hope that this final and permanent injunction will begin to restrain his actions. A second reason is that any damages would be paid by the California State Grange assets that are currently being held by Mr. McFarland. The recent state court ruling declared that the reorganized California State Grange was the only State Grange organization in California and therefore was the proper owner of all State Grange assets. The National Grange is pleased with the Judge's decision to issue this final ruling

without needlessly wasting Grange dollars and time by having an unnecessary hearing over an issue that the law is so clear on.

Why Mr. McFarland speaks of "freedom", "sovereignty", and "Our organization remains intact" is perplexing. He is entitled to lead any organization that he chooses to create or that chooses him as their president or whatever title they agree upon. What the federal trademark case and the state case mean is that he is not entitled to use the Grange name and reputation, or the assets that have been accumulated by the Grange over the past 142 years in California, in connection with his efforts to start such an organization.

We call upon Mr. McFarland to simply honor his own November 2013 statement that he does not desire to be a part of the Grange. Why does he claim victory over retaining unique Grange material? We ask him to turn over our Grange manuals, regalia, and other Grange paraphernalia and historical materials to our California Brothers and Sisters.

The Grange organization has nearly 150 years of history that demonstrates the honesty and integrity of our membership; America has been blessed by the amazing achievements of what our members have accomplished through unity of purpose; and thousands of communities have benefited because of Grange efforts. This is what the officers and members of the National Grange desire for California Grange members.

I would remind all that the Pomona and Subordinate/Community Granges that choose to work with Mr. McFarland may be in violation of the Federal Court Order. We request that every Grange read the court rulings and order and if necessary, seek the advice of an attorney to avoid the consequences of violating this Federal Court Order. Please also review the Digest of Laws, which requires that Granges abide by the rules of the Order, as no Grange should place their Charter in jeopardy of suspension or revocation due to misinformation or confusion. Any individual may choose to join and follow Mr. McFarland, but no Grange may do so as it would violate the Federal Order and the rules of our fraternal Order.

Mr. McFarland had no grounds or reason to claim any victory over Wednesday's conclusion of the federal trademark case. The National Grange asks Mr. McFarland to stop wasting Grange resources, both of the California State Grange and the National Grange. If Mr. McFarland chooses to pointlessly appeal such a

clear and clean decision, do so with money that did not originate from the Grange organization. It is the only ethical choice.

The members of the Grange respect and obey the law, we abide by the rules of our organization, and we seek to carry out the principles of the Grange as defined in our Declaration of Purposes. If you have any questions about how to return your California Community Grange to compliance with the Digest, please contact [Ed Komski](#), Master of the California State Grange. If you have questions about the cases and their rulings, please contact [me](#) or [Ed Komski](#).

Fraternally Yours,

Edward L. Luttrell, Master  
National Grange