



A Letter to Fellow Grangers

October 7, 2015

As many of you are heading out to Banner Grange for the meeting, family obligations are keeping me at home, so I'm sending out this letter to share my thoughts with some of you. These thoughts are my own.

As a progressive Granger I have treasured our work together fighting the good fight for sustainable agriculture, resilient communities, stopping fracking and food safety and all the other good things we work on. I got caught up in the fight against Ed Luttrell and what I see as his deeply misguided handling of the national Grange. However my focus is now shifting. Here's my current view.

The CSG has lost the federal and state lawsuits. I know some say they can be appealed. I've been, in my career, involved in approximately 800 superior court lawsuits. I've never seen a summary judgment overturned. That doesn't mean it's impossible, but I've never seen it happen. It's time to face the situation squarely. If we want to remain Grangers and save our halls, we need to accept what has happened, grieve what has happened, honor those who fought the fight, and move on. That means we need to join Ed Komski's California State Grange and put the past behind us. I don't want to risk the Sebastopol Grange Hall and I want to remain a Granger. Sebastopol does not have the money to go through a lawsuit to try to take our hall and I want it to be a Grange hall in any event. I want no Grange to lose their hall or their name.

What I urge for fellow Grangers is: honor Bob McFarland for the work he has done, elect new officers and make it CSG's stance to achieve reconciliation with the new Calif. State Grange, join the organization and begin to work with them as brothers and sisters to pursue all the good work we all believe in. I've talked to Ed Komski, as have others. I believe we can work with him. I believe also that in a spirit of

Grangerly fellowship we need to completely stop vilifying, name-calling, sarcasm, and any form of attack. We need to each do our work to process our grief and anger, in order to move forward in fellowship. This is hard work. I know it's not easy but we must do it now if we want to heal our movement and our brotherhood/sisterhood.

I care for you all and I thank you for embracing me and allowing me to serve you as your musician.

Blessings on you all,

Jerry Allen