



Brothers and Sisters:

October 28, 2015

On October 20, 2015, the California Superior Court judge signed the injunction ordering that Grange property in Mr. McFarland's control be used only for routine business expenses. This injunction was necessary to protect the Grange property until it is turned over to the reorganized California State Grange pursuant to the Court's order on the National Grange's motion for summary judgment. As I write this, I know that as these events unfold it will be cause for mixed emotions for many California Grangers, grief and sadness for some, relief for many, uncertainty and fear for others. I understand and respect that this has been a hard fight and has stirred deep emotions.

Here is what I want to say to you. The Grange is a big fraternity, a big tent, one that has room for Grangers of many different opinions, beliefs and backgrounds, but who share a common desire to be part of the Grange family. I want to encourage as many of you as possible to stay as Grangers and keep your local work going in Grange halls all across California.

President Lincoln's words are in my mind: "With Malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the . . . wounds."

I have put forward a reinstatement program for subordinate Granges that provides amnesty for all past dues that have been paid to Mr. McFarland's organization, rather than to the Grange as required under the rules of the Order. Granges that

elect to participate in the program will be restored to good standing upon payment of the current quarters dues to the California State Grange. I'm now extending that program to December 31st because I realize many Granges need to meet together, discuss what has happened and the impact of the federal and state court rulings, which are now law. I know that takes time. I want to offer myself to be available to come to meetings of Granges, answer your questions and hear from you directly. We have a road to take together here, to heal the rifts and wounds. I need your help to do that. I will shortly put out more information about how local Granges can take part in the reinstatement program and go about your business as local Granges, doing your good work in your local communities.

I welcome hearing from you,

Ed Komski,  
CSG President

