



California State Grange

1311 Willow Glen Road, Fallbrook, California 92028

William Allen, Master / President
Bennett Valley Grange #16
6905 Bennett Valley Rd
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

RE: Bennett Valley Grange #16
4145 Grange Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Sent VIA: Email and Fed Ex

Official Notice of Revocation of Charter

January 18, 2017

To the Officers and Members of Bennett Valley Grange #16:

We regret to inform you that the Charter of Bennett Valley Grange #16 is revoked, pursuant to California State Grange (CSG) By-Laws § 3.3.3 and the National Grange Digest of Laws § 4.5.1. Section 4.5.1 of the National Grange Digest of Laws provides that "it shall be the duty of the Master of [the] State Grange to ... revoke the Charter of" any Subordinate Grange when certain criteria are met and the Master determines "that the good of the Order" requires revocation.

Further to the National Grange Digest of Laws § 4.5.1(C), one criterion for revocation is when a Subordinate Grange is "in arrears for dues for one or more quarters." Bennett Valley Grange is in arrears for dues for at least 18 quarters. Specifically, the Bennett Valley Grange has not paid dues to the California State Grange, including the dues required by the National Grange, since at least September 2012. Payment of dues to the California State Grange is required of all Subordinate Granges pursuant to California State Grange By-Laws Section 9.2.2 and National Grange Digest of Laws Section 6.11.5.

In addition, the National Grange Digest of Laws § 4.5.1(B) states that a Subordinate Grange may be revoked for "violation of the law and usages for the Order." We understand that on December 8th, 2016, the Executive Committee of the Bennett Valley Grange voted to change its name to the "Bennett Valley Guild," and the organization is no longer acting as a Grange. We previously informed Master William Allen and Secretary Patty Allen that the Bennett Valley Grange's failure to abide by the CSG By-Laws and National Grange Digest of Laws would result in the revocation of the Charter; however, no steps have been taken to address this deficiency.

Accordingly, we have determined the revocation of the Charter of the Bennett Valley Grange is for the good of the Order, as these deficiencies do not appear capable of being remedied.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Grange Motto

*In essentials, unity;
In non-essentials,
Liberty;
In all things, charity*

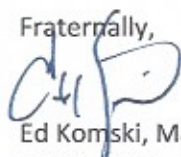
Thus, pursuant to the National Grange Digest of Laws and the CSG Constitution and By-Laws, with the authority vested in me as the Master of the California State Grange, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee of the California State Grange, and for the good of the Order, the Charter of Bennett Valley Grange is hereby revoked, effective January 18, 2017.

Please note that pursuant to the National Grange Digest of Laws § 4.12.1, “[w]hen a Subordinate...Grange...has its Charter revoked, such Grange shall be determined to be an Inactive Grange. The net assets of Inactive Granges shall be retained by the Order for use in accordance with the general purposes of the Order.” In particular, § 4.12.1(A) provides that “[a]ll right, title and interest as to all real and personal property owned by an Inactive Grange shall become the property of the State Grange having jurisdiction over the said Inactive Grange” to hold in trust for seven years or until the Inactive Grange is reorganized, whichever comes first. Further, the National Grange Digest of Laws § 6.2.8 explains that, “[w]hen [a Subordinate Grange’s] Charter is...revoked, all books, jewels, regalia, and seal of the Subordinate Grange revert to the State Grange having jurisdiction to be placed in a pool for the use of that Grange upon reorganization or used by another Grange as needed.” Either myself or another representative of the California State Grange will be in touch shortly to arrange the orderly return of the Grange real and personal property in Bennett Valley Grange’s possession. Finally, your organization may no longer use the trademarks, logos, copyrights or other intellectual property of the Grange pursuant to the National Grange Digest of Laws Chapter 4, Article XVIII. Please note that this includes reference to the history of the organization prior to revocation, as the history and goodwill travels with the “Grange” name, and therefore inures to the organization and specifically any reorganized Bennett Valley chapter.

Further to CSG By-Laws § 3.3.4 and National Grange Digest of Laws § 12.1.5, this revocation is appealable for a period of 45 days, and a copy of the Notice of Revocation is being transmitted to National Master Betsy Huber.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, and again, we regret that we were unable to reach a resolution that would have permitted your organization to remain a member of the Grange.

Fraternally,



Ed Komski, Master and President
California State Grange
1311 Willow Glen Rd.
Fallbrook, CA 92028



cc: Betsy Huber, National Grange Master