



The judge has ruled that Mr. McFarland has left the Grange....

.... and cannot use the name "Grange" in describing his group. It is not a Grange and it is not part of the Grange. The trademark case concludes that Grange Rules (National Digest and CSG Constitution and By-Laws) DO apply. There will be no further argument on that issue in the federal trial court. The only thing still to be determined in the trademark lawsuit is damages – how much Mr. McFarland owes the Grange for his misuse of the Grange name since the Charter was revoked in April 2013 (those damages currently are estimated to be hundreds of thousands of dollars and continue to climb). That will be decided at trial in October.

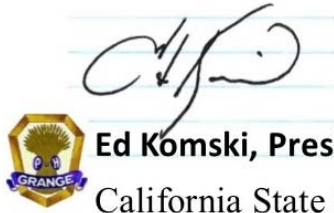
What the trademark case means for Subordinate Granges and members is that there should be no further confusion as to whether Mr. McFarland represents the Grange. Via this order Mr. McFarland clearly is not in any way representing the Grange. Paying him membership dues is not required under Grange rules. Property and Grange names are not affected at this time because no Subordinate Grange has been Suspended or Revoked. A Grange is given the ability to use the Grange trademarks, including the name "Grange," by virtue of its Charter. I would suggest that you read the Charter of your Grange, the National Digest of Laws, and the Constitution and By-Laws of the California State Grange if you have any questions about what is required to be in good standing.

Where I would suggest you focus your discussion within your Grange is: what it is going to take to bring your Grange back into Good Standing? The California State Grange has an amnesty program in place for those Subordinate Granges that may have paid dues to Mr. McFarland in the past under the mistaken impression that he represented the Grange. As found by the Court, he does not. All such past dues will be forgiven for any Subordinate Grange that elects to take part in the amnesty program. I am prepared to discuss the amnesty program and answer any questions you have about how we move forward.

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California State Grange

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