



Brothers and Sisters,

On Tuesday, I wrote to you about the McFarland Group's recent attempt to make Subordinate Granges sign "leases" to their Grange halls. I wanted to provide you some details of exactly what happened to one Subordinate Grange in Bakersfield.

On Tuesday, two representatives of the McFarland Group presented the Master of that Subordinate Grange with a letter signed by Mr. McFarland claiming that her Grange was "suspended." Of course, the McFarland Group has no authority over any Subordinate Grange, and certainly has no power to suspend a Charter. Only the California State Grange may suspend or revoke the Charter of a Subordinate Grange. Nevertheless, based on these false pretenses, the two representatives presented the Master with a "lease" requiring her Grange to pay the McFarland Group (misleadingly calling itself "CSG") \$650 per month to use the Hall that the Subordinate Grange (with a Charter in good standing) already owned. When the Master refused to sign, she was presented with an ultimatum: sign by the next morning or the McFarland Group would change the locks to her Grange Hall. Then the two representatives left. Several hours later, however, they returned with a locksmith and, while the Master was in a meeting, changed the locks to the Grange Hall, without even informing the Master that they were there! Fortunately, the new keyed locks were noticed as the Grange hall was about to be shut for the night, and the Master reached out to me. The California State Grange helped her to find another locksmith to come and change the locks back that night, so that the Grange Hall remained in the possession of its proper owners. We have contacted the local authorities, and will file a police report against the two representatives of the McFarland Group reporting their trespassing and the property damage they caused.

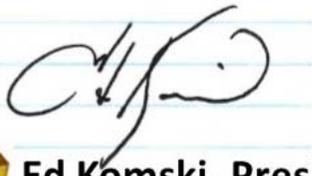
Needless to say, this sort of behavior is despicable and goes against everything The Grange stands for. As their prospects in the courts continue to worsen, I am afraid that the McFarland Group will continue to engage in these sorts of illegal

tactics. If you or your Grange is threatened by the McFarland Group, or even if your Grange's property is stolen by the McFarland Group as almost happened to that Grange in Bakersfield, please do not be intimidated and do not despair. You have recourse. The California State Grange can help. You can call or e-mail me anytime and I will do everything possible to assist you to undo what the McFarland Group has done.

I understand that the litigation to set things right in the California State Grange has been frustrating and trying for all Grange members in California, myself included. Mr. McFarland may make good on his threats to use every delaying tactic he can to drag the litigation out and waste Grange money, but the courts have spoken. And the "status quo" they established in their orders will not change, no matter what the McFarland Group does. The McFarland Group is not a Grange. It is not part of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry. It has no right to any Grange property. So if you receive an invoice from the McFarland Group (or CSG or whatever other name Mr. McFarland might choose) for "Grange dues," do not pay it. Your Grange owes no dues to the McFarland Group. If the McFarland Group asks you to sign any loan agreement or "lease" or any other document relating to your Grange property, do not sign it. The rules of The Grange are clear: no Subordinate Grange may mortgage or encumber its property without the permission of the State Master. (See Article VI of the California State Grange Constitution and Sections 1.9.1 and 4.11.1-4.11.5 of the National Digest of Laws.) If you believe that you do need to sign a document relating to your Grange's property, please contact me first to obtain the necessary permission.

I also remind you that if you would like to return your Grange to good standing, the California State Grange has an amnesty program in place for a limited time that will forgive dues paid to the McFarland Group in the past. Please contact me if you would like more information about the amnesty program.

Fraternally yours,



**Ed Kowski, President, Master and CEO**

**California State Grange**

The Grange of the State of California's Order of Patrons of Husbandry, Chartered  
a California non-profit Corporation

[ekowski@castategrange.org](mailto:ekowski@castategrange.org)

760-310-6500