



NATIONAL GRANGE

OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

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American Values. Hometown Roots.

Worthy Master,

Just a note to remind you about National Session and update you on California. We have asked the judge for a narrow injunction to prevent the wasting or dissipation of Grange assets. This injunction is to prevent transfer, sale, or loss of the assets of the California State Grange outside of normal status quo business functions. We also filed a Motion for Summary Judgment on the counter suit seeking dues from the National Grange.

Mr. McFarland has recently filed an appeal on the ruling in the State case (the one where the judge declared the National Grange has the right to revoke and Charter State Granges and our rules determine what happens to the assets). McFarland also moved to dismiss "without prejudice" his counter suit in the state case.

We have replied to his opposition to our injunction. We opposed his appeal on the grounds that under California law, the judge's ruling on the Motion for Summary Judgment is not appealable until the court enters a final judgement, which has not happened. It would appear that this could be a strategy to avoid having the injunction we filed granted. We are also opposing his dismissal on the grounds that the term "without prejudice" allows him to bring it back to the court whenever he chooses to further delay the resolution of this case. We would have welcomed the motion to dismiss "with prejudice" (and did ask for that from him following the ruling in August) as then that portion of the legal issues would be concluded.

We expect that the judge will rule on the injunction in the next week and hopefully on Mr. McFarland's recent actions. If you wish to see any of the recent filings, please do not hesitate to ask.

Worthy Master Komski has been working hard to bring Community and Pomona Granges back into the Grange fold. This week we became aware that Mr. McFarland is now urging those on the fence to wait, as he claims after National Session there will be some reconciliation between the parties. No one on the Executive Committee is aware of any talks or discussions that would give Mr.

McFarland the idea that this is a possibility. If any of you have heard rumors or discussions on this topic, the Executive Committee needs to be aware of it.

Brother Komski is spending a great deal of time helping the Community and Pomona Granges regain their good standing and to understand the recent rulings of the courts. I would remind all that the California State Grange has issued an amnesty plan for those Granges that either paid dues to Mr. McFarland or have withheld their dues from all parties. The Digest has no provision that allows for merging a State Grange with any other group.

It will be a pleasure when I can give you an update that doesn't include a section on legal issues. I urge you to remain focused on growth, team building, our 150 anniversary, and our upcoming National Grange Session.

National Session

Please remember that the attire for delegates for all working sessions is business attire. Committee work and other activities is causal.

If you haven't registered or have an election coming up, please make sure that you touch base with our Executive Assistant and Event Planner, Stephanie Tiller so that any details are covered. She is doing a terrific job, but please remember that this is her first Session with us.

Each State Master should send their reports in to our National Communications Manager, Bryan Marchefsky prior to Session. If you don't get them in, they will be due to either Burton or Bryan on Sunday evening. It will expedite our post session work if these reports are in before we leave Lincoln. These reports have both immediate and historical importance as a record of your State Grange's goals, vision, and achievements.

I hope that everyone comes to Lincoln with the attitude of getting work done, having a great deal of fun, and immersing yourself in the principles and meaning of our Order.

Looking forward to see each of you in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Fraternally Yours,

Edward L. Luttrell, Master
National Grange

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