



Brothers and Sisters:

It has come to our attention that the McFarland Group has sent out another round of invoices for “Grange Dues” under the confusing header of “CSG.” (All Grangers in California know that this an acronym that the California State Grange has used for decades.) I am taking this opportunity to remind all Granges in California that the McFarland Group (or “California State Guild” or “CSG” or whatever other name it might use) is not a Grange, and it is not a part of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry. Both the state and the federal trial courts have spoken on this point. Because it is not a Grange and is not part of our Order, the McFarland Group, under the rules of the Grange:

- is not entitled to **collect ANY Grange membership dues**
- is not entitled to **send your Grange’s account to "collection"**
- cannot **foreclose** on any Grange Property
- cannot **collect mortgage payments** on any Grange property
- cannot **collect rent payments** on any Grange property
- cannot **evict** any Grange from its property
- cannot **take over** any Grange’s corporation

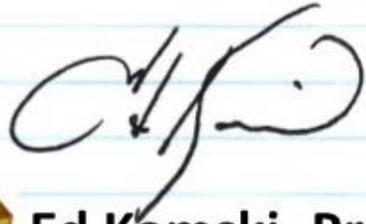
- has no **ability or authority** to suspend, revoke, take over, close, charter, or organize ANY Division of our Order.

Accordingly, if your Grange has received any invoice for “Grange Dues” from the McFarland Group, do not pay it. Any monies paid to the McFarland Group are not going to the California State Grange or to the National Grange, as required under the rules of our Order. The McFarland Group is simply keeping all of those monies for its own purposes.

Likewise, we are aware that the McFarland Group is fishing for information about Subordinate and Pomona Granges, most recently with an “insurance questionnaire.” Please do not provide the McFarland Group with the information requested in that questionnaire. If you have any questions about insurance coverage for your Grange, please feel free to contact me. The California State Grange can help.

Finally, several Grangers have informed that the McFarland Group has threatened that any Granges seeking to return to good standing will be dragged into “the legal quagmire.” The only way any Grange with an active Charter will be involved in the lawsuit is if the McFarland Group sues it. The California State Grange will not sue any Grange with an active Charter. If your Grange has received any specific threat of legal action from the McFarland Group, please let me know. The California State Grange is here to help.

Fraternally,



Ed Kowski, President, Master

California State Grange
chartered in 1873

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