



Brothers and Sisters:

In the last few weeks our Worthy National Master, Betsy Huber has answered many of your e-mails. So that you can have a better understanding of exactly how she is responding and defines reconciliation, I am providing the following answers that she has recently sent. I have intentionally omitted specific identifiers.

1

Thank you for your message. It makes me hopeful that more Granges who supported Mr. McFarland in the past will see the value of belonging to a National organization and take advantage of the reinstatement process presented by Bro. Komski.

In regard to the newer, younger members: The policies of the Grange can be whatever the members vote to make them. We are a grassroots organization, so the resolutions adopted at the local Grange level are passed on to Pomona, State, and National Grange for consideration. We at National value the opinions of all our members. In order to have the opportunity to influence national issues, people must belong to a national organization. Our national organization, the Grange, has chartered local, Pomona, and State Granges under our rules, and to belong, these groups must follow the rules of operation. Groups that choose not to follow the rules can go off and form their own organization, but it won't be the Grange and it is not part of a national organization with offices in Washington DC and staff to promote the grassroots policies they adopt.

I hope this reasoning will encourage your newer members to come back to the Grange organization by reinstating with the Chartered CA State Grange.

2

Thank you for your thoughtful letter. Unfortunately you and I are both dealing with events that happened before us, and now we have to pick up and move on.

Where we stand now-- since the former California State Grange under Bob McFarland had its charter revoked in April 2013, Bob no longer has any authority over Community Granges in CA. He has no right to charge you dues or use the Grange name or assets. Your Grange can continue to operate and do the great work you have been doing, and I certainly hope it will, as long as you are under the “umbrella” of the chartered State Grange and National Grange. Ed Kowski is the duly elected President/Master of the reorganized, chartered, California State Grange. In order to remain in good standing as a Grange, and continue to BE a Grange, you must pay dues to the chartered California State Grange. Ed has a reinstatement program to make this as simple as possible.

The annual convention is scheduled for next June, when delegates of all the Granges in good standing can come together and by majority vote determine the future of the CA State Grange.

I did speak personally to Bob and ask him to withdraw his appeals. He did not give me an answer but we are scheduled to talk again. I do not have the authority to “fire the lot of them,” but the Judges have ruled that Bob and his executive committee do not have the authority to act in the Grange name. He needs to accept this and comply.

I would just ask you to keep up the great work your local Grange is doing, come under the CA State Grange umbrella, and participate in the process to make it what you want it to be.

3

Thank you for your messages.

I know the IRS status is a really important issue. I am certainly not a tax expert but I'm sure the chartered State Grange has considered this issue and has it covered. I will check with them to verify that you will not lose any tax status if you pay your dues to them this month.

4

Thank you for your call this morning; it was good to talk with you.

As I said on the phone, since the former California State Grange under Bob McFarland had its charter revoked in April 2013, Bob no longer has any authority over Community Granges in CA. He has no right to charge you dues. Your Grange can continue to operate and do the great work you have been doing, and I certainly hope it will, as long as you are under the “umbrella” of the chartered State Grange and National Grange. Ed Kowski is the duly elected President/Master of the reorganized, chartered, California State Grange. In order to remain in good standing as a Grange, you must pay dues to the chartered California State

Grange. Ed has a reinstatement program to make this as simple as possible. I hope this clears up any confusion. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you.

Betsy E. Huber

Master

The National Grange



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