



Sister and Brother Grangers –

As is well known, I respect and follow the rules that have guided The Grange for a century and a half. Like you, I recognize that we are in an uncomfortable period of struggle. That is why I feel the need to follow our guiding bylaws ever more faithfully, lest we lose the way of fellowship in our dealings with one another.

We have ended a difficult year. A year that has sown confusion, fear, anger, and the run of emotions that accompany a period of change. Making decisions and taking actions that none of us would choose if any other option was available has been rough on all of us. Beliefs and values have been challenged, long-term friendships have been broken, and harsh words have been spoken. Along with you, I look forward to putting this behind us in the New Year ☐

The first degree of our Order is set in the beginning four months of the year. It is a time for mending and sharpening tools with which we will work the soil so that it may provide a healthy environment for the vigorous growth of the seeds we plant. All our actions are connected with the health of the soil. And, as good stewards of the land, we follow the precepts of the first degree in honoring all trees, shrubs, flowers and plants that provide sustenance in their diversity and beauty. ☐

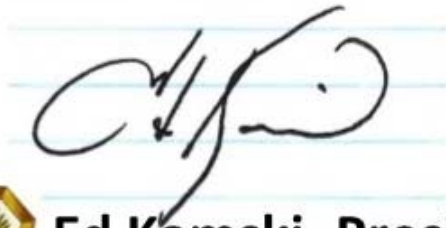
As we enter the New Year, I hope to be working alongside you, employing our collective tools and knowledge to create an environment where our hopes and ideas for The Grange can come to fruition. Like a healthy garden, The Grange is a diverse group of folks with different skills, interests, and beliefs. I look forward to the many discussions and debates we will have establishing Grange policies,

knowing that as Grangers we will conduct ourselves with dignity and respect. And no matter how heated the discussion, at the end of the day we part as brothers and sisters, ready for another day's work. □

It's a New Year. Let's enter it resolving to make the California State Grange family whole again, with energy, enthusiasm, and a desire to build programs and adopt policies that will carry us through the year.

My family and I wish you the best in the New Year. □

Fraternally



Ed Komski, President, Master

California State Grange
chartered in 1873

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