



Brothers and Sisters,

Today, the federal court denied the McFarland Group's motion to lift the trademark injunction preventing it from using the name "Grange" pending its appeal to the Ninth Circuit. In particular, the federal court ruled that the McFarland Group has not shown that it has "a substantial case for relief" on appeal, and held that The Grange and the public would be irreparably harmed if the McFarland Group were permitted to call itself a Grange when, in fact, it is not part of the Order. As the federal court noted, since July 2015, the McFarland Group "has changed its name and has been publicly referring to itself as 'California State Guild.'" In other words, the federal court held that the McFarland Group is unlikely to win its appeal, and that it is not a Grange. It is a "Guild." As always, I encourage you to read the documents for yourself – [the federal court's order is available here.](#)

Contrary to what the McFarland Group has been telling some Grange members, the judgments entered in the federal trademark and the state court property actions are not stayed pending appeal. The McFarland Group tried to convince the federal court to stay the trademark judgment, and lost. In the state court, the National Grange has filed a motion to require the McFarland Group to post a bond to ensure that the Grange property it holds is not spent or sold before its appeal is denied. If the state court grants the motion, then the McFarland Group must post the bond. If it does not post the bond, then the state court property judgment may be enforced. The California State Grange and the National Grange stand ready to enforce the judgment if no bond is posted.

The recent ruling from the federal court confirms a fundamental fact: the courts have spoken on the central issues in this dispute. The McFarland Group is not a Grange. It is not a part of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry. It has no authority over any Grange or its property. I regret the continuing confusion caused by the McFarland Group's misstatements about the law and the facts. But I urge all Granges to get the information for themselves, and not to rely only on "spin." I hope that all Granges will consider the court rulings, the rules of the Order, and their own Charters and by-laws, and that soon we will be able to put the legal actions behind us so that we can focus on restoring and growing our Order in California.

As always, if you have any questions or would like discuss anything, you can call or e-mail me at any time.

Fraternally yours,



**Ed Kowski, President, Master**

**California State Grange**  
chartered in 1873

760-310-6500

[Federal Court Order](#)

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