



# NATIONAL GRANGE

OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

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June 20, 2017

Virginia A. Scott  
Balmville Grange #982  
36 Willow Avenue  
Cornwall, NY 12518

Dear Sister Scott:

This is my response to the appeal of Balmville Grange #982 to the revocation of its charter by State Master Steven Coye on March 27, 2017. I will address each point in his letter.

1. 4.5.1 (B) *"A Grange working in violation of the law and usages of the Order."* The first paragraph of the Grange Declaration of Purposes (Digest Chapter 2, Section 2.1.1) states "...welcoming all of good moral character to membership." Balmville Grange appears to have violated this objective by refusing to consider applications for membership from twelve individuals interested in joining your Grange. Rather than accept new members your current members voted to drop their membership and close your Grange. I agree with Master Coye's statement that you have demonstrated "refusal to act in the best interests for the future of the Organization."
2. 4.5.1 (D) *"A Grange refuses or is unable to hold meetings as provided for in Article IX of these By-Laws."* According to the minutes you provided me, over the last 17 months you have held only five meetings, three of them being marked "special."
3. 4.5.1 (E) *"Attempts to restore a Grange which has become inactive to an active status prove unsuccessful."* According to the copy of the Questionnaire sent to Balmville members, eight members indicated they would not continue their membership if the Grange were revitalized. Master Coye offered twelve new members to revitalize Balmville Grange, and while the questionnaire shows the choice to "have a meeting and consider accepting them," no action has been taken to vote on the applicants, and the March 2, 2017 minutes expressed "concerns regarding the sincerity of the individuals." This shows me that the current Balmville Grange members have no desire to maintain a Grange organization in your community.

The Digest also states, "8.4.4. It is especially enjoined on Masters of State Granges to use all diligence in restoring inactive Granges to an active working condition and in all cases where this is not possible, to suspend or revoke their Charters in the manner provided for

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in the By-Laws of the National Grange. The Master has a right to suspend the Charter of a Grange which refuses to hold regular meetings.”

Therefore Master Coye has the right and the duty to take whatever action may be necessary to restore Balmville Grange to active status as a vital and vibrant organization in its community. I uphold his decision to revoke the charter of Balmville Grange #982.

I am very sorry that your current members felt they could not continue their membership or continue to support their hall. I hope that this Grange can be swiftly reorganized and that your members will reconsider their decision and continue their Grange membership.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Betsy E. Huber". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Fraternally,".

Master

Cc: State Master