



Perry Valley Grange #1804, Inc. Newsletter

Meeting Location:

Millerstown Community Park Building
110 Juniata Parkway West, Millerstown, PA 17062

In by Inch, Life's a Cinch

Grange Undertaking Strategic Planning Process

Professors Dan & Melanie Foster from Penn State University journeyed from State College to Millerstown on a cold January night to lead Perry Valley Grange in the first step of a strategic planning process. The goal of this process is to brainstorm ways to re-imagine our Grange now that we have sold the property which previously consumed so much of our time, energy and finances.

To say this was an enthusiastic and rousing exercise that got everyone actively involved is an understatement. Dan was heard to say ***"If you are leaving tonight and you're not excited by all these great ideas, please check your pulse!"***



First, members shared their ideas about what they thought was most important about the Grange. From the many individual thoughts shared, three themes seemed to emerge to describe Perry Valley Grange:

- **Social Opportunities** (*we like to get together with one another*)
- **Community Service** (*we believe helping others is important*)
- **Focused Leadership** (*we want to be an organization that makes a positive difference*)



Having identified these areas of importance, the leaders helped us understand these are the **values** of the Grange and from there we were quickly able to write a simple statement to describe ourselves:

Perry Valley Grange is a social organization, focused on service and leadership.

Next small random groups brainstormed the kinds of projects and activities that would support our values statement. After each group shared their thoughts, everyone had an opportunity to cast their votes ranking the ideas using colored adhesive dots. Ideas

receiving the most dots became the priorities for the future.



Ranked Priorities

(in order from highest within each category)

Focused Leadership

- Sponsor outstanding educational programs at meetings open to public
- Introduce cultural opportunities to residents
- Become a catalyst for economic growth of area

Community Service

- Become involved with Ronald McDonald House
- Lead a backpack project to provide weekend food for needy children
- Continue involvement with FFA Hunger Banquet
- Develop projects that work directly with students

Social Opportunities

- Have a visitation program to another Grange
- Hold a movie night
- Expand Christmas party & other special events

The leaders challenged Perry Valley Grange to set reasonable and attainable goals in each area. It was agreed that in 2015 it was realistic to believe the Grange could sponsor:

- 6 outstanding educational programs, incorporating topics that appeared in all of the priority areas

- 3 major community service projects
- 3 social events

To accomplish this aggressive list of tasks, it was agreed that small working committees were needed. Volunteers with a passion for each area are needed and will meet at the next Grange meeting on February 13th to begin the more detailed work required for implementation:

- Program (education) Committee
- Community Service Committee
- Social Committee

A fourth committee for Fund Raising is also needed to provide the financial resources to make all the other work possible.

Professor Dan challenged the Grange to use the opportunity provided by the sale of the property to strike out in new and exciting ways. Acknowledging this is a big task, he reminded us many times that ***"Inch by Inch, Life's a Cinch"***. This catchy phrase encourages us to take just one step at a time in setting and attaining goals.

Our "homework assignment" from this January planning program was to complete a **SWOT** analysis. It's easy – think about and simply jot down the **strengths**, **weaknesses**, **opportunities** and **threats** facing our Grange as we move into the future.

Strengths and **weaknesses** are generally considered to be **internal** attributes of the Grange, whereas **opportunities** and **threats** are mostly **external** forces. By identifying these issues, we can better plan what kinds of activities are possible and most likely to succeed.



A great deal was accomplished in this two hour planning session, wouldn't you agree? The possibilities are endless, limited only by our imaginations and willingness to try new things.

Settling Into Our New Home



The Millerstown Community Park Building (above) became the new home of Perry Valley Grange this past December. We've now held two meetings and served the annual Miller family Christmas banquet there. Although it is smaller than our former Grange Hall and not as well equipped for meal service, we feel very fortunate to have such a lovely place to hold our meetings without the costs and responsibilities of maintaining our own property.

Our Grange materials (regalia, books, paper and food supplies, etc.) have now been moved into a spacious storage closet built exclusively for Grange use in the Park Building. Quite a bit of our kitchen equipment and utensils have been moved into the kitchen of the Park Building and are being shared with any group using the facilities. The rest of the Grange Hall equipment/furnishings were given to many other community groups and churches.

The 25-year lease negotiated between the Park and the Grange provides for use of the building for 12 regular meetings and up to 6 fund raisers annually by the Grange.

Summarizing the financial aspects of the Grange Hall sale:

Gross Sale Price	\$270,000
Less: Commission & Transaction Costs.....	16,901
Less: 25-Year Lease with Park.....	75,000
Less: Amount permitted to be retained.....	<u>1,000</u>
Transferred to State Grange Trust	\$177,099

Our local Grange will receive the income from the trust account, estimated to be just under \$1,000 annually at current interest rates for certificates of deposit. The principle of the trust, as required by Grange law, can be used only for re-investment into Grange owned real estate or up to 10% of the balance annually for community service work.

Farm Show Milk Shakes

Perry Valley Grange members and friends volunteered to make milk shakes at the Farm Show in January. This is the major fund raiser for Valley Grange #1360 in Lewisberry and Perry Valley was pleased to provide volunteers to help during the 9-day show.



Doug Bonsall (above) helped in the Milk Shake booth every day of the Farm Show and usually was found serving customers at the counter.

The Grange Executive Committee has been meeting more frequently as we work on strategic planning and developing the new vision for Perry Valley Grange. Those meetings will be held the third Monday evening of each month (except August). We extend thanks to Peg Bolton for hosting the meetings in her home.



Linda Byers (left) and Krista Pontius (right) prepared centerpieces for their holiday decorating at the November 2014 Grange meeting, the last held in the Grange Hall.

Happy Birthday

February Birthdays

- 3 Gerald Holman
- 5 Marge Earnest
- 7 Orpha Kreamer
- 24 Doug Bonsall
- 27 Reba Weimer

March Birthdays

- 2 Marge Gochenaur, Renee Hetrick
- 4 Debbie Ramp
- 7 Edgar Byers
- 11 Edith Lesh
- 24 Mildred Cubbison

Happy Anniversary

February Anniversary

- 17 Boyd & Shirley Delancey

If your special day(s) do not appear on this list or there is an error in the date, please call Doug Bonsall (921-1957) with the information.

Explaining Grange Dues

Recently our delegates to the State and National Granges found it necessary to raise the amount of dues payable by each member in order to adequately fund these levels of our organization. Of the \$50 annual dues paid by each member of our Grange, \$44 (\$11 per quarter) must be remitted to the State and National Granges.

For obvious financial reasons, our local Executive Committee has determined that our Grange will strictly enforce the provisions in our bylaws that require payment of annual dues no later than March 31st of each calendar year. This will eliminate Grange funds be used to cover dues for those who are delinquent in payment. Following three notices of the amount payable, those with unpaid dues will be dropped from membership. Automatic reinstatement of the membership will take place if/when all dues are paid in full.

Effective immediately, the duties for collection of dues and reporting to State Grange have been transferred from the Recording Secretary to the Financial Secretary.

Suggested By-Law Changes

The Executive Committee recently reviewed our Grange bylaws to bring them up-to-date. The following is a summary of the suggested changes; the bylaws can only be amended by vote of the Grange membership. A complete copy of the bylaws will be distributed at our February 13th meeting and the changes explained. The final vote to accept the amendments will take place at the next regular meeting on March 13th.

- **Article 2.2** – Change meeting time from 7:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- **Article 6.1** – Update annual membership dues to: Adults - \$50, Family - \$100, Associate/Business Sponsor - \$60 (no change in youth dues amount)
- **Article 6.5** – Removed duplicate fee for Business Sponsor Supporter
- **Article 6.6** (new addition) *Individuals who wish to become Associate members may do so upon application and may attend any Grange event, but without voting privileges in business meetings. Associate members will not be expected to attend a Grange meeting to receive a formal obligation of membership.*
- **Article 10.1** – Delete; no longer applicable
- **Article 10.2** – Renumber as Article 10.1
- **Article 10.3** – Renumber as Article 10.2; remove discontinued State Grange activities (Leadership School or Conference, Young Adults Weekend); Add new activities (Family Festival).

Updated Banquet Rules

The sale of the Grange Hall and the move to the Park Building has required changes to our document entitled **Banquet/Reception Catering Rules and Regulations**. The new document may now be found on the Grange website www.perryvalleygrange.org and will be used when any group or individual engages the Grange to cater a meal function.

Changes include:

- References to the **Grange Hall** have been replaced with **Park Building**
- All meals will now be served buffet-style.

Costs will remain at \$11.50 for meals with one meat and \$13.50 for meals with two meats. Due to the facilities available at the Park Building, Grange catered meals must now be served using disposable plates, cups, glasses, etc.

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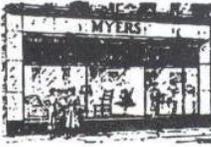


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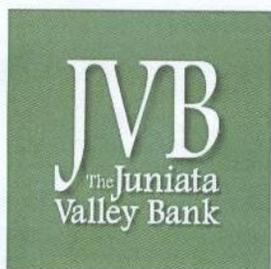
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School Essay-Poster Contest

This year Krista Pontius and the Greenwood FFA are taking the lead in the annual elementary school essay and poster contest. This contest has been sponsored by the Grange for at least 20 years, beginning originally in the Greenwood Elementary and later expanding to Newport Elementary. Fourth and fifth grade students will this year write or draw on the theme **Keep Moving...The Impact of Exercise on a Healthy Life.**

Pinnacle Health will present an educational program in each school when awards are presented later this spring. The specific dates are still in the planning stages with both schools.



Remembrance Project

For many years the Grange has packed remembrance bags for the elderly and shut-ins.

Sometimes the bags were done at

Thanksgiving or Easter, most recently for Valentine's Day. This year we're collecting items during February and then packing/delivering the bags in March in time for St. Patrick's Day.

Each year we begin with a brand new list of shut-ins/needly who should receive a gift kit and a visit. There will be no carry-over of names from previous years. **If you place a name on the list, it will be expected that you will deliver the remembrance to this person/family on behalf of the Grange.** Recipients do not have to be Grange members. The bags will include personal care items and non-perishable food items.

We normally assemble about 15 bags. Some of the items we are looking for include:

- *individual fruit cups, pudding, jello, applesauce, juice, or soup*
- *small bags of cookies, chips, pretzels or snack crackers*
- *toiletries - tooth paste, tooth brushes, small bottles of mouth wash, deodorant, soap, hand lotion tissues*

If you bring multi-packs of any of these items, we will separate them and put one per bag so everyone receives a variety of items. Please bring all items to the Feb. 13th Fellowship Dinner and meeting; all recipient names are also due to Peg Bolton (589-3897) by this date. **Remember - if you submit a name, you are responsible to deliver it to that person.** The bags will be packed and be available for pick-up at the March 13th Grange meeting.



Join us to STOP HUNGER NOW! Perry Valley Grange generously made a \$250 donation to the Cumberland-Dauphin-Perry FFA Chapters to raise money for an upcoming meal packing event to fight hunger.

A meal packing event is an immensely fun, hands-on and rewarding experience that provides life-saving food to needy people around the world. *Stop Hunger Now* meals are nutritiously sound. Every dehydrated/soy meal is fortified with 23 essential vitamins and nutrients. Research has shown that one in three people in developing countries are adversely affected by vitamin and mineral deficiency.

Grange members have been invited to join the students, teachers, and guests in the meal packing event. This will take place on Tuesday, February 3rd in the Maclay Street Lobby of the PA Farm Show Building from 4-7 p.m. You can come and stay the entire time or just stop by for an hour or two...all help is appreciated. We are excited that several State Representatives and the Secretary of Agriculture will attend. Please notify Krista Pontius or Linda Byers if you plan to help.

Hunger Banquet Set for Feb. 6th

The Greenwood FFA and Perry Valley Grange will partner to host a Hunger Event in the Greenwood Elementary School Cafeteria in Millerstown, on February 6, 2015 (snow date, February 7), beginning at 7:00 p.m.

When guests arrive, they will randomly draw an envelope which will contain play money. Guests will then have the opportunity to "purchase" food from stands sponsored by local churches. This interactive event is designed to make guests feel hunger and experience making choices with very little resources. When the meal is finished, guests will be engaged in discussion about hunger issues and presented with information to inform, enlighten, and inspire by Kevin Fath who is an Agriculture Development Specialist from the USAID Bureau of Food Security.

Although not all participants will leave with full stomachs, they will possess a greater understanding of hunger and poverty issues in our world. At the end of the evening a free will offering will be taken to benefit the Perry County Food Bank. Reservations can be made by calling the Greenwood Agricultural Department at 717-589-3116, Ext. 1209 or emailing: kpontius@greenwoodsd.org.



Upcoming Events at Perry Valley Grange

February 2015

3	Stop Hunger Now food packing project
6	Hunger Banquet @ Greenwood Elementary
13	<p style="text-align: center;">Winter Fellowship Dinner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potluck Dinner – 6:30 p.m. Millerstown Community Park Bldg. <i>Bring a casserole, salad or dessert to share and your own place settings</i> Social Chair – Doug Bonsall • <i>Bring non-perishable food and toiletry items for remembrance bag project</i> • Continuation of strategic planning
16	Executive Committee Meeting - 6:30 p.m. @ Bolton home
24	Pomona Grange Birthday Dinner Presentation of Granger of the Year Award @ Shermanata Grange, Duncannon
28	Luncheon – Perry County Township Officials at Greenwood Elementary

Winter Fellowship Dinner *Friday, February 13th*

Our regular February Grange meeting will begin with a potluck meal together starting at 6:30 p.m. in the Millerstown Community Park Building. We hope you'll bring your family and friends for an evening of fellowship.

Please bring a casserole, salad or dessert to share; meat, place settings and beverage will be provided. **Also.....Don't forget your donations for our annual remembrance bag project.** After our meal together, Krista Pontius will lead the next phase of the Grange's strategic planning process.

Please notify Peg Bolton (589-3897) whenever you know of a Grange member who is ill or mourning the loss of a loved one so a suitable card can be sent just to let our brother/sister know we are thinking of them.

March 2015

13	<p style="text-align: center;">Grange Meeting/Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dessert Reception @ 6:30 p.m. Millerstown Community Park Bldg. Social Chair – Cathy Morrison • Ritual practice, planning, packing of remembrance bags • Draping of the charter
16	Executive Committee Meeting - 6:30 p.m. @ Bolton home
31	Pomona meeting at Community Grange

Grange Meeting *Friday, March 13th*

We'll begin at 6:30 p.m. with a dessert reception and then hold a regular meeting in full form. We hope to have a guest with us to help us better understand and appreciate the beauty of our Grange ritual. The program this night will continue the planning that began in January to help our Grange find its new purpose.

The charter will be draped in loving memory of two recently deceased members:

- **James Hoffman**
- **Harriet Walker**



Financially Speaking....

Checking Balance 12/1/2014.....\$ 13,132.22
PLUS: Receipts - 12/2014-1/2015..... +262,486.70
LESS: Expenses - 12/2014-1/2015..... -255,459.38
Checking Balance 1/31/2015.....\$ 20,159.54
Certificates of Deposit\$ 66,008.68

The Grange's financial records for 10/1/2013 through 9/30/2014, maintained by Carol Rhoades & Doug Bonsall and audited by Peg Bolton & Linda Byers, were found to be correct and in proper order.

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Help Plan the New Direction for Perry Valley Grange by Attending our Meetings

Show your pride in being a member by ordering a shirt featuring the Grange name and emblem. We plan to wear these shirts anytime we are out serving our community. Please submit orders to Natalie Fritz (567-6105).



Perry Valley Grange #1804

Shirt Order Form

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Quantity	Size/Style	Price	Total
	Women's Small	\$20	
	Women's Medium	\$20	
	Woman's Large	\$20	
	Woman's XL	\$20	
	Woman's 2XL	\$22	
	Woman's 3 XL	\$23	
	Woman's 4 XL	\$24	
	Men's Small	\$20	
	Men's Medium	\$20	
	Men's Large	\$20	
	Men's XL	\$20	
	Men's 2 XL	\$22	
	Men's 3 XL	\$23	
	Men's 4 XL	\$24	
	TOTAL DUE		

Perry Valley Grange #1804, Inc.
c/o Douglas A. Bonsall
 300 Swatara Street, PO Box 765
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**FEBRUARY-MARCH 2015
 NEWSLETTER**