



Perry Valley Grange #1804, Inc. Newsletter

West Juniata Parkway & Owl Hollow Road, Millerstown, PA 17062

Important Vote at Nov. 4th Grange Meeting

From Your President

The Day I Never Thought Would Come Has Arrived

For most of the 40+ years that I've been an active Grange member, Perry Valley has been known far and wide as one of the most active and successful local Granges. With a membership of only about 75 persons when a small, rough former one room school was purchased in the early 1970's as our first Grange Hall, members worked hard to renovate and expand that building and developed a community service program that won numerous state recognitions and two national first place awards.

Even a devastating fire in 1988 did not dampen enthusiasm as members voted unanimously within a few weeks to build a brand new facility, our present Grange Hall. The total cost of building, equipment and land was about \$250,000 but the debt incurred was paid in full within two years, thanks to the almost constant array of banquets, receptions, fair concessions and other fund raisers held. Meeting attendance continued strong and we had both an active Junior Grange and good number of involved youth members.

As the 1990's began, our membership of just over 180 persons was at an all-time high and we blazed some uncharted territory by eliminating the use of some secret rituals and passwords to make our Grange more relevant to a changing society. Many of our local members – *Carol Rhoades, Lesta Schreiber, Dick Pennay, Bill Cameron, Debra Campbell, Harold Mitzel, Jane Madsen, and Doug Bonsall* to name a few – were recognized for their leadership abilities by being appointed or elected to State Grange positions.

About 10 years ago it started to become harder to find new members, especially those who would be willing to share of the workload of keeping the Grange active. Even those who were active members often found they had less time to share with the Grange. We found innovative ways to still get the job done – *switching from family-style to buffet style banquets and engaging the*

local FFA chapter members to assist with public dinners. More things like cleaning, mowing and snow removal became paid, contracted services when volunteers were no longer available to take care of these things. Just last year the Grange entered into a trial arrangement with the Newport Masonic Lodge which agreed to provide volunteers to help with dinners and oversee building maintenance in exchange for the use of our facility to hold their Lodge activities.

But, as our membership continues to grow smaller and older we've had to face the question – *Can Perry Valley Grange continue to support the costs and workload associated with our hall and surrounding grounds?* This has been discussed in great length and quite candidly at the last few Grange meetings and no long term solutions to maintain the status quo have been determined. At our October meeting it was agreed by consensus of those present to take a formal vote on the following question at the November 4th meeting:

Should Perry Valley Grange explore the possibility of selling the Grange Hall, with any action subject to final approval by the local membership and by the Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania State Grange?

If approved, this is only a first step in what will surely be a long and complicated process. Here are a few important points that have already been discussed during our meetings:

- If a buyer can be found that might use the hall in much of its present condition, then a possibility for the Grange is to negotiate a sale price that would allow our organization to continue meeting and holding some activities in the building but without the financial and property responsibilities.

(continued on Page 2)

From Your President (continued from page 1)

- If the building were to be converted to some other purpose, then the Grange will need to find another location for meetings and other activities.
- By National Grange bylaws, any proceeds from the sale of Grange property will be held in trust by the State Grange and the earnings returned to the local Grange.
- The local Grange can request the State Grange Executive Committee to allow use of the sale proceeds for another building at some future time or up to 10% annually for community service work.

Even though I never thought this day would come, I have every confidence that Perry Valley Grange will face the situation and come up with a way of adapting to the new reality we face. I urge you to be present to take part in an important decision for the Grange's future. The meeting on Friday, Nov. 4th will begin with dessert at 6:30 p.m. and the business session at 7 p.m. in the Grange Hall Conference Room.

Doug Bonsall, President

Scenes from October Outing "Pizza & Apples"

About 15 members and friends of the Grange gathered on an October evening to enjoy pizza at Chris' in Liverpool before traveling to the nearby St. John (Barner's) Lutheran Church to help "schnitz" (slice) apples for the next day's Apple Butter Boil. This was the 60th annual boil and dinner, proceeds of which support many charitable causes.



From the smiles evident on most faces, this project was more fun than work. The fellowship was great and there was much satisfaction in knowing that working together would result in thousands of dollars raised to help those in need. The Grange is proud to be of service to the community through such important projects.





FFA Chapters Receive Raffle Proceeds

Thirteen lucky people received prizes in the annual raffle drawing held at our Sept. 24th public dinner. This year the charity raffle was held jointly with the Newport Lodge so many more tickets were sold. Over \$2,000 in proceeds were split evenly between the special charities selected this year by the Grange (FFA) and the Lodge (children's Christmas toys). Grange Treasurer Barbara McMillen (above left) presented checks of \$503.98 each to representatives from the Newport and Greenwood FFA Chapters at our October Grange fellowship dinner.

2012 Grange Dues Now Payable

Grange member annual dues support the local, state and national levels of our organization and enables the Grange to maintain a presence the local community and in our state/national capitals. A significant portion of Grange work done at the state and national levels is in legislation, representing our interests and concerns.

Dues for 2012 are now payable and remain at the same amounts - \$40 for adults and \$12 for youth. For adult members, \$5 of your dues supports the local Grange. If you pay before January 1st, you will save the Grange mailing an individual notice to you.

From time to time members and friends of the Grange contribute gifts above and beyond annual dues to give a special boost to the Grange or one of its projects. Especially for those members who are unable to help in other ways, making a donation enables you to support the Grange. Please complete and submit the form printed below to pay your 2012 dues and/or make an additional donation.

Name(s) _____
2012 Dues @ \$40 per adult.....\$ _____
2012 Dues @ \$12 per youth.....\$ _____
Additional Contribution\$ _____
Total enclosed\$ _____
Please make check payable to: Perry Valley Grange
Mail to: Carol Gantt, 1692 Keystone Way, Newport, PA 17074

Business Sponsors

Perry Valley Grange has cultivated good relations for many years with local businesses so together good service work can be done in the community. The number of **Business Sponsor Members** in 2011 was 48. This membership helps the Grange and we help our business sponsors by advertising their support in our bimonthly newsletter, on our website and on the main bulletin board in the Grange Hall.

If you know of a business that might be interested in this type of partnership, please talk to them about becoming a **Business Sponsor Member** of Perry Valley Grange. Bill Cameron, our Membership Chair, can provide you with the application and details about the business sponsor supplying us with their advertising information. A letter inviting local businesses to join the Grange or to renew their membership will be sent in mid-November. The 2012 Business Sponsor fee remains at \$60.



Celebrating Special Days

November Birthdays

- 19 Douglas Morrison
- 28 Twyla Courtot

December Birthdays

- 2 Ralph Lesh
- 5 Shirley Delancey
- 8 Robert Cauffman
- 10 Boyd Delancey, Lee Morrison
- 15 Helen Cox
- 21 Louise Pennay
- 29 Barbara McMillen

November Anniversaries

- 29 John & Viola Byers

December Anniversaries

- 7 Ken & Peg Bolton

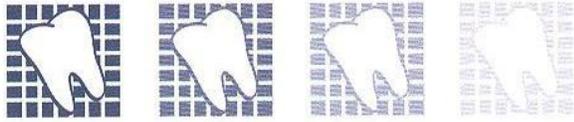
Please let **Peg Bolton 9589-38970** know when you are aware of a Grange member who should be remembered with cards in times of illness or death in the family.

The Joint Operating Committee recently approved:

- \$1 increase of all catered meals
- \$1 added charge for tossed salad served with meals
- New hall rental schedule

The new contracts are available on the Grange website (www.perryvalleygrange.org), at the Grange Hall or by contacting Carol Rhoades (567-6844).

Grange Business Sponsors Deserve Your Support



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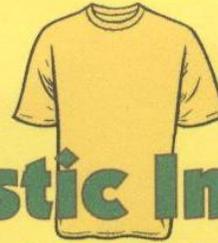
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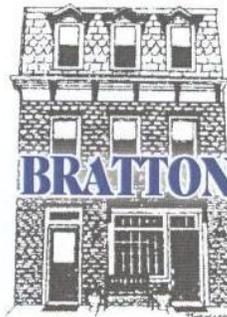
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Millerstown, PA 17062

PA Dutch Dinner



Menu

*Homemade Chicken Potpie
Ham & Schnitz
Stuffed Pig Stomach
Pepper Cabbage; Chow Chow
Homemade Bread/Apple Butter
Shoofly Pie
Beverages*

Sat., Nov. 12, 2011

Perry Valley Grange Hall

2 Miles East of Millerstown, Perry County
West Juniata Parkway & Owl Hollow Rd

Serving from 4 PM while supply lasts

Serving help provided by local FFA Members

All you can eat with dessert included

Tickets available at the door; Take outs available

Adults - \$11

Children: (ages 6-12) - \$6; (ages 5 & under) – FREE

Details @ www.perryvalleygrange.org or 589-3369

Coming Events at Perry Valley Grange

November 2011

4	Grange Meeting – 7:00 PM Dessert reception starts at 6:30 p.m. Social Committee – Natalie Fritz (chair), Lee & Cathy Morrison, Dale & Helen Cox Business meeting – <i>discussion and vote about sale of hall (see page 1-2)</i>
5	Hall rental – Trinity United Church of Christ Basket Bingo; Grange operates food stand
7	Executive Committee Meeting – 7 p.m.
8	General Election Day – Grange Hall is polling site for Greenwood Township
8	Lodge meeting
10	Lodge meeting
11	Work night for public dinner – 6:30 PM
12	Public Penna. Dutch Dinner Serving begins at 4 PM (See page 10)
16	Chapter rehearsal
17	Chapter meeting
18	Banquet – Newport Masonic Lodge
29	Pomona Grange planning meeting at Community Grange Hall - 7 PM

December 2011

2	4-H Horse & Pony Club
3	Banquet – Mifflintown Bank Employees
8	Lodge meeting
10	Banquet – Miller family
11	Grange Holiday Outing (details below)
13	Lodge meeting
14	Chapter rehearsal
15	Chapter meeting
18	Lodge Christmas Toy distribution
27	Pomona Christmas Party @ Madison
30	Work day for New Year's public dinner

Holiday Outing



This year for our **Holiday Outing** will be held on Sunday afternoon, December 11th. We'll join together for a "Dutch treat" meal at 12:30 p.m. at Stoney Creek Inn in Dauphin. Everyone will order from the menu – both a full dinner menu and a sandwich menu is available.

From there we'll be driving a few short miles to Front & Maclay Streets in Harrisburg where we'll attend the annual holiday Open House at the Governor's Mansion at 2 p.m. All the public rooms of the home will be beautifully decorated for the season and we'll have the opportunity to enjoy cookies, punch, hot chocolate and musical performances. We may even get to meet the Governor and his family!

Finally, we'll be attending the 4 p.m. "Christmas at Trinity" concert in Camp Hill. This free holiday program at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2000 Chestnut Street, will feature music by a live orchestra, pipe organ, soloists and the church's seven choirs. It's guaranteed to put you in the holiday spirit!

If you can't attend all three events, then feel free to attend what your schedule allows. Reservations are needed for the restaurant, so please let the Call Committee know if you plan to attend when you are contacted about December events. If you prefer, you may call Doug Bonsall (921—1957) to tell us how many from your family will be joining in this afternoon of good food, fellowship and Christmas joy.

GRANGE COOKBOOKS MAKE EXCELLENT GIFTS...four different editions are available for holiday giving this year. Contact Doug Bonsall (921-1957).



Financial Report

The Joint (Grange-Masons) Operating Account receives fund raising & rental receipts and pays for all fund raising supplies, utilities, insurance and property maintenance costs. The Grange account handles all other income and expenses.

JOINT OPERATING ACCOUNT

Checking Balance 8/31/2011..... \$ 6,954.72
PLUS: Receipts - September 2011 + 4,342.12
LESS: Expenditures - September 2011 ... - 5,983.28
Checking Balance 9/30/2011..... \$ 5,313.56

GRANGE ACCOUNT

Checking Balance 8/31/2011.....\$ 6,777.59
PLUS: Receipts - September 2011 + 1,254.95
LESS: Expenditures - September 2011 ... - 193.99
Checking Balance 8/31/2011..... \$7,838.55
Certificates of Deposit \$58,306.16

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Perry Valley Grange Vision

Foster an atmosphere where individuals can grow spiritually, intellectually and socially and, through that growth, improve themselves, their families, communities and the nation.

Perry Valley Grange Ideals

A good Grange member:

Places faith in God,
Looks forward to the future,
Helps those in need, and
Is loyal to family, community and nation.

Perry Valley Grange #1804, Inc.

c/o Douglas A. Bonsall
300 Swatara Street, PO Box 765
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November-December 2011
Newsletter