

Discussion Questions Re: the Future of Perry Valley Grange

1) What does Perry Valley Grange do especially well?

- Fund raise
- Serve meals
- Community service
- Visible in community
- Provides educational program
- Partners with FFA
- Tries to Educate people about the Grange

2) In what area(s) of Grange activity is improvement needed?

- Member participation
- Attract more younger members
- Provide better member care
- Nurture fraternal aspect of Grange
- Hold more formal meetings with better performed traditional ritual to teach Grange

3) What would you like to see the Grange do more of?

- Social activities
- Service things like visiting shut-in members and nursing homes
- Volunteer as a group for various projects (e.g. Meals on Wheels, tutoring)
- Better training of members about purposes of Grange and its fraternal aspects
- Develop enthusiasm among members and community for the role that a Grange plays in individual lives and community activities
- More willingness to face realities of contemporary society and brave enough to make the changes that are necessary

4) What would you like to see the Grange do less of?

- Banquets and dinners
- Have less responsibility for building/property so more time/energy for other things
- Being so consumed by the need to raise enough money to maintain a property that is not as needed in the community as it was at the time it was built (there are now many other similar public buildings in the area)
- Less complaining and making people feel guilty for not helping

5) What do you think people are really looking for today in an organization like the Grange that strives to provide social, educational and service to its local community?

- **Something free**
- **Something with no responsibility connected**
- **“Entertain me”; “Feed me”; “Make me feel good”**
- **Definitely not the hard work and long hours of cooking/serving/cleaning up meal fund raisers; few “average” people today have these types of food service skills and those who do are not likely to volunteer their services**

6) Evaluate the current working relationship between Perry Valley Grange and Newport Lodge F&AM.

Good points

- **“Win-win” – Grange gets more help; Lodge gets place to meet**
- **Help with meals & dining room set up**
- **Small group of hard working Lodge members**
- **Lodge is taking care of building maintenance**
- **Fun group of guys to work with**

Weak points

- **Sometimes a break-down in communications about expectations**
- **Not enough clean-up help (from Lodge and Grange members)**
- **Limited number of willing Lodge (and Grange) volunteers to do actual work**
- **Not enough leadership to share responsibility**
- **Lodge may be getting too comfortable thinking this is now “their” building**

7) Is it realistic for the Grange to try “keeping the status quo” with regards to raising sufficient funds to maintain our property and current community service programs?

If **yes**, identify those additional individuals who are prepared to share the workload and provide the leadership required to do this. (***Voted for by 1 Executive Committee member***)

- **No additional persons willing/able to take responsibility could be identified**
- **Have a membership drive to get more members/workers**

If **no**, what are the alternatives available to sustain the Grange as a viable organization, albeit perhaps with some major changes? (***Voted for by 5 Executive Committee members***)

- **Sell the building and either rent another meeting place or negotiate a deal that would allow the Grange to continue meeting/holding activities in present building**
- **Find other ways to raise money to support property expenses**

8) Define appropriate next steps.

- **Review process for disposition of Grange owned real estate (per National by-laws)**
- **Hold a second meeting (in September 2011) to continue discussions; invite Lodge to participate in that discussion**