

PARCR NEWSLETTER

Volume X, Issue II

April 9, 2008

Woodcrest Villa, Lancaster

The spring meeting of PARCR began with the Pledge of Allegiance, after which President George Tjiattas introduced Nan Rush, our host. She informed the group that Woodcrest Villa now has approximately 500 residents. Their community is going through the process of Culture Change, with the first *Household* opening two weeks ago. Next the Chaplain Mim Cruz led in prayer.

Bud Endler was asked to proceed with the roll call. Delegates from 20 communities responded. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were received. Then George Tjiattas called for committee reports. Carol Wendel gave the Membership report. She recently attended the Lancaster Association of CEO's of CCRC's. She spoke of the need to have names of residents in communities which are not members of PARCR so that she can communicate with them. Next she welcomed visitors from Moravian Village who are in attendance.

Sarah Hughes next gave the Legislative report. In regard to the Federal Government, the budget submitted by President Bush for fiscal 2008 proposes severe cuts in Medicare and Medicaid funding. This budget would cut \$91 billion from Medicare and \$14 billion from Medicaid over the next five years, much of it coming from payments to health care providers such as skilled care facilities. Two bills, S.2586 and H.R. 5268, would provide a temporary corrective by restoring funding for these programs. They do not, however, solve the longer range funding problems of these programs. These bills have been referred to committees. PANPHA urges us to contact legislators asking them to support these bills and also asks residents to support increases in Medicare and Medicaid appropriations as Congress debates annual federal funding.

NaCCRA and PANPHA both ask us to contact our Senators about S.450 and our Representatives about H.R. 758, bills which would repeal the Medicare payment caps of \$1780 on physical therapy and \$1780 on occupational therapy that again became effective in 2008. Urge your legislators to become co-sponsors and to press for action on these bills. We should also support efforts to renew an annual exception to prevent the therapy caps from going into effect on October 1st of this year. This is an issue which can potentially affect any of us as individuals if we should need any kind of therapy.

The easiest way to contact your federal representatives is to call the Capital switchboard in Washington at 202-224-3121 and ask to be connected to your Senator or Representative.

Within Pennsylvania, the major legislative issue in the state concerns Governor Rendell's budget proposals to fund nursing home facilities. PANPHA has campaigned actively against the budget since February 20th because it includes no increase in state Medical Assistance rates for nursing home care. Ron Barth, PANPHA president, attacked Rendell's proposed funding of school laptops and alternate energy development as "extras", while not adequately funding "things the government has already promised." The PANPHA website features editorials from the Carlisle Sentinel and the Lebanon Daily News supporting this position. On March 23rd, Nora Eisenhower, Secretary of Aging, and Estelle Richman, Secretary of the Department of public Welfare, responded in a letter to the Sentinel and other papers pointing out that Pennsylvania's nursing homes have received state payments that "grew 34 percent faster than the rate of inflation over the last five years," and that "state funding for all senior programs grew much faster than spending on public education." They said that only New York spends more on nursing homes than Pennsylvania. Both the Senate and the House have held hearings on the Governor's budget, but no definite decisions have yet been reached, although we should expect this issue to be resolved before our next quarterly meeting.

The legislature has been holding many hearings since it reconvened in January and since mid-March has passed a number of bills, although none which seemed of particular significance to us. Governor Rendell's budget gives priority in health matters to insurance for adults who work for small businesses that do not offer health insurance.

If you wish to contact your state legislators, the easiest way is to use a website, www.legis.state.pa.us. And punch in your zip code to get the information you need.

The other important state issue is an administrative one. Last summer the legislature passed a bill requiring separate licensing of personal care homes and assisted living facilities. The regulations to carry this out are still being formulated by the Department of Public Welfare. Nick Luciano of PANPHA reported that the Department organized a working group of stakeholders that held meetings from October 17th until last Tuesday to try to compromise issues. The Department of Public Welfare is now working on the regulations.

Bud Endler, Program Chairman, announced that the program for July would be on Elder Law and Taxes. For October, the topic is Future Care and Health Care. Next January, Jan Brown will speak on Joint Ownership. He said that next April the program will be about the Most Fun in Your Community.

Chris Glenn from PANPHA spoke of the concerns relating to both federal and state budgets. Residents are urged to contact legislators. Tell them your story; make your message personal. The regulations on Personal Care and Assisted Living will be out soon. There will be a 30 day window for comment.

The speaker for the program, Katherine Pearson, was introduced by Julia Hix. Ms Pearson is Professor of Elder Law at Dickinson School of Law, Pennsylvania State University. She told us she would speak about CCRC's Promises and Pitfalls. Ms Pearson came to Pennsylvania in 1995. She began working in a family law clinic which was so successful that it was asked to expand. In time, she worked into elder law. She began teaching a class, and with the class started a clinic on elder law. There are four major topics which are dealt with in this clinic: Marketing promises; Tension between increasing costs and financial stability; concerns about governance; and concerns about termination and leaving. Attorneys need to consider the varieties of contracts which CCRC's offer and be alert to questions about regulations on Assisted Living facilities.

Pennsylvania has 230 CCRC's. Nationwide there are 320 accredited CCRC's; Pennsylvania has 52 accredited CCRC's. Lifetime care is not required by the present Pennsylvania laws. Communities must submit annual reports to the state, but these are rarely read. Ms Pearson reported that in her research she has been the only one to have opened a number of these reports.

Residents of a CCRC have the advantage of a campus like setting, often quite beautiful. Some residents, however, feel trapped. This shows the importance of careful planning before entering such a community. There are not a lot of attorneys who understand CCRC contracts. There is real need for inter action between communities and lawyers.

One important issue is fees. It is urgent for residents about to enter a community to understand what is in the monthly fee and what is covered by the Entrance Fee. Communities need to be sure that potential residents are financially able to afford the fees which are part of the contract. When benevolent care is needed, there will be a requirement to prove that the need actually exists.

Some communities recently have faced challenges to their tax exempt status as charitable institutions, among them the Alliance Home in Carlisle. Residents may be required to apply for financial assistance from their families, churches and others.

Residents of CCRC's in Pennsylvania have the right to organize, and to have a quarterly meeting with administrations for free discussion. In Maryland but not in Pennsylvania some form of dispute resolution process is required. A number of topics have been reported is coming up for discussion including steep increases in fees, renegotiation of contracts, changes in items such as transportation being covered, delayed refunds and questions about taxation.

Some have raised questions concerning the possibility of management having fiduciary duty. Management definitely has a responsibility to maintain financial stability, and any fiduciary duty might present a conflict.

Under Pennsylvania law, residential representation on boards of trustees is neither required nor forbidden. Some communities have allowed residents to be represented on boards but without vote, while a number of others have residents as full voting members of the board.

Other questions which often come up included gaining more adequate information about the financial status of the community; also sometimes questions arise about pressure for residents to move to a higher level of care. How grievance questions are handled is also a concern.

President Tjiattas thanked Ms Pearson for a very informative presentation. Next he introduced Nelson Kling, CEO of Mennonite Homes who spoke to us about the history of Mennonite Homes Communities. The homes began in 1903 as the need to take care of widows began to be a concern. The first building constructed in 1903 cost \$15,800.00. Those cared for were primarily of the Mennonite faith. In 1960, the homes moved into health care. In the mid 1970's the board began seeking funding for expansion. Now there are 180 residents in health care, and 170 in Assisted Living. At present they are involved in a major restructuring of health care moving toward the creation of households. In 1989, Woodcrest Villas was begun. Now it has approximately 500 residents.

John Sanders, Vice President of Health Services for Mennonite Homes, was introduced next and spoke about the program of culture change presently under way. He told us that nursing homes originally chose the wrong model of care, following the style and atmosphere of the hospital. Now it is important to put *home* back into Nursing homes and to have person centered care. In the new model of households, a household should have between 15 to 24 residents. Care conferences will take place in a parlor like setting rather than the nurse's desk or office. The hope is to give residents more individual schedules, so a resident can decide when to get up and have breakfast rather than being on the institutional schedule. Each household should have a computer and a flat screen TV. The Mennonite Homes has a two year, five phase program which will result in seven households and two neighborhoods, of which two secure households will be for dementia.

After thanking Mr. Kling and Mr. Sanders for their helpful information, George Tjiattas said it was time for community sharing. Bethany Village has changed their maintenance, food service and housekeeping service. They have a contract with Sodexo for leadership, with most of the actual work done by Bethany employees. Normandy Ridge is now in the process of Culture Change. Homestead Village reports having five households. They are currently building a new wing of two bedroom apartments. Quincy Village is getting integrated into PHI. They also have Sudexo. The next meeting of PARCR will be at Quincy. Paul Noyes from Green Ridge Village said that a new policy has been announced at the Village giving restrictions on fire arms. Green Ridge has recently purchased 110 acres as a protection. No immediate plans have been made for the use of this new acreage. Masonic Village has a Computer Club with between 100 and 125 members. 300 or more units have e-mail availability. Garden Spot Village has a new apartment building of 70 units with two and three bed room units. A wireless system is being installed. The community owns a 50 acre property across the road from the main campus. Foxdale Village has begun an interest free loan program for employees. The Resident Council voted to participate by contributing funds to the program.

The next meeting will be held July 9, 2008 at Quincy Village, Quincy, PA.

More News from Our Communities

Bethany Village

The Santa who comes to the doors of villagers is a big bear of a man. He wears a snappy red suit and cap trimmed in white faux fur, has a billowing beard and shouts a loud "Ho, Ho, Ho." It could be none other than Jim Browning, Chaplain to all people of Bethany Village.

Growing up Catholic in Norristown, PA, Jim always wanted to be a priest. After graduation from Marist College and Washington Union Seminary, he spent fifteen years in the priesthood, first in New York City, then in Washington, D.C, and Tennessee.

He served the priesthood well, but an evolving desire to complete his life with a family of his own became an itch so compelling that Jim took a giant step away from the priesthood and the Catholic Church. In his new identity as husband, father of two children, and a pastor associated with the United Methodist Church, he and his family arrived in Bethany Village nearly twelve and a half years ago.

When spring is in the air, resident volunteer's thoughts turn to their semi-annual garage and furniture sale. This year, the sale dates will be Friday afternoon and Saturday, May 16th and 17th. Actually volunteers have been receiving sorting and pricing items continuously since the fall fair in September. The Friday afternoon sale is open exclusively to Bethany Village residents and associates employed on the campus. On Saturday, the public is invited to peruse those treasures no longer being used by the

donors. Proceeds from the sales are part of the Residents Council's budget and are used for programming and activities benefiting all facets of the community.

Brethren Village, Lancaster

Covenant Crossing – the exciting new redevelopment expansion coming soon to the Brethren Village campus – is under construction and our apartment homes are going fast. This addition includes 135 independent living apartments and enhanced food and dining, fitness space and community space. With more than 90% of our residences reserved, the time to act is now.

Brethren Village is excited to have Silver, Wood, and Ivory – Cindy Keller Wittenberg and Tracy Dietrich – as our special guests for this year's entertainment at the Good Samaritan Banquet which will be held on Thursday, May 8 at the Middle Creek Church of the Brethren. This piano and flute duo has been captivating audiences throughout the eastern United States with their contrasting elements of silver, wood, and ivory instruments. In addition to the exquisite entertainment, a fellowship reception will be held at 5:30 pm and Dinner at 6:30pm. Reservations for the full course dinner and evening will be \$100 per person.

Cross Keys Village

At the February 7 Village Council meeting it was announced that Cross Keys Village has been contacted by the Postal Service and informed that the addresses for cottages in the Village with the exception of homes and apartments on Harmony Drive and Bridgewater Drive do not follow the Postal Service format. This information was also shared at the February 25 Villager meeting. The Postal Service expends additional money because our format does not follow the standard format and the change is required as part of a cost reduction program. Village staff will be working with the Adams County Mapping Office in Gettysburg to develop new addresses for the Village. The goal is to have the new addresses in place by the end of the calendar year. It is understood that the Post Office will forward mail from current addresses to the new addresses for one year following the change.

Landis Homes

Attention Golfers! A Benefit Golf Outing will be held June 6. Proceeds will benefit the Adult Day Services program.

The parents group at the Children's Learning Center at Landis Homes and TCW Computer Systems joined forces to participate in a worldwide program to provide computer access to a child in a less developed country. The program One Laptop per Child had laptop computers designed that will work just about any where and offered to give one away for every computer a business or individual donates. The computers, known as XO's are small and appear toy-like being made of bright green plastic including a small child-sized keyboard. The parents group and TCW each donated \$200 to cover the cost of one computer for the center at Landis Homes and for another to be given to a poor child somewhere in the world.

The three year renovation of Aspen, Birch and Cedar residences is in the final year of construction. When possible, green building methods and materials that conserve natural resources, increase energy efficiency and improve indoor air quality have been used.

Wii brings action to the campus. The Nintendo Wii, pronounced "we," video game has come to Landis Homes. The wireless controllers allow participants of all ages and backgrounds to be actively involved with body movements in order to play the games. The Wii is as much a tool for physical activity and gaming as it is a catalyst for a fun social event that includes bowling, baseball, tennis, and plenty of laughter.

Homestead Village

For years, the Homestead Village Auxiliary has had a designated fund for the purchase of a concert-worthy piano. Now through a long standing friendship, a generous gift, and the Auxiliary's prudent stewardship and vision, the dream is a reality. Mews residents Don and Phyllis Burkholder have been friends with Milton Morgan, Jr. and his wife Lois for 55 years. So, when the Morgan's decided to sell their Steinway baby grand piano, Phyllis, who is membership chair for the Auxiliary, was able to serve as liaison between the Morgan's and Homestead Village. The Morgan's donated a portion of the worth of the valuable piano and the Auxiliary gave the balance of the funds needed to purchase it. Now the Steinway has a home in the Glasford Room at Homestead Village.

Messiah Village

Is there a doctor in the house? At the Cottages on Willow Way, there sure is, but that's only if it's your clock's ticker that needs repair. The "Clock Doctor" Mervin Brubaker and his wife Myrtle are making the move to Messiah Village. The couple was interested in a place where they could join in community events if they wanted to, but still carry on their lives independent of

the retirement community. As an avid clock doctor, Mervin will continue to repair clocks most of the day with Myrtle handling the details related to her husbands work.

This spring, why not discover the history of Iceland, learn to make stained glass, or gain a better understanding of the Book of Psalms? These and many other possibilities await you during the spring term of Messiah Village's Pathways Institute for Lifelong Learning. Registration has already begun for this term's remarkable selection of courses that will educate, inspire, and advance your personal growth.

Masonic Village

The "Community Pulpit" project was a joint effort by the men in the Masonic Village of Elizabethtown Rooster's Corner Woodworking shop. Ralph Clare, president of the woodshop, was in charge of the actual design and construction, with the assistance of Jim Perotti and many other members. Men were needed to give advice, move the pulpit as it progressed, glue and clamp pieces together and transport it to the Trinity Lutheran Church of Colebrook when completed.

For a child staying in a hospital or living in a shelter, a warm blanket can offer more comfort than a dose of medication or a new toy. Thanks to "blanketeers" across the country, more children are receiving needed warm and relief. *Project Linus* is a non-profit organization which collects blankets from more than 400 chapters nationwide and donates them to children in hospitals, shelters, social service agencies or any where there is a need. Since 1995, almost 2.3 million blankets have been donated. In Elizabethtown, the project was introduced this past summer to residents in the residential living area and, so far, 15 individuals have volunteered their skills and time. The Recreation Department has been able to supply them with materials and patterns. Fleece was purchased so residents who are unable to knit or crochet can create a blanket using knots. They delivered their first batch of 16 blankets to the local chapter coordinator in November. Recipients include the children of wounded soldiers returning from Iraq, Hospice of Lancaster, YWCA, local police departments and the Water Street Rescue Mission.

Sandra Purnell loves crocheting and the task enables her to keep her hands moving and relieve her arthritis. More importantly, though, she makes the blankets to do something good for someone else.

Dubbing it her candy factory, "Little" Esther Scheuermann's apartment at the Masonic Village is overflowing with chocolate, dried fruits, nuts, marshmallows, flour and sugar. Her kitchen drawers and cupboards are stacked with ingredients. Her closet doubles as a storage room because it contains a window which she opens to keep her 50 pound bags of chocolate chilled. Centered in her living room/bedroom is a card table lined with chocolate eggs in the drying stage.

Esther doesn't have much of a sweet tooth herself, but she used the provisions to make delicious treats to give to her friends, family, and fellow Masonic Village residents. Two days a week, she visits 22 people in the Freemasons Assisted Living Building and Masonic Health Care Center, bringing them her sweets as well as some good cheer. She remembers a little something about each person, such as one woman's preference for white chocolate.

Menno Haven

The dedication of Northgate was held Sunday, April 20, with an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony. Tour of Northgate's elegant common areas and apartments were given.

On March 24th, Dennis Travers began his work as the new Chief Officer for Human Resource Management. He has worked with local industry and has maintained his own Human Resources management consultation and training firm. His most recent employment has been with Country Meadows Retirement Communities where he has gained an understanding of the retirement industry and issues facing our human resources.

Menno Haven is pleased to announce that artist Margaret Dayton Gsell has offered to provide Watercolor Painting Classes. The classes will be held on Mondays, starting May 5th, in the Northgate Creative Arts Center. The time will be 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm. The class will run for 10 weeks with the possibility of additional classes. There will be no charge for the class but participants will need to provide their own supplies.

The Menno Penn Military Council will hold an "Armed Forces Day" Banquet on Saturday May 17th at 6:30 pm, in the Village Inn Dining Room on Menno Village Campus; cost is \$11.50 per person.

The Village at Kelly Drive, York

In March of 1994, Raymond and Daisy Stambaugh first visited The Village at Kelly Drive. Although they had their names on the list for a cottage at another retirement community, they felt that a one bedroom apartment would be more what they needed. Unfortunately, Mrs. Stambaugh passed away in 1996, but Mr. Stambaugh continued to live quite comfortably in his apartment at Kelly. During that time, their daughter, Ruthanna decided this might be a good idea for her as well. She was a widow and believed it was important not to depend on her children to help with her care if needed. Eventually, her father also passed away. Ruthanna was contacted about an apartment but she felt it was not the right time. She had an elderly dog, "Tomo" and was concerned that a move might be difficult for him. In January, 2007, she was again contacted to offer an apartment. Tomo was still living, so it did not seem the best time. One week later, Tomo passed away, so Ruthanna came to look at the apartment. She was thrilled to find out it was her parents' apartment. "I just couldn't believe it," said Ruthanna. "I was not positive I was ready until I saw which apartment was available. Now I feel as if I am constantly surrounded by Mom and Dad."

Woodcrest Villa

As a child raised on a farm outside of New Danville, Clayton Thomas learned to work hard, to appreciate the outdoors and to love mowing grass. Now 90 years old, Clayton has been mowing for over eighty years.

Clayton remembers moving to Mennonite Home in 1986, after years of farming and mowing for New Danville Mennonite School, Millersville University and others. He immediately asked how he could help, and a maintenance man invited him to start mowing "wherever there is grass." During the summer months, Clayton can be seen mowing on both the Woodcrest Villa and Mennonite Home grounds. He puts in a good forty-hour week during the grass season if the weather permits. Clayton's sharp witt and good nature make him a favorite of the maintenance department. The "boys" are always glad for his help and advice.

Newsletter Editor

James Stuart Dickson

67 Spruce Circle

Newville, PA 17241-9300

717-776-8414

e-mail jmgrv2@aol.com