

PARCR NEWSLETTER

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Quincy Village

President George Tjiattas called the summer meeting of PARCR to order and told the group that President Emeritus Elma Kreps had recently had a heart attack. We were relieved to hear that she is making a good recovery. Ray Vaughan then led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Bill Smith introduced Hope Manning, Assistant Executive Director of Quincy Village, who welcome us warmly. Next the President of the Quincy Resident Council was introduced and also gave his welcome. The Rev. John Ile, Quincy Village Chaplain offered prayer. The roll was called by Bud Endler and 19 communities were represented.

The first item of the business meeting was the approval of the minutes of the April meeting, followed by Secretary Ev Fuller's report. He spoke about the recent annual meeting of NaCCRA at which the dues for individual members was increased to \$20.00, although the dues for Communities and for State Associations remained the same as last year. NaCCRA believes that there should be a Resident's Bill of Rights and is working to promote one. The new President of NaCCRA is the Rev. John T. Mathison, of Ingleside at Rock Creek, in Washington, D C. Ev also announced the following meeting dates and places: Sprenkle Village, York, PA, October 8, 2008; Bethany Village, Mechanicsburg, PA, January 14, 2009; Foxdale Village, State College, PA, April 8, 2009; Luther Ridge, Chambersburg, PA, July 8, 2009; and Cross Keys Village, New Oxford, PA, October 14, 2009.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Robert Allen, since Dick Morris was unable to be present. Robert Allen, the assistant Treasurer also introduced the budget for the coming fiscal year. President Tjiattas announced that it would be voted on under new business.

Membership Chair Carol Wendel announced that she had written letters to 22 communities, for the most part in Central Pennsylvania, but had received only one reply. She urged delegates to help her by giving her names and addresses of contacts in communities around us which are not members of PARCR.

Sarah Hughes, Legislative Chair reported that the most significant active legislative issue is a federal one, the Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act of 2008. This Bill, H. R. 6331, passed the House of Representatives on June 24 by 355 to 59 votes, with 20 not voting. Two days later, after a presidential veto threat, a motion to bring it to the floor of the Senate failed by one vote. (58 ayes, 40 nays, Senator

McCain and Senator Kennedy not voting.) Senator Casey favors the bill, and Senator Specter opposed it.

PANPHA and our member communities generally favor this bill, although some individuals may not. The most publicized provisions of this Medicare Act are a clause to rescind a scheduled 10.6% cut in payments to physicians and another that pays for much of the costs by cutting payments to some Medicare Advantage plans. These provisions have mobilized doctors in favor of this act and health insurance companies against it. All seniors should be concerned if cuts in reimbursement of physicians make it difficult to find doctors. Those with a Medicare Advantage Plan may want to inquire how the act might affect their coverage. Certainly it will limit or prohibit many sales and marketing activities of those plans.

This is actually a very complex bill; the Congressional Research Office summary lists some 33 provisions, and one provision which is most important to seniors is not even on that list. With the failure to pass this bill by July 1st, annual caps on Medicare payments for speech, physical and occupational therapy came into effect. These caps are \$1810 for combined speech and physical therapy, and \$1810 for occupational therapy. Passage of the Medicare Act would restore for another 18 months the exceptions or waiver of these caps for therapy that is diagnosed as medically necessary. If the new law does not pass, people may be retroactively charged for therapy they have received exceeding the limits since January 1, 2008, even if they had exceptions! If a person should fall and break a bone, or should have two different events requiring therapy in one year, or need both speech and physical therapy, that person would probably need more than \$1810 worth of therapy in order to return to a functional, independent life.

The Bill was brought up for an up or down cloture vote later on this day, and passed, with Senator Kennedy returning to the Senate floor to give the deciding vote. Since the bill had now been brought to the Senate floor, the bill then passed by 69 votes, with Senator Arlen Specter voting in favor. A veto is still threatened.

In Pennsylvania, the compromise reached on the state budget between the Legislature and Governor Rendell provided a one percent increase in reimbursement rates for skilled care facilities, rather than the zero percent recommended by the Governor. This is significantly less than the three percent increase last year, in this period of rising costs. Few other details of the budget are available yet.

The Department of Public Welfare regulations for Assisted Living and Personal Care facilities are to be issued on July 19th. They will be published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin, available at www.pabulletin.com.

Following Sarah Hughes report, Russ McDaid from PANPHA spoke briefly about the state budget. While it is good that a compromise was reached, and there are some good provisions in the new budget, it also has some mis-placed priorities. He urged delegates to be aware of legislation being considered both at the state and federal level and to become involved in communicating residents concerns with legislators.

Bud Endler, the Program Chair announced that in October the speaker will be Dr. Lily, speaking on Future Trends in Health Care. In January, Jan Brown will speak on Joint Ownership, Good or Bad. The program for the April meeting will be on the most fun in your community. Other possible programs would include a presentation on Gettysburg and the new Visitor's Center and more on Elder Law.

Since Bill George, chair of the nominating committee, was unable to be present, George Tjiattas read the committee's report. The nominees for the coming year are George Tjiattas, President, Raymond Vaughan, First Vice-President, Anton (Bud) Endler, Second Vice-President, Evert Fuller, Secretary, Julia Hix, Assistant Secretary, Richard Morris, Treasurer, and Robert Allen, Assistant Treasurer. By motion, the nominations were closed and the nominees elected.

It was announced that the By-laws need to be up dated since it is several years since they were adopted. Also announced was that the PARCR Web Site has been redone and is worth checking on. Delegates were urged to make use of it.

Under New Business, the Budget for the new fiscal year was approved. A question was asked as to why PARCR needed to have two checking accounts. The answer given was that it was felt that the secretary needed to have a small account available to him for used in emergency. Since he lives in Mechanicsburg and the Treasurer in New Holland, it was thought wise to have a small account in Mechanicsburg.

The President appointed Bud Endler the new chair of the By-Laws Committee, Robert Allen to chair a new committee on Insurance Coverage, and Julia Hix to chair a committee working for a Resident Bill of Rights with Sarah Hughes assisting. Since it is time for the annual audit of funds, Chester Brown was appointed to conduct the audit.

Chris Glenn of PANPHA again urged all residents to become involved in being in touch with legislators and Congress men and women. By signing up with PANPHA and providing addresses and e-mail addresses, delegates will be provided with PANPHA's recommendations concerning legislative actions.

The speaker for the program was introduced by Bill Smith. R. Thomas Murphy is an Attorney and President of the Law Firm of R. Thomas Murphy and Associates, practicing in Franklin County. He is also a Board Certified Elder Law Attorney, by the National Elder Law Foundation.

Mr. Murphy began his speech by telling us the four documents which are important for all to have. These documents are a will, power of Attorney, Mental Health Power of Attorney, and a Living Will. He briefly discussed the reasons which each is important. The Mental Health Power of Attorney became necessary after the Legislature passed a bill requiring such.

A number of questions were asked. Can it be mandated that a person have a Power of Attorney. He answered that this cannot be mandated, but that it is highly recommended. When asked if a CCRC can mandate a Living Will, he said that this can be made a part of a community's contract. Some one asked where is the best place to put preferences for final arrangements. These can be stated in one's will, although it was noted that frequently, wills are not read until after the funeral. One can also record such requests in a stand alone directive, or by making pre-arrangements with a funeral director. He said that the Mental Health Power of Attorney cannot be simply part of a regular Power of Attorney, because of the recent state law. There is a standard form available for this POA. One can use the same agent for both the basic POA and the Mental Health POA, although many times different agents is better, because differing people have differing skills and interests. It was asked if POA's are recognized in every state. Some conflicts do exist. If there is any real doubt, it is probably best to have a second POA, which is not difficult or expensive. It was also noted that over time changing laws may require up dating one's POA.

Mr. Murphy spoke of the great importance of Long Term Care planning. When one is a resident of a CCRC or a Nursing Home, and runs out of funds, questions arise concerning gifting. "There is no free lunch!" It is important to reach a balance. If a spouse, whose mate is institutionalized, wants to maximize income and preservation of marital assets, or give gifts of cash or real estate to children, it is the U. S. tax payer and the community's benevolent care fund which pays the cost of nursing home care.

Some state's are beginning to use Act 43 to seek funds from families in cases where individual's funds have run out. This act permits the state to go after families for funds if the individual has become a ward of the state. This Act has primarily been used when a POA agent has taken funds belonging to the individual.

It was noted that the Federal government does not tax estates having less than 2 million dollars. Pennsylvania , however, imposes a 4 ½ % tax on every dollar. Pennsylvania does not make probate as difficult as many other states do.

President Tjiattas thanked Mr. Murphy for a very informative and interesting presentation. Then a delicious lunch was served. .

Clif Rau, the president of the Quincy Model Railroad Club, spoke about the history and plans of the club. The group started work about 2003 with an HO model about 4 by 8. Later a larger space became available. When PHI took over the administration of Quincy, 2 office spaces became available, and the club set up a typical holiday O gauge display in one room. A decorated Christmas tree is included in this display. Now, in the other room, the club is working on an HO gauge display. It is expected that approximately 5 to 7 years work lies ahead. There are 15 club members, with the men working on the railroad models and the ladies working on painting the background, building other plastic models and one writing a column titled *Keeping on Track*. The Administration provides the space, lighting, telephone and insurance . All other expenses are covered by donations. The club has three work session a week, from

9:00 to 12:30 with a coffee break at 10:30. Only two members had previous model railroad experience.

The agenda allowed for comments from the floor. A delegate from Homestead village asked if other communities had Memorial Gardens for the burial of cremated ashes. Four other communities indicated that they did. Masonic Village spoke of their Veterans Memorial Garden which is not for burial, but to honor veterans killed in action. Other communities spoke of gardens for meditation and as quiet places of beauty.

George Tjiattas began the reports from communities. Bethany Village has an outdoor display of trains which is available for residents in Assisted Living to enjoy. Also, volunteers in the Wood Shop have made platforms for handicapped residents to use for planting gardens. Cross Keys Village has a Garden Center, with the profits going to the Good Samaritan Fund. Masonic Village uses "D&E" for internet access and cell phones. It has a life time fee with no raises. Homewood at Plum Creek has free bus trips. A delegate asked if other communities charge for such trips. Many communities indicated that there were charges, often based on mileage and time involved. Woodcrest Villas has installed cameras for security. Landis Homes is using a program for memory loss called "M-Power" and finding it effective and easy to use. Several other communities are also using it and like it. Menno Haven has recently been reaccredited. Representation on the board is being given with each of the three villages, Menno, Penn Hall, and Northridge, nominating three residents and the Administration selecting one of the nominees to serve.

The next meeting will be at Sprenkle Village, York, PA on Wed. October 8th.

More News from Our Communities

Bethany Village

The most common question asked of residents who regularly work in the Village Woodshop is "What are you making?" The stock answer is "sawdust!!" In recent years, however, the woodworkers have made many articles of furniture for Bethany Village. Examples are communion tables, puzzle tables, lecterns, TV stands, mail boxes, and model railroad structures. Workers also repair furniture for residents, who in turn make monetary donations to help cover woodworking expenses.

Green Ridge Village

The auction committee is working throughout the summer in preparation for the second annual September auction. Tickets for this year's delicious dinner are \$25.00 each. The evening will include both a silent and live auction. Tickets are available now for the Pineapple Quilt raffle. The Quilt is on display in the Gift Shop.

Homewood at Plum Creek

The Men's Group at Homewood meets each Thursday from 9:00 am to 10:00 am, except Thanksgiving Day and the Thursday between Christmas and New Year's Day. The Steering Committee obtains speakers, and arranges four to six tours a year. Ladies are invited depending on the subject of speakers. The Group has enjoyed speakers from

Baltimore Ravens, a Pilot from Southwest Airlines, Key Supervisors of Homewood staff, and Superintendents of School Districts.

Landis Homes

Landis Homes Board of Directors Chairperson J. Kenneth Brubaker, of Geriatric Associates, has been honored for his care of seniors. Brubaker, who has practiced medicine in Lancaster County for 35 years, was named the 2008 Medical Director of the Year by the American Medical Directors Association (AMDA) in March, 2008. "Dr. Brubaker epitomizes the best in geriatric care, giving his heart and soul to his passion for older patient care," says his colleague, Dr. Leon Kraybill, who nominated Brubaker for the award.

Luther Ridge Retirement Community

On Wednesday, April 23rd, a total of 13 models, made up of residents, volunteers, and staff, piled into the Fleck Center's Community Room, where they would strut their stuff in a ladies' fashion show. All the clothes were provided by Bon Worth, a local ladies fashion store. More than 70 attended the event. According to Rachel Herrington, Executive Director, "The show was such a big hit that we are planning another show in the fall.

Captain Lester Jay Stone, a resident of Luther Ridge, is a man of many facets. A former Naval aviator, and an engineer, after retirement he became his own stonemason, lumberjack, photographer, mechanic, and carpenter. He became best known, however, in the Franklin County area as an artist. He is as well known for his Portraits as his marine subjects. After intensive research, he completed a commissioned painting for the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association of the *Bon Homme Richard*, named by John Paul Jones for Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanac*. His painting of a Japanese shrine on Eno Shima, was the first painting by a foreigner ever selected by the Japanese Watercolor Society.

Masonic Village

Arnold Stackhouse's love of planes began well over 25 years ago, when he started piloting them over the Susquehanna River in Havre de Grace, MD. At that time, he was a Maryland resident who flew single engine, sea and air planes that could take off and land on water. Arnold, now a resident of the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown, found himself wanting to take up a hobby that would keep his mind and body active. And so, the Masonic Village Radio-Controlled Model Airplane Club was born, with Arnold as president. The club currently has 23 members. The season begins in May and runs through November, with members meeting on Monday evenings at 7 pm, and Thursday mornings at 8 am. The Landscape Department graciously created a plot of ground adjacent to Brossman Pool, that is mowed extra short for the planes to take off and land. This spring, the club tried out a new venue for flying. The club spread their wings inside the Patton gymnasium with radio-controlled helicopters. "The helicopters are slower and smaller than the planes, so they work better indoors. If we get good at controlling these, we might invite some folks to sit in the bleachers to watch," Arnold said.

Sprenkle Village, York, PA

Two Lutheran Social Services employees, both staff members of the Village at Sprenkle Drive, have been named “Caregiver of the Year” in their respective categories by PANPHA. DeLonny Olphin and Ann Piccolo were recognized on June 19th at the annual PANPHA conference in Hershey..

Each Thursday, residents at Sprenkle Village have the assistance with their activities program from a group of students from the Manito York Academy who are fulfilling a requirement for community service. Each week five or six students help residents with basic activities including crafts, games and reading. Commented Jane Kapp, Volunteer Programs Coordinator, “When the students first came they were very shy around the residents. We had to suggest ways they could interact. Now you can see how much they have changed. They talk to the residents about their families and their history, and they help them move about without being asked. The residents and the students have grown attached to one another.”

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