



# Pennsylvania Alliance of Retirement Community Residents

Joan W. Martin, Newsletter Editor

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## ***The PARCR POST***

Welcome to ***The PARCR POST's*** July 2024 newsletter, featuring the following:

**President Lowell Starling** and incoming President Bob Newell share information with members about past and future activities of the organization and Board and staff position openings. [Click here](#)

**Operations Director Susan Martin** welcomes members to participate in an in-person Quarterly Meeting at Quincy Village in Waynesboro on July 10. Live streaming will also be available. She notes that members must register by July 1, 2024 for this meeting, and that online registration is now available. [Click here](#)

**Upcoming Meetings** are previewed as well as a NaCCRA update. [Click here](#)

**Legislative Affairs Director Joan W. Martin** reviews the 2024-25 budget status and opportunities for PARCR members to participate in advocacy with our partner, LeadingAge PA. [Click here](#)

**Information Sharing:** Quincy Village shares information about their community. [Click here](#)

**PARCR Leadership Team:** PARCR Board, Officers and Volunteer Staff. [Click here](#)

The October 2024 edition of ***THE PARCR POST, Issue 11.2***, will be released in late September, 2024. If you have an item to contribute, please ask your Community's Staff Contact Person to email [parcrpost@parcr.org](mailto:parcrpost@parcr.org) for details and guidelines. The deadline will be September 13, 2024.

# THE PARCR POST

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR

**P**ENNSYLVANIA **A**LLIANCE OF **R**ETIREMENT **C**OMMUNITY **R**ESIDENTS

## President's Message by Lowell Starling and Incoming President Bob Newell

### Message from Lowell:

#### Growth opportunities

I would like to share an update about the joint letter we and LeadingAge PA (LAPA) sent in March to 122 CCRCs that were members of only one organization and not the other. The goal was to build membership in both organizations to increase our ability to influence legislation and regulations. Jonathan Hollinger, CEO of Pleasant View, who is one of our advisors, signed the letter. So far only one community has responded to the letter and their Residents' Council is in the process of joining and plans to attend the July meeting via livestream. In the meantime, PARCR Vice President and President-Elect Bob Newell has been busy contacting (continued on page 2)

## Quarterly Meeting

July 10, 2024 at Quincy Village in  
Waynesboro, Franklin County

**10:00 Social Time with coffee and  
refreshments**

**10:30 to 12:30 in-person meeting  
(also live-streamed)**

**12:30 Lunch for those preregistered**

**1:15 Tours or Management Update**

**Presenter: Nick Patel, President of  
ThriveWell Tech**

**Topic: Artificial Intelligence and  
Other Emerging Technologies Impact  
on Seniors**

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## VISION STATEMENT

Recognized as an enhanced educational and  
informational environment for PA CCRC residents



Pennsylvania Alliance of  
Retirement Community Residents

## MISSION STATEMENT

Promote the exchange of ideas, education, and civic  
responsibilities of CCRC residents and encourage them  
to aid in decision making within their communities



**Lowell Starling**  
**PARCR President**  
*president@parcr.org*

communities where he has connections, and we anticipate adding five more new communities. We are working on expanding on his initiative to further grow our membership.

### **Online Meeting Registration and Payment expanded to include online membership processing.**

Given the prospect of potential growth and some of the challenges we have had with our current manual meeting registration and payment process, Dale Meadowcroft, our webmaster, built a prototype meeting registration and payment process. The prototype was successful, and we showed a demo of it to the board and deployment was approved on March 11, 2024. It was implemented successfully for the April Quarterly Meeting. For details, see the website report in the minutes of the March 11, 2024, board meeting or the April edition of *THE PARCR POST*. Since then, we have moved the membership application process for community and individual members to the same online processing capability and they are now live. For details see the Website in the June Board minutes.

### **Successful April Quarterly Meeting**

We had a very successful meeting with high attendance and the meeting got mostly positive reviews in our post meeting survey. The presentation on CCRC Finances was well received and the survey results were extremely positive. We did have some technical issues that highlighted our dependence on the ca-

pabilities of the host community for our meetings.

### **Contact at PA Department of Insurance**

We are still working on getting a meeting with Karen Veronikis in the PA Department of Insurance. We hope to have her speak at one of our 2025 Quarterly meetings.

### **Board Turnover**

June 30 is the end of our fiscal year, and the end of terms for some officers and board members. I did not stand for re-election as President at the June board meeting and Treasurer Terry DiGruttolo also did not stand for re-election as Treasurer. Current Vice President Bob Newell has been elected President, and Dale Meadowcroft has been elected Treasurer. Also, Joan Martin, who is our Legislative Affairs Director and Editor of *The PARCR POST* has been elected Vice President. Monte Avery has been reelected to another term as Secretary. Terry and Susan DiGruttolo from Masonic Village and Charley Sproule from Bethany Village did not stand for reelection to the board. Barbara Berk from Masonic Village and Keith Stuckey from Moravian Manor have been elected to two of the open board positions. We still have two board openings. Also, the staff position of Meeting Coordinator is now open. Job descriptions for all PARCR positions are posted on our website: [www.parcr.org](http://www.parcr.org).

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**Lowell Starling**  
**PARCR President**  
*president@parcr.org*

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### **Message from Bob Newell:**

As PARCR starts a new year and a new leadership team, it is important to acknowledge the last couple of years of leadership from Lowell Starling and his team. During the last PARCR Board meeting, Lowell shared a few of the obstacles PARCR faced when he took over as the President of the Board. At that time, there was a concern whether PARCR was going to be able to continue in operation. Despite the challenges, PARCR is stronger and has direction for the future.

Just a few of the accomplishments by Lowell's team and PARCR include:

- New PARCR By-laws
- Complete PARCR Strategic Plan, presented to PARCR membership
- Moved PARCR from an organization focused on community education to an organization also advocating for issues of importance to our communities and residents
- Developed a working symbiotic relationship with LeadingAge PA
- Implemented the use of LeadingAge PA's Voter Voice to get messages of importance to our legislators
- Began the process of changing communities' management's perception of PARCR from being an adversary to being a partner
- Built a bench strength of new board members to continue the work

We would like to thank and acknowledge the

members who have contributed to PARCR's past work and have now decided to step down:

- Terry DiGruttolo – Treasurer
- Charles Sproule – Meeting Coordinator and Board Member
- Gail Stelger – Legislative Affairs Director and Board Member
- Susan DiGruttolo – Board Member
- Bill Stegler – Program Director and Board Member

### **Now for the future:**

Now that PARCR has momentum, we are committed to continuing the programs started over the last couple of years. We are planning to have a strategy meeting in August to make sure we are addressing those pressing issues that are important to our communities. A few of those issues are:

- Membership growth
- Medicaid funding
- PARCR's role in workforce challenges
- Strengthening LeadingAge PA relationship
- Promoting Resident Bill of Rights
- Continuing legislative advocacy
- Increasing communities that have residents as voting board members

*Lowell Starling*  
 Outgoing President

*Bob Newell*  
 Incoming President



**Susan Martin**  
**PARCR Operations Director**  
**[operations@parcr.org](mailto:operations@parcr.org)**

We are beginning PARCR's new fiscal year, July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. Communities and individual members have been renewing their memberships for 2024-2025. All memberships were due by June 30, 2024. If yours has not been submitted, be sure to send your renewal payment to be certain you receive notice of the meetings and *THE PARCR POST*. We want to keep you abreast of the events and actions of PARCR and legislative actions that affect our communities.

PARCR is moving forward with online renewal and meeting registration processes. The communities and individuals are able to complete their membership renewal or registration for meetings online and make a credit card payment. If you do not desire to use the online process, you do have the option to complete the form, print, and mail the form to the Operations Director with your check.

The Board continues to offer the options of attending the meetings in person at the host community or via livestreaming. The meeting attendees have the option following the meeting to enjoy lunch and select to either tour the host community or receive updates on PARCR's management strategies

and mission in serving the CCRC communities of Pennsylvania.

The community membership is comprised of three individuals who serve as the liaisons between their community residents and the PARCR Board. We invite and encourage Individual residents who are interested in the programming and legislative advocacy of the organization to also become PARCR members to support the organization.

There are two open positions on the Board. The staff position of meeting coordinator is also open. The job descriptions are posted on the website.

*Susan Martin*

PARCR Operations Director



## Upcoming Meetings & NaCCRA Update

### October 9, 2024 Quarterly Meeting

The October meeting will be held at Pleasant View Communities in Manheim PA. The keynote speaker will be Brian Roche, investigative reporter and anchor for WGAL Channel 8. He will be speaking on Frauds and Scams that impact seniors. In addition, we will get updates from LeadingAge PA and NaCCRA. Also, a Pleasant View representative will give us highlights of their community.

Quarterly PARCR Meeting Date	Meeting Location
Wed. Jan. 8, 2025	Bethany Village, Mechanicsburg, PA
Wed. April 9, 2025	Messiah Lifeways, Mechanicsburg, PA
Wed. July 9, 2025	Londonderry Village, Palmyra, PA

*If your community has the needed facilities and is willing to host a meeting, please contact the meeting coordinator at [mtgcoord@parcr.org](mailto:mtgcoord@parcr.org). Information on the facilities, equipment and services needed to host a meeting will be provided to the interested host communities.*

### NaCCRA Update

PARCR member Dan Seeger has completed his term as the President of the National Continuing Care Residents Association (NaCCRA). The new President is Luana Pinasco of Santa Rosa, California. She is enthusiastic about protecting our aging senior population and identifies three minimum considerations:

- Residents or their advisors must be able to readily understand the financial risk associated with their investments in the community.
- The contracts that seniors must sign to enter these communities should provide for and spell out consumer protections and resident rights as well as the responsibilities of both the resident and the provider.
- The providers/operators should have to engage seniors; allowing, empowering, and encouraging their participation on the committees or governing boards of their respective community organizations .





**Joan W. Martin**  
**PARCR Legislative Affairs Director**  
*legislative@parcr.org*

The Pennsylvania General Assembly continues its work on the Budget for the Commonwealth for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024. The Governor's budget did not include any increase to Medicaid funding for a rate increase for nursing homes or for the LIFE program. LeadingAge PA is strongly advocating on the need for additional Medicaid funding for a 3.5% (\$70 Million) rate increase for nursing homes.

LeadingAge PA has launched its Voter Voice tool that includes messaging tailored for residents of CCRCs to communicate with their State Representative and Senator. Go to [LeadingAge PA \(votervoicenet\)](https://www.leadingagepa.org/votervoicenet) to see the prepared letter and to read more background information about the budget request. There is a text box for a personal impact message, and the letter can be edited to add information or change it before sending.

The PARCR Leadership Team urges our membership to participate in the advocacy efforts of our partner, LeadingAge PA.

LeadingAge PA held their annual Lobby Day in Harrisburg on June 4, 2024 to show support for their funding requests, with a legislative reception and art show the night before.

PARCR Board members Lowell Starling, Joan Martin, Bob Newell, and Karen Overly Smith participated, along with CCRC residents from Messiah Village. Thank you to all who stood on the steps of the Capitol Rotunda with us and who met with their legislators.



L to R, Ginny Martin, Lowell Starling, Patsy Smyth, PA House 115th District Representative Maureen Madden, and Chris Smith

Please reach out to me (address above) or to Austin Cawley at [acawley@leadingagepa.org](mailto:acawley@leadingagepa.org) with questions.

*Joan W. Martin*

PARCR Legislative Affairs Director



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Quincy Village is part of Presbyterian Senior Living's network of distinctive Life Plan communities. This unique community offers programs, activities, clubs, and events providing entertainment, education, and enrichment opportunities. The community's commitment to purposeful living and well-being includes outstanding dining options, supportive care services, and cultural opportunities.

Residents also appreciate the convenient location close to downtown Waynesboro and Chambersburg, PA as well as Hagerstown, MD. This easy access provides additional options for recreational, educational, healthcare, shopping, and cultural activities.

Many residents share discovering new experiences, rekindling old hobbies and making new friends. John shared, "My first thought of a retirement community was you didn't do anything."

"But then when we first got here, I looked at the newsletter and they have poker, they have pool, they go on bus trips, they have bingo, they have game night, they have fishing. I haven't fished in 25 years and now almost every weekend we're down at the creek fishing."

"They keep me moving. I've met a lot of different people at all the different events. I've made a lot of really good friends."

Another resident, Sharon, added that life at Quincy Village is more than just retirement; it has been a journey of growth and fulfillment. In addition to continuing her life-long habits of walking and gardening, Sharon discovered outlets for volunteering on campus. She noted that with the numerous activities and freedom-from-maintenance lifestyle, you can be as active – or inactive – as you choose. "The campus has encouraged the friends we know to be out and about even more than they were before moving to Quincy Village," she said.

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Above, Sharon enjoying the garden

Quincy Village is dedicated to meeting the changing needs of seniors in the region at all levels of living. Enhancements have been made in Independent Living by offering new open-style cottage floor plans. Charter House Apartments is perfect for those seeking convenience and comfort in a worry-free setting. Parker House Assisted Living at Quincy Village is an innovative “small house” concept and the first licensed Assisted Living in the region. Serving 16 residents, the residential-style home promotes independence, enabling residents to age in place. Parker House also offers memory support services.

Additional on-campus supportive services include Personal Care, Transitional Care and Skilled Nursing.

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There truly is something for everyone at Quincy Village. The campus also features an affordable senior apartment option for qualifying moderate-to-low-income seniors 55 and over. With a focus on more than just accommodations, supportive services can be coordinated to help residents with food assistance, prescription assistance, and other entitlement applications as well as community social activities.

Whichever home people choose at Quincy Village, the community is committed to supporting and encouraging all residents to thrive, to pursue passions, find new interests, and engage in purposeful living.

Cottages, below left, and Parker House Assisted Living, below right.



## PARCR LEADERSHIP TEAM

OFFICERS	BOARD MEMBERS	VOLUNTEER STAFF	ADVISORS
President <i>Robert Newell</i> Moravian Manor	<i>Gene Burk</i> Village at Kelly Drive <i>Keith R. Stuckey</i> Moravian Manor	Legislative Affairs Director and Newsletter Editor <i>Joan W. Martin</i> Homestead Village	<i>Jonathan Hollinger</i> President/CEO Pleasant View Communities
Vice President <i>Joan W. Martin</i> Homestead Village	<i>Karen Overly Smith</i> Messiah Village <i>Mike Vandenberg</i> Kirkland Village	Operations Director <i>Susan Martin</i> Normandie Ridge	<i>Steve Lindsey</i> , CEO Garden Spot Communities
Secretary <i>Monte Avery</i> Bethany Village	<i>Jim Markell</i> Quincy Village <i>Lowell Starling</i> Bethany Village	Program Director <i>Lowell Starling</i> Meeting Coordinator <i>Vacant</i>	<i>Larry Zook</i> President/CEO Landis Communities
Treasurer <i>Dale Meadowcroft</i> Bethany Village	<i>John Berk, PhD</i> Masonic Village <i>Barbara Berk</i> Masonic Village	<i>Board Member</i> Vacant <i>Board Member</i> Vacant	Webmaster <i>Dale Meadowcroft</i> Bethany Village

## OFFICIAL WEBSITES & CONTACTS

LeadingAge PA: [www.leadingagepa.org](http://www.leadingagepa.org)

*Austin Cawley, Director, Legislative Affairs*

NaCCRA (National Continuing Care Residents Association): [www.naccra.com](http://www.naccra.com)

*Daniel A. Seeger, Past President and PARCR Representative*

## THE PARCR POST INFORMATION

**THE PARCR POST** is a quarterly newsletter for **PENNSYLVANIA ALLIANCE OF RETIREMENT COMMUNITY RESIDENTS**. Its purpose is to share PARCR information and ideas/happenings from PARCR member CCRCs. If you are a PARCR Member Community Staff Contact and would like to share an article of interest from your community, contact the editor at [parcrpost@parcr.org](mailto:parcrpost@parcr.org).

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