



# Pennsylvania Alliance of Retirement Community Residents

Joan W. Martin, Newsletter Editor

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## ***The PARCR POST***

Welcome to ***The PARCR POST's*** April 2025 newsletter, featuring the following:  
**President Bob Newell** shares information with members about the strategic plan, future activities of the organization and two open Board positions. [Click here](#)

**New Members** are listed and welcomed to PARCR. [Click here.](#)

**Operations Director Susan Martin** welcomes members to participate in an in-person Quarterly Meeting at Messiah Lifeways in Mechanicsburg, PA on April 9, 2025. Zoom will also be available. She notes that members must register by March 31, 2025 for this meeting, and that online registration is now available.

[Click here](#)

**Upcoming Meetings** are previewed. [Click here](#)

**Legislative Affairs Director Joan W. Martin** reviews the state and federal budgets.

[Click here](#)

**Information Sharing:** Kirkland Village shares their Climate Change Committee's activities and report. Members are encouraged to submit articles. [Click here](#)

**Community Spotlight:** Messiah Lifeways in Mechanicsburg shares information.

[Click here.](#)

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

The July 2025 edition of ***THE PARCR POST, Issue 12.1***, will be released in late June, 2025. 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 June 13, 2025.

# THE PARCR POST

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR

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

## President's Message by Bob Newell

The PARCR Board continues to work on the Strategic Objectives established last year to achieve the Mission and Vision of the organization.

Those goals are:

1. Strengthening Organizational Infrastructure
2. Enhancing Education and Information Sharing
3. Improving the Organization's Image
4. Growing our membership
5. Pursuing Advocacy Opportunities

The Board has enacted a number of changes and improvements to date. Updates on objectives 4 and 5 are below:  
(continued on page 2)

## Quarterly Meeting

**April 9, 2025 at Messiah Lifeways in Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County**

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

**10:30 to 12:30 in-person meeting (also by Zoom)**

**12:30 Lunch for those preregistered**

**1:15 Tour of Messiah Lifeways**

**Presenter: Craig Hatch, Esq., a Certified Elder Law Attorney (CELA).**

**Topic: "What Happens When I Run Out of Money,"**

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Pennsylvania Alliance of  
Retirement Community Residents

## VISION STATEMENT

Recognized as an enhanced educational and informational environment for PA CCRC 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



**Bob Newell**  
**PARCR President**  
*president@parcr.org*

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### **Membership Growth Initiatives**

PARCR is actively pursuing membership growth as a primary strategic focus. Currently, we have 35 CCRC Community Members and over 70 individual members. Our ambitious goal is to reach 45 Community members by the fiscal year end (June 30, 2025). The New Member Task Force is refining the recruitment process, with all PARCR Board members now involved. Our out-reach has been well received, and we have invited prospective member communities to be our guest at an upcoming quarterly meeting. I invite you to share with them the value you see in being a PARCR member. We welcome recommendations for potential new members from our current members.

### **Advocacy and Policy**

While we've paused our campaign for a state program to incentivize quality care in health centers through Medicaid bonuses in order to focus on emergent issues, we remain committed to this long-term goal. Our next steps include fact-finding and gathering stakeholders to develop a comprehensive plan. We continue to monitor proposed changes in Medicare and Medicaid payment systems at both the federal and state levels and will advocate for the financial health and stability of our communities alongside our partner, LeadingAge PA. We will communicate important and timely information with you through emailed Alerts including requests to

communicate with your elected officials through Voter Voice.

PARCR is still looking for two Board members. If interested, please contact any Board member. No special skills are required for these positions. Quarterly Board meetings are held both in-person and via zoom. The terms are two years.

Since the last newsletter, PARCR has added one new community member: SpiriTrust Lutheran Village at Gettysburg. Welcome! We look forward to their contribution to PARCR. For more information, see page three.

PARCR's upcoming Quarterly meeting presenters will provide information for our communities and our members. Please see page five for topic, date, and location details.

All meetings feature updates from LeadingAge PA and NaCCRA, as well as insights into the host communities, including facility tours. Meeting presentations are posted on our website, [www.parcr.org](http://www.parcr.org).

We look forward to your continued engagement and support as we work towards strengthening PARCR and advocating for retirement community residents across Pennsylvania.

May everyone enjoy a beautiful spring.

*Bob Newell*  
 President



## Welcome New Community Members!

The PARCR Board of Directors welcomes one new community that has joined the organization since the previous newsletter:

SpiriTrust Lutheran Village at Gettysburg is a Life Plan community serving seniors ages 62+ in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Get to know them [here](#).

They join four other SpiriTrust Lutheran Village Communities as PARCR members:

The Village at Kelley Drive, York

The Village at Luther Ridge, Chambersburg

The Village at Shrewsbury, York County

The Village at Sprenkle Drive, York

All of PARCR's 35 community members are listed on our website at [www.parc.org/member-communities](http://www.parc.org/member-communities). The PARCR Board of Directors continues to conduct targeted outreach to Life Plan (CCRC) Communities across Pennsylvania to educate them about PARCR and its benefits, and to invite them to join us. Our goal is to strengthen the organization by increasing our membership.

Current members are encouraged to share information with communities that are not yet members. PARCR Board members are available to follow-up with any interested communities with membership details. Please send follow-up requests to [operations@parc.org](mailto:operations@parc.org).



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

### **Quarterly Meeting Registration**

The April Quarterly Meeting will be held April 9, 2025, at Messiah Lifeways in Mechanicsburg. Registration for the meeting opened on Monday, March 17 with the options to register online and pay with credit/debit card or to print the registration form and mail with payment. The deadline for registering is March 31. Those registering to attend the meeting via Zoom will receive the link for the meeting on Monday, April 7.

It is important for communities registering multiple attendees to include the email address of each attendee. We appreciate feedback in the survey following the meeting from every attendee.

### **Membership Renewal**

April is the time to think about renewing community and individual memberships in PARCR. PARCR's fiscal year is July 1 to June 30. The applications will be available on the website. You have the option of completing the application online or printing the application and submitting it with payment through the mail. The community membership of \$60 entitles three individuals to serve as community liaisons.

### **Roles and Responsibilities of a Liaison**

The liaisons are the point of contact between the PARCR Board of Directors and their community residents. A liaison is responsible to help groups work effectively with each other. The community liaisons are expected to attend the quarterly meetings and share the presenters' information with the community residents. The president of the Council or Association may serve as one of the three liaisons, or another individual may be selected to fill the third position if the president is unable to attend the quarterly meetings. The Board wants to keep the presidents informed and maintain a connection with them.

The Board requests that liaisons inform the Operations Director of any liaison position changes. The liaisons, in addition to attending the quarterly meetings, receive the notices of meetings, the newsletter, legislative updates, and other pertinent information which is to be shared with their residents.

Individual community residents who are interested in PARCR may apply for membership. Individuals who have served as community liaisons are encouraged to continue their involvement in the organization when their liaison community responsibilities have concluded. (continued on page 5)



## Upcoming Meetings

### July 9, 2025 Quarterly Meeting

The July meeting will be held at Londonderry Village, Palmyra, PA. The keynote speaker will be Ms. Luana Pinasco, President, NaCCRA, via Zoom. In addition, we will get updates from LeadingAge PA. Also, a Londonderry Village representative will give us highlights of their community.

Quarterly PARCR Meeting Date	Meeting Location
Wednesday October 8, 2025	Masonic Village, Elizabethtown
Wednesday January 7, 2026	Bethany Village, Mechanicsburg
Wednesday April 8, 2026	To Be Determined

***If your community has the needed facilities and is willing to host a meeting, please contact the meeting coordinator, Lowell Starling, at [mtgcoord@parcr.org](mailto:mtgcoord@parcr.org) or 717.712.6773. Information on the facilities, equipment, and services needed to host a meeting will be provided to the interested host communities. Ask for "Meeting Arrangement Notes."***

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The liaisons and the individual members have access on the website to the presentations following the quarterly meetings.

Please contact me at the email above with any questions.

*Susan Martin*

PARCR Operations Director





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

## State and Federal Budgets

### State Budget 2025-2026

On Tuesday February 4, 2025, Governor Shapiro addressed the General Assembly and presented his proposed budget for the Commonwealth for fiscal year 2025-2026. The budget is a \$51.5 billion General Fund that represents an 8% increase over the current budget. The budget documents can be accessed at this [link](#).

The General Assembly held Appropriations Committee hearings in February and March, providing additional detail. Both chambers have begun work on a budget bill that must pass by June 30, 2025. Without an enacted budget, some state funding is on hold, but Medicaid payments continue. Highlights of interest to PARCR members include:

An almost \$3 million investment in *Aging Our Way, PA* initiatives to modernize the PA Link program providing information on community resources

\$15.3 million in State funding for the cost of complying with federal nursing facility staffing requirements in both the fee-for-service and managed care programs

The federal matching rate for Medicaid

spending in Pennsylvania increased by about 1%, requiring slightly less state funding per healthcare dollar.

LeadingAge PA continues to advocate for an additional \$139 million in state funding which would support an increase in the Budget Adjustment Factor for nursing facility payments. The organization plans a State Lobby Day on June 10, 2025, at the Capitol.

PARCR will keep its members informed about advocacy opportunities to support funding for programs for seniors, including messages through Voter Voice.

### Federal Budget 2024-2025

On March 15, 2025, President Trump signed a continuing resolution (CR) that continues funding for the federal government for 2024-2025 through September 30, 2025, which is the end of the fiscal year. The bill, H.R. 1968, "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" is available [here](#). The bill includes a small increase in defense funding and about \$13 billion in cuts to non-defense programs. The stop-gap measure avoids a partial government shut-down (mandatory spending such as Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security would continue)

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

## State and Federal Budgets

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during which the President has the authority to determine which workers and agencies are deemed essential until either a CR or budget reconciliation measure is passed.

A reconciliation budget is the usual mechanism that Congress uses when it is unable to enact its 13 separate budget bills by September 30. Continuing Resolutions are typically several weeks or months to keep the government operating until the appropriations bills are passed by both chambers.

The CR enacted on March 15, 2025 avoids proposed reconciliation instructions to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce to cut at least \$880 billion in fiscal years 2025 through 2034 in programs under its jurisdiction. The Congressional Budget Office issued a letter regarding the proposed cuts that confirms that because Medicaid makes up 93% of the committee's spending, it would result in a devastating impact on the program.

Other policy and funding changes were included in proposed reconciliation language that would have dire impacts on states, providers, seniors, and their families. LeadingAge National developed advocacy messag-

ing to oppose proposals to cut Medicaid funding and access through per capita caps, block grants, Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) reductions, work requirements, or a decrease in provider taxes. Additional information is found at [LeadingAge](#).

At this time, the President has not presented his budget proposals for the federal fiscal year October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026. When available, It will be posted on the White House Office of Management and Budget [page](#).

Please reach out to me (address above) with questions.

*Joan W. Martin*

PARCR Legislative Affairs Director





## *Environmental Stewardship Sharing*

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### **Climate Change at Kirkland Village**

Some time ago, a group of residents at Kirkland Village, located in Bethlehem, PA, formed a committee to consider ways in which Kirkland could reduce its contribution to climate change. We gathered information and formulated plans to this end. A few months ago we prepared a one-page summary of our conclusions and recommendations. It was circulated to all residents.

Highlights of our Climate Committee report are below:

#### **Preamble**

Human activity has already produced climate change that is harmful. If the release of carbon dioxide and methane continues at present levels, the effects on all life on our planet will be disastrous. The United States has contributed more to climate change than any other nation. Even today, the United States contributes more **per person** than other major countries. Therefore, it is incumbent on us to take dramatic action to reduce the harm that we do (even if it hurts us financially).

The things we can, and should, do are at three levels: National, Local, and Individual. In this context, Local means Kirkland and our community.

**National Actions** include monitoring and advocacy regarding policies and decisions related to climate change.

**Local/Community Actions** include dietary, energy conservation, and coalition building.

**Individual Actions** include recommendations for good stewardship of our resources and energy conservation such as awareness of our carbon footprint in diet, travel, and water usage. In addition, sharing these recommendations with family and friends is urged.

When we circulated this summary, we also provided contact information for the elected officials in our area so that residents could contact them.

Our committee is interested in whether other PARCR member communities are doing something similar – and, if not, we encourage them to consider doing so.

For additional information or a copy of the full report, please contact Alwyn Eades at [jae5@lehigh.edu](mailto:jae5@lehigh.edu)



Messiah Lifeways is a non-profit organization headquartered in Mechanicsburg, PA, that provides a network of services for adults 55 and better living in South Central PA. Our services include everything from independent living in cottages and apartments to the full continuum of care, Adult Day Services, At Home caregiving and support, rehab, Wellness classes, continuing education opportunities with Pathways Institute for Lifelong Learning, and much more.



Our roots trace back to 1896, when the Brethren in Christ Church founded Messiah Home in Harrisburg, PA to serve older adults with Christ-like love.

From the beginning, we have been committed to changing the conversation about aging to encourage others to see growing older as a time of life that can be full of adventure and purpose.

We see this desire for a retirement of leisure with active lifestyles and resort-like amenities noted in industry research on the evolving wants and needs of older adults. Changing alongside these industry trends, we are excited about new (continued on page 10)



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activity and amenity offerings at Messiah Village including karaoke nights, a media room for movies, and a video game room, which will soon be unveiled in our new Bailey Street Apartments. In addition, we are in the process of building a new satellite campus, Fernecrest.

In October 2023, Messiah Lifeways purchased 85 acres of farmland in New Cumberland, PA, which will soon become Fernecrest, and we began marketing and preselling the cottages and apartments in the summer of 2024. We are excited to share that we currently have 70 people as part of our Priority Club—approved applicants interested in making a floorplan selection/deposit—and have had 33 people reserve and/or make a deposit to call Fernecrest home.



Fernecrest will offer 131 residential living units and 15 floor plans, from spacious apartments to well-appointed courtyard homes, duplex homes, and estate homes. In addition to access to continuing care if/when residents need it, amenities of Fernecrest will include a lounge-style restaurant and café, a fitness studio, outdoor seating areas, firepits, prime access to the world-renowned Yellow Breeches Creek, and more. (continued on page 11)



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To build further excitement among current residents, prospects, and wait listers, we welcomed these groups onto the property for tours of the farmland and an opportunity to envision our plans for the new campus. We also held a ceremonial groundbreaking ceremony in November 2024.



We anticipate construction of a sample cottage being completed in the fall with the first residents of Fernecrest moving in around mid-2027.



## PARCR LEADERSHIP TEAM

OFFICERS	BOARD MEMBERS	VOLUNTEER STAFF	ADVISORS/OTHERS
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>Raymond Pepe</i> Bethany Village	Operations Director <i>Susan Martin</i> Normandie Ridge	<i>Steve Lindsey</i> , CEO Garden Spot Communities <i>Larry Zook</i> , President/CEO Landis Communities
Secretary <i>Monte Avery</i> Bethany Village	<i>Jim Markell</i> Quincy Village <i>Lowell Starling</i> Bethany Village	Program Director <i>John Berk</i> Meeting Coordinator <i>Lowell Starling</i>	Marketing Director <i>Vacant</i>
Treasurer <i>Dale Meadowcroft</i> Bethany Village	<i>John Berk, PhD</i> Masonic Village <i>Barbara Berk</i> Masonic Village	<i>Board Member</i> <i>Vacant</i> <i>Board Member</i> <i>Vacant</i>	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)

*Richmond Shreve, 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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