



Pennsylvania Alliance of Retirement Community Residents

Joan W. Martin, Newsletter Editor

parcrpost@parcr.org

The PARCR POST

Welcome to ***The PARCR POST's*** October 2025 newsletter, featuring the following:

President Bob Newell shares information with members about current and future activities of the organization, a new Board member, and one open Board position. [Click here](#)

Operations Director Susan Martin welcomes members to participate in an in-person Quarterly Meeting at Masonic Village in Elizabethtown PA on October 8, 2025. Zoom will also be available. She notes that members must register by October 1, 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 status of state and federal budgets, and Medicaid advocacy. [Click here](#)

New Member Spotlight and NaCCRA News Read about EverTrue Luther Crest [Click here](#)

Community Spotlight: Our host, Masonic Village, shares information. [Click here.](#)

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

The January 2026 edition of ***THE PARCR POST, Issue 12.3***, will be released in December, 2025. If you have an item to contribute, please ask your Community's Staff Contact Person to email parcrpost@parcr.org for details and guidelines. The deadline will be November 21, 2025.

THE PARCR POST

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR

PENNSYLVANIA **A**LLIANCE OF **R**ETIREMENT **C**OMMUNITY **R**ESIDENTS

President's Message by Bob Newell

Dear PARCR Members,

We made it through an eventful summer—hot, humid, and at times very wet! Like many of you, I'm looking forward to cooler temperatures, crisp fall air, and my favorite season of the year.

Audio/Visual Improvements

In my last report, I mentioned that we were working on improving our hybrid meeting technology. I am pleased to share the progress:

- The **Board, Executive Committee, and AV Task Force** (Karen Overly-Smith, Joan Martin, and Richmond Shreve) collaborated to set a budget, purchase equipment, and begin testing.
 - We successfully used the new system during our recent Board meeting.
- (continued on page 2)

Quarterly Meeting

October 8, 2025 at Masonic Village in Elizabethtown

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 Masonic Village

Presenters: Representatives of PA Department Of Aging/Governor Josh Shapiro, invited

Topic: "Implementation of Aging Our Way, PA"

In This Issue

President's Message	1-2
Meeting/Membership News	3
Upcoming Meetings	4
Budget Update	5
New Member Spotlight	6
NaCCRA News	6
Community Highlight	7-9
PARCR Information Page	10



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

(continued from page 1)

Two setups are now in place:

- **Board Meetings** – 12 to 18 in person and 3 to 4 on Zoom
- **Quarterly Meetings** – 75 to 90 in person and 25 to 36 on Zoom

While hybrid AV systems are always complex, we are confident the new equipment will greatly improve the experience. Thank you for your patience as we continue testing and learning, especially when meetings are hosted in different communities.

Our ultimate goal: Use Zoom exclusively for all hybrid meetings, allowing full interaction from both in-person and online participants. Stay tuned—we're committed to getting this right!

Board Updates

We are delighted to welcome **Josh Stroup** in his new role as PARCR Secretary. Many thanks to **Monte Avery**, who requested to step down after 3½ years of outstanding service as Secretary. Monte will remain on the Board and assist Josh with the transition.

New Board Member – Marlin Gible

We are pleased to welcome **Marlin Gible**, a resident of Pleasant View Communities as our newest board member. He previously served as President of their Resident Council for three years and is currently co-chair of the *Heart of Community Campaign Commit-*

tee for the Hoffer Farm project. I had the privilege to participate with Marlin for a couple years in a CCRA Presidents Group and found his input valuable. Marlin joins us with strong support from Jonathan Hollinger, CEO & President of Pleasant View Communities and a valued PARCR Advisor.

NaCCRA Membership Updates

Each PARCR community will now hold an **individual NaCCRA membership**, granting access to NaCCRA resources, newsletters (electronic), and Zoom presentations.

NaCCRA Representation

Richmond Shreve (Pennswood Village) will now serve as our **NaCCRA representative**, succeeding **Dan Seeger**. Richmond will provide regular updates from NaCCRA to PARCR.

Upcoming Quarterly Meetings

October 8, 2025 at Masonic Village
“Aging Our Way, PA”

A representative from the Department of Aging will present an update on the implementation of Aging Our Way, PA. Also, Governor Josh Shapiro has been invited to join us if his schedule permits.

January 14, 2026 at Bethany Village

Lori Dierolf, Open Door Training & Development, will present: **“Is it Normal Aging or is it Dementia?”** which is part of her informative three-part educational series.

(continued on page 4)



Susan Martin
PARCR Operations Director
operations@parcr.org

The October 8, 2025 Quarterly Meeting will be held at Masonic Village in Elizabethtown. Registration is now open with a deadline of October 1. Register for the meeting at parcr.org under the “Events” tab, either on-line or by mail. The lunch cost has been standardized at \$20. Those registering to attend the meeting via Zoom will receive the link to join on Monday, October 6. After the meeting, attendees will receive a survey – we appreciate your feedback so that we can ensure PARCR is meeting our members’ expectations.

PARCR has 36 community members and is still growing. The most recent community to join is EverTrue Luther Crest which is located in Allentown. Luther Crest was formerly under Lutheran Senior Services. Welcome, EverTrue Luther Crest, to the Pennsylvania Alliance of Retirement Community Residents. See page 6 for more information on our newest member community.

The Board of Directors has established new annual membership dues of \$30 per individual member and \$90 per community effective January 1, 2026. Current members will renew at this rate on July 1, 2026.

PARCR also welcomes a new secretary, Josh Stroup, who is a resident of the Moravian

Manor Communities in Lititz. Josh replaces Monte Avery who served as the secretary for several years. Josh is working with a new format in the preparation of the minutes. Provide us with your feedback on the new presentation.

The Board has reviewed your emails and your feedback on the meeting surveys. In follow-up, the Executive Committee has approved and is moving forward with a solution to the technical issues experienced at the host community sites for the board and quarterly meetings. PARCR will be building its own Hybrid AV System that will be portable and not dependent on the host communities’ AV systems. The system will prevent feedback and support quality hybrid communication for the Zoom and onsite participants. The Board will begin working with the system for the Board meeting in September and the October Quarterly Meeting.

It is PARCR’s vision and mission to serve its Continuing Care Retirement Community and individual members as an educational resource, a collective voice in advocacy opportunities, and a collaborative base for networking.

Susan Martin
 PARCR Operations Director



Upcoming Meetings

January 14, 2026 Quarterly Meeting

The January meeting will be held at Bethany Village, Mechanicsburg, PA. The scheduled program will be a presentation by Lori Dierolf, President Open Door Training and Development on “Is it Normal Aging or is it Dementia?” In addition, we will get legislative and advocacy updates from LeadingAge PA. Also, a Bethany Village representative will give us highlights of their community.

Quarterly PARCR Meeting Date	Meeting Location
Wednesday April 8, 2026	To Be Determined
Wednesday, July 8, 2026	Garden Spot Village
Wednesday, October 14, 2026	To Be Determined

If your community has the needed facilities and is willing to host a meeting, please contact the meeting coordinator, Karen Overly Smith, at mtgcoord@parcr.org. Information on the facilities, equipment, and services needed to host a meeting can be found at parcr.org under the “About Us” tab entitled “Meeting Arrangement Notes.”

(continued from page 2)

“Workforce of the Future” and “Actuarial Reviews of CCRCs – Are They Necessary?”

If you have suggestions, please contact John Berk at program@parcr.org.

Volunteer Opportunities

Finally, I want to remind everyone that we are seeking one new Board Member. If you have any questions or are interested, please reach out to me, and I look forward to seeing you at the October meeting. Stay safe!

Bob Newell
PARCR President



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

State and Federal Budgets

State Budget 2025-2026

At press time, the General Assembly continues to negotiate a budget for the Commonwealth for fiscal year 2025-2026 which began on July 1, 2025. The Governor's proposed 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](#).

Despite signs in late August that the Governor and legislative leaders were making progress on the state budget, a final budget agreement remains elusive, according to LeadingAge PA's contacts close to negotiations in Harrisburg. The Senate is scheduled to return to session in early September, and we are likely to hear more about where negotiations stand when they are in town. [Click here](#) to follow the budget impasse and ongoing developments using a budget tracker.

Highlights of interest to PARCR members include:

Asking for an almost \$3 million investment in *Aging Our Way*, PA initiatives to modernize the PA Link program that provides information on community resources.

Proposing a \$15.3 million increase 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 proposed budget reflects an increase in the federal matching rate for Medicaid spending in Pennsylvania of 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.

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

View LeadingAge advocacy on federal budget and regulatory issues that affect seniors [here](#).

Please reach out to me with questions.

Joan W. Martin

PARCR Legislative Affairs Director



New Member Spotlight

EverTrue Luther Crest

Our newest community member is EverTrue Luther Crest located at 800 Hausman Road, Allentown, PA, 18104, in the heart of the Lehigh Valley.

Their services include Independent Living, Personal Care, Memory Support, and a Care Center providing round-the-clock care and rehabilitation. It is one of four EverTrue communities in Pennsylvania. Other EverTrue Life Plan communities are located in Illinois and Missouri.

View more information about EverTrue Luther Crest at their website: <https://www.evertrueliving.org/luther-crest/>.

“EverTrue Luther Crest offers unparalleled amenities and care, while also providing warmth and fellowship. I am honored to be a part of this community.”

— **Nicole Rohrbach**, Executive Director

NaCCRA News

The following information is excerpted and summarized from the newsletter of the National Continuing Care Residents Association, LifeLine, Issue No. 2, 2025, page 8:

Richmond Shreve, NaCCRA Board member and resident of PARCR member Pennswood Village, reports on the five most active topics from the past 12 months of the NaCCRA Forum on-line discussions among members. They are:

1. Resident Voice in Governance
2. Financial Health and Risk: What We Should Know
3. Medicare Advantage vs. Traditional Medicare
4. Electric Scooters, Lithium Batteries, and Safety Policies; and
5. Loneliness, Belonging, and Building Community

♦ Please see the President's report on PARCR's new relationship with NaCCRA.



Masonic Village Embraces Opportunities for the Young and Young at Heart

Masonic Village has long embraced the benefits of multiple generations living, working and enjoying time together.

Since 1913, more than 3,500 children have resided at its Elizabethtown campus as part of the Masonic Children's Home. Funded through generous donors, it provides a home for up to 40 youth who are being raised by aging grandparents or who come from various social or economic environments which do not provide necessary security and support.

The youth are encouraged to excel in school, participate in extracurricular activities, volunteer or work on campus and attend campus-wide events. Senior residents have volunteered to help youth and staff start their own gardens to grow produce for meals.

In 1989, Masonic Village opened a child care center, adding convenience for staff and more intergenerational programs for residents.

Today, children attending the U-GRO Learning Centre on campus, residents and staff from the Greenhouse staff meet each Wednesday during the spring, summer and fall to work on interactive projects in a sensory garden. The kids learn about gardening from the staff and residents, and everyone enjoys homemade treats using herbs they've grown.

Resident Rainer Wolter previously owned a greenhouse business, so when he came across the sensory garden on campus, he was excited to start gardening again. He wasn't aware, at first, that kids were involved with it.

"All of sudden the kids came, and that was a high point," he said. "In my greenhouse, I used to have kids from grade school and kindergarten visit and plant tomatoes. It was so much fun."

Known affectionately as the "worm man," for his ability to pull worms out of the dirt (and pretend to eat them), Rainer likes showing the kids around the garden and raising butterflies with them. He looks forward to the surprising things (continued on page 8)

MASONIC
VILLAGE

(continued from page 7)

they say and the many, many questions they ask.

“They’re eager to learn,” he said. “When they say something, I think, ‘where did this come from?’ It’s really nice. We just sit and talk and play games. And we have snacks – healthy ones! They give me a hug at the end and say, ‘Bye-bye, worm man!’”

Resident volunteers also read to kids in one of the campus libraries monthly, make crafts together, sing and play games.

“The children love going up to visit their ‘grand-friends’ once or twice a month,” Shana Morrow, a teacher with U-GRO said. “This year-round opportunity provides the children and residents with special one-on-one time that helps teach the children respectful social interactions and compassion for others. These opportunities also help to develop fine motor skills, gross motor skills, social skills and emotional skills, all of which are beneficial for all ages. It’s wonderful to see the children and residents greet each other with hugs, personal stories and genuine moments of laughter and joy!”

Each summer, dozens of youth volunteers, age 13 and older, learn about health care fields, assist staff and enhance the lives of residents at Masonic Village. They spend one-on-one time with residents in the nursing and personal care areas, help with music therapy programs, escort residents to events and other tasks.

Elizabethtown Area High School students who volunteer more than 100 hours by their senior year can apply for a \$2,500 scholarship, one of the many rewards of volunteering.

Eli Miller, a sophomore at Elizabethtown Area High School, has been volunteering for two years. “The best part of volunteering is talking with the residents and listening to their interesting stories,” he said.

MASONIC
VILLAGE

(continued from page 8)

Masonic Village staff are always looking for new ways for young children and students to engage with residents. The common bonds they form are invaluable, as are the lessons learned between the generations.



PARCR LEADERSHIP TEAM

OFFICERS	BOARD MEMBERS	VOLUNTEER STAFF	ADVISORS/OTHERS
President <i>Robert Newell</i> Moravian Manor	<i>Marlin Gobble</i> Pleasant View Communities <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>Josh Stroup</i> Moravian Manor	<i>Jim Markell</i> Quincy Village <i>Lowell Starling</i> Bethany Village	Program Director <i>John Berk, PhD</i> Meeting Coordinator <i>Karen Overly Smith</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>Monte Avery</i> Bethany Village <i>Board Member</i> <i>Vacant</i>	Webmaster <i>Dale Meadowcroft</i> Bethany Village

OFFICIAL WEBSITES & CONTACTS

LeadingAge PA: www.leadingagepa.org

Austin Cawley, Director, Legislative Affairs

NaCCRA (National Continuing Care Residents Association): 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.

THE PARCR POST
parcrpost@parcr.org



Pennsylvania Alliance of
Retirement Community Residents

325 Wesley Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

www.parcr.org



Joan W. Martin
Editor