



Pennsylvania Alliance of Retirement Community Residents

Dr. George Tjiattas, PARCR President

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MINUTES – PARCR Quarterly Meeting Wednesday, April 8, 2015 Green Ridge Village, Newville, PA 17241

President George Tjiattas called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. We began our meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Vice President David McIntosh. The Reverend Stuart Dickson, who was one of the founders of PARCR, then gave the prayer. George mentioned some of the objectives of PARCR are the sharing of ideas with each other, advocacy by contacting our local, state, and federal legislators (both for information and to express our opinion), and to get acquainted with each other.

Susan Martin, PARCR Membership Secretary, took Roll Call. There are 81 people in attendance. These represented 20 our 24 member communities. We continued with "A Word from LeadingAge." LeadingAgePA Representative Anne Henry had prepared a handout entitled "Governor Wolf's Budget Proposal for 2015/2016," which she explained. She described Budget Day (which will be June 30, 2015) and encouraged us to attend if we happened to be in Harrisburg that day. She reported that LeadingAgePA is still unable to get an answer to how the new tax laws would affect CCRCs—both the residential and nursing home. Anne also encouraged us to attend the Legislative Breakfasts that will be held by LeadingAge. Contact anne@leadingagepa.org, for dates and to sign up. George Tjiattas asked everyone to find out the names of your state Senator and Representative, so when LeadingAge contacts us for letters about the budget, taxes, etc., we are all set to go.

Dr. Joseph Torchia, Senior VP & Chief Medical Officer, Holy Spirit Hospital, presented a very informative program entitled "Hospitals and Medicare." He remarked that America's healthcare system has come a long way since Walter Cronkite stated, "America's Health Care System is neither healthy, caring, nor a system." Several times during his excellent, informative talk he showed us a picture of overhead wires that were all tangled up and stated, "I want my doctor worrying about my health, not the rules, payment, whether inpatient or observation patient, etc." He interrupted his talk many times to answer members' questions about the many different facets of a visit to the hospital.

George thanked the speaker for a very informative talk. He then offered grace and gave thanks for the food which we were about to enjoy. Following a delicious luncheon prepared by the Green Ridge Village cooks, and kitchen staff, we found out about "Life at Green Ridge Village." Green Ridge CEO Catherine Kirkham, who told us Green Ridge has 129 residential living units, presented this talk. She made the statement that "Great oaks from little acorns grow," and went on to tell us that they have a 90% occupancy average. Green Ridge Village is completing an update to their nursing home and she

described many of the new features, such as a Bariatric Room, which is designed with special lifts and features for overweight residents. She told us of their continued cooperation with the local community.

PARCR Business Meeting.

The Minutes of the January 14, 2015 meeting at Bethany Village, Mechanicsburg, PA, were approved as distributed. Jeanie Bentzel, **Secretary**, reviewed actions taken at the March Executive Committee meeting and reminded members that we are still looking for host villages. It would be in 2016, which would give you lots of time to plan your afternoon program. The Executive Committee also discussed the fact that each village should consider having someone assigned to supply articles, pictures, etc to the Newsletter on a regular schedule. She asked members to consider becoming a member of the Executive Committee, as there would soon be positions open. Jerry Kemmerer, **Treasurer**, gave a treasurer's report, which was approved. We have a balance of \$6,030.23.

Susan Martin, **Membership**, stressed that she has sent the community representatives the Membership Applications for 2015. You can also get your membership application from PARCR's website. A big part of PARCR is village helping village, so if you have a question, just ask!

Gail Stelger, **Legislation**, told us to check the PARCR website for updates of the "Legislative Tidbits," and if you have a government question, to contact her at gailstelger@hotmail.com. Gail also said that she is in touch with the people at LeadingAgePA, who may be sending information directly to the web. Look for it! Gail will contact all members, when LeadingAge is looking for help with letters.

Henry Mathers, **2nd Vice President**, told us that the July program is entitled "The Future of CCRCs," (Landis Homes), and in October it would be the "Future of Social Security and Medicare" (Messiah Village). Henry told us that in July, he would be giving an update survey of possible topics, so come prepared. If you have a suggestion for a future program, contact Henry at hmathers@comcast.net.

Bill Buehler, **Newsletter**, passed out copies of the latest "**PARCR Post**." Members of PARCR received this via Email. Please send him information for the next edition as soon as possible. The pictures will be printed in black and white and should be of good quality when you send them to Bill. "**PARCR POST**" is a great way to share your Village life with other Villages. Send the news to Bill Buehler at rbuehler@gardenspotvillage.net.

George strongly suggested that each village spend \$20.00 and become a member of NaCCRA. They can share the NaCCRA newsletter with their village. George passed out copies of "Job Description of PARCR Community Representatives." The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Our next Quarterly Meeting will be held July 8, 2015 – Landis Homes, Lititz, PA

Jeanette M. Bentzel, Secretary