



Pennsylvania Alliance of Retirement Community Residents

Dr. George Tjiattas, PARCR President

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**MINUTES - PARCR Quarterly Meeting - Wednesday, April 13, 2016
Normandie Ridge, York, PA 17408**

Welcome: President, Dr. George Tjiattas called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. Dr. Tjiattas stated the major objectives of PARCR are: 1) Education - being informed on senior issues. 2) Good ideas that can be shared in your communities. 3) Meeting and making new friends.

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by 1st Vice President, Ida Jeanne Smith.

Host: Mr. Chad Mondorff, IT Educator and Liaison for Normandie Ridge, welcomed PARCR members to today's meeting. Albright Care is celebrating 100 years of caring for seniors around central PA area. Our new program, KALEIDOSCOPE, is this afternoon's presentation.

Prayer: Rev. David Brinker, Chaplain, led the group in prayer.

Roll Call: Susan Martin, PARCR Membership Secretary, took Roll Call. There were 93 people in attendance representing 21 of our 24 member communities.

LeadingAge PA Representative: Anne Henry, presented some important points of interest:

Senator Bob Casey, sits on the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging, and they identified a list of scams (IRS, sweepstake, financial abuse, robo calls, computer tech support, identity theft, and home improvement). If you have been involved in any of these scams, the Senator would like to hear from you. The website is:

<http://www.aging.senate.gov>.

Congress approved "Older Americans Act". This Act brings about 72 million dollars to PA each year to the Department of Aging, and is used for such programs as: Meals on Wheels, Family Caregiver Support, Transportation Services, Senior Centers, etc. The Act is headed to President's desk to sign.

2015-2016 Budget is completed – Governor Wolf did not veto the Budget - he allowed it to become law. Sales tax on long term care and senior services did not happen and presently not on table for new year. There are no new taxes proposed for this current year. Governor Wolf vetoed the provision that would have allowed school districts to receive money for construction. These provisions will be resent to the Governor.

Discussion has begun on 2016-2017 budget. They are proposing new taxes (increase personal tax, expand sales tax, cable TV, movie theater tickets, some tobacco products, insurance premiums, etc.).

Long term care providers – good news - Governor did include a 1% increase for nursing facility services, and new funding for disability services.

A proposal to take community health services into managed care plan slated for 2019. This relationship with managed care could provide more flexibility as to what can be spent for wellness programs, transportation services and for medical assistance to serve more people in communities.

Budget Adjustment Factor: Department of Human Services (DHS) wants to change the funding formula for nursing facilities to insure that the State does not spend more Medicare funds on nursing facilities than what is in approved budget. LeadingAge, and PARCR were able to fight these changes and resubmit proposal back for further study.

Make sure you get out and VOTE – April 26th. Check website to see where your candidate stands: TakeAStand.org with regard to Social Security and Medicare.

NaCCRA: Dan Seeger - NaCCRA supports all people in CCRC's throughout U.S. There are 1900 CCRC's that represent 600,000 residents (12 states have state associations like PARCR). For more information, visit the website, and make sure to type in: National Continuing Care Residents Association; you will find the model for By-Laws and Bill of Rights for CCRC residents.

Program: Henry Mathers, 2nd Vice President, introduced our speaker, Dr. Desiree Hung, Associate State Director for Advocacy – AARP/PA for social change. Dr. Hung presented an overview of the services of AARP that benefit seniors.

In regard to Social Security, Dr. Hung stated that Social Security faces challenges in the future. A long range short fall is expected by 2034, and seniors could expect to suffer a loss of 25% of their allotment. Certain steps should be taken before Social Security funds run out (i.e. tighten benefits for affluent, slowly raise payroll tax by 1%, have State and local governments contribute to the fund, and raise retirement age. Life expectancy is increasing, and people are living another 20 years over previously reported projected numbers. She said it is time to take action on this problem. Dr. Hung pointed out that there are 15 proposals to fix Medicare – check the AARP website (AARP.org) for more information.

“Sharing an Idea”: Mr. Nathan Mitchell, Program Director, Memory Care Residents for Normandie Ridge, presented "KALEIDOSCOPE – Memory Care Engagement" in partnership with Good News Consulting. Mr. Mitchell provided a slide presentation pointing out the many levels of memory care of residents. Good News Consulting trained staff at Normandie Ridge in how to properly engage the residents with dementia. Levels 1 – 4 were identified: Level 1 – generic start of early disease; Level 2 – attention span decreasing; Level 3 – short attention span, and Level 4 – profound impairment. Levels 2 & 3 are priority for new program at Normandie Ridge, along with interaction with the family of the resident. More information on this excellent program is available via email: Nathan.Mitchell@albrightcare.org or on website: Normandieridge.org.

Generation Connect is also partnering with Normandie Ridge for technology (iPads and computers), to help with cognitive and sensory part of program relating to memory recall and mental stimulation.

PARCR Business Meeting: The Minutes of the October 14, 2015 meeting at Messiah Village, were approved. The January 2016 meeting was cancelled at Garden Spot Village.

Janet Polak, **Secretary**, thanked the administration and staff at Normandie Ridge for all their assistance in our Quarterly Meeting agenda. Janet suggested that when delegates for each community receive the minutes, they should share the information with their Resident or Association Council.

Jerry Kemmerer, **Treasurer**, gave the treasurer's report. He reported that we have a balance of \$5,761.07 as of 3/31/16. The report was accepted. We started the year with an imbalance; we are now sufficient. Lunches are \$12pp (\$10pp plus \$2pp from PARCR = which includes any taxes).

Susan Martin, **Membership**, reported renewal application forms for membership will be emailed at the beginning of May for 2016-2017. Susan stated that members have the minutes mailed to them, notices of meetings, legislative tidbits, and the PARCR Post. We presently have 24 host communities; each community has 3 delegates (President + 2 delegates) that are responsible for notifying their community of upcoming meetings, and to respond to Susan the number of attendees for PARCR meetings.

Gail Stelger, **Legislation**, reminded us to check the PARCR website for "Legislative Tidbits". Gail is in regular contact with Anne Henry, LeadingAgePA for updates. PARCR will have a table at the LeadingAge conference in Hershey at the Hershey Lodge on June 15-17, 2016.

Henry Mathers, 2nd **Vice President**, announced that our next program at Menno Haven will be “Approaching and Dealing with End of Life Issues”. He will be conducting a future program survey at our next meeting.

Bill Buehler, **Newsletter**, "PARCR POST" is a great way to share your Village life with other Villages. Send your news to Bill Buehler at rbuehler@gardenspotvillage.net.

Old Business: Nothing to report.

New Business: Dr. Tjiattas announced his resignation as President to PARCR after 8 years, at Executive Committee meeting in March 2016. The next Quarterly Meeting you will be advised of the new slate of officers who will be appointed/elected by the Executive Committee during their meeting in June 2016. Heartfelt “thank you” George from everyone for your years of service to PARCR.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Next Quarterly Meeting will be held July 13, 2016 – Menno Haven, Chambersburg, PA.