



Pennsylvania Alliance of Retirement Community Residents

Dr. George Tjiattas, PARCR President

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MINUTES – PARCR Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Bethany Village, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

President George Tjiattas called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. George welcomed everyone, and told of his recent experience with computer hacking and offered suggestions we should all be familiar with. 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. George then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Brian Grundusky, Associate Executive Director of Bethany Village, extended greetings to the PARCR members present today. He told us that Bethany celebrated their 50th year anniversary this year. Bethany has 650 – 700 residents and is an affiliate of Asbury Communities, Inc. Chaplain Brand Eaton led us in prayer.

Susan Martin, PARCR Membership Secretary, took Roll Call. There are 73 people in attendance, representing 20 out of 24 member communities. We continued with "A Word from Leading Age," by our Leading Age Representative Anne Henry. Anne told us she is new to Leading Age, but not to long-term care, and gave us a very impressive Resume. She stated that our new governor seems to be a little slow in putting together his cabinet. She covered some of the new appointees in the state government, the fact that the "65 and over" category has increased throughout PA, and mentioned the budget deficit. Anne talked about the "Healthy PA" program, other private options, and that we would have to wait and see what happens with "Healthy PA."

Anne then answered many questions covering a large range of topics. Remember, you can contact Anne Henry, Leading Age, with questions and comments at anne@leadingagepa.org.

Our program was "Bill of Rights for CCRCs" by Dan Seeger, President of NaCCRA, and a member of PARCR and its Executive Committee. The question arises, "Is this really necessary?" Are the people who live in CCRCs really being exploited—they look nice, are well landscaped, and the people are taken care of? Dan gave us many facts and figures, including the fact that PA has more CCRCs than any other state. Nine of the 50 states have organizations much like PARCR. The statement was made that in many places there is an oversupply of CCRCs, and that vacancies have replaced waiting lists. Dan mentioned that every time a CCRC files for bankruptcy that gives all CCRCs a bad name. He then answered a variety of questions.

George Tjiattas reminded us to sit at different tables, and get to know your fellow PARCR members from different villages. Following a delicious luncheon by Bethany Village, we continued with the afternoon program entitled "Telling Your Story," by George Tjiattas.

George stressed that when you become 80, everything changes. We don't all have the talent to be good writers, but we are all verbal. He suggested that just having pictures, wasn't enough. Having a verbal record on a disc would be great. Especially if we ask questions now, and then record the answers and explanations. George suggested working with a friend who could keep you on track and keep you from rambling. He passed out several handouts giving hints on how to get started "Telling Your Story." There was also an article by Linda Rhodes entitled, "*Get an oral history of your family.*"

PARCR Business Meeting.

The Minutes of the October 8, 2014 meeting at Brethren Village, Lancaster, PA, were approved as distributed. Jeanie Bentzel, **Secretary**, reminded members that we are still looking for host villages. It would be in 2016, which would give you lots of time to make any arrangements. Susan Martin gave a treasurer's report for Jerry Kemmerer, **Treasurer**, which was approved. We have a balance of \$6,319.18.

Susan Martin, **Membership**, stressed that we now have Members rather than Associate Members. She said that you could get your membership application from PARCR's website, or that she had a supply with her. 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 Leading Age PA, who will be sending information directly to the web. Look for it.

Henry Mathers, **2nd Vice President**, told us that programs for 2015 include "Hospitals and Medicare" (April), "The Future of CCRCs" (July), and the "Future of Social Security and Medicare" (October). If you have a suggestion for a future program, contact Henry at hrmathers@comcast.net.

Bill Buehler, **Newsletter**, told us that there were copies of the latest "**PARCR Post**" on the table. Members of PARCR received this via Email. Please send him information for the next edition as soon as possible. The pictures will be 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.

There was a brief discussion of security at the different CCRCs. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Our next quarterly Meeting will be held April 8, 2015 – Green Ridge Village, Newville, PA

Jeanette M. Bentzel, Secretary