



Pennsylvania Alliance of Retirement Community Residents

Dr. George Tjiattas, PARCR President

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MINUTES – PARCR Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Masonic Village, Elizabethtown, PA 17022

President George Tjiattas called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. George welcomed everyone, and commented on the great crowd we had today. There were 110 people registered. George reviewed the objectives of PARCR: to help with village resident councils, education (our programs), and sharing ideas with each other. Our First Vice President, David McIntosh, led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Cindy Phillips, Executive Director of Masonic Village, extended greetings to PARCR, and she gave us some interesting information about the 100+ year history of our host community, which covers 1400 acres. Pastor Van Deursen, a Masonic Village Chaplin, led us in prayer.

Susan Martin, PARCR Membership Secretary, took Roll Call. There were approximately 120 people present, representing all of the 24 member communities. George Tjiattas told us a little bit about Leading Age, and explained exactly what they do. We were told that Leading Age Representative Joan Bradbury is no longer employed by Leading Age. However, we were fortunate to have a visit from Janel Gleeson, Esq. representing Leading Age. Janel told us that it is hard to have a good picture of where we stand, until the Budget is signed. She thanked all the members of PARCR, who responded with Leading Age's request for letters to be sent to the State Representatives. Since PA is losing a \$320 Million dollar federal grant, it is important that the PA State Government replace this money. She mentioned several other bills and Medicare. George urged our local Residents Councils to have our State Senators and Representatives as speakers at their meetings.

Dan Seeger, President of NaCCRA, and a member of PARCR, told us about NaCCRA (National Continuing Care Residents Association). Dan told us that PARCR was started about 20 years ago and NaCCRA about 13 years ago. He mentioned that they are working on a Resident's Bill of Rights and are in the midst of assembling a list of best practices. Also, a "Model Laws" project which is an attempt to protect our investments. Dan is willing to visit your village residential council, and speak about issues and developments in the CCRC field. Contact Dan at CCRCLife@gmail.com.

Vice President Henry Mathers then introduced our speaker, Ms. Eurith "Chucki" Emerson, Director of "The Inn" at Luther Ridge, which is their Personal Care area. Chucki's resume shows a wealth of experience and training in many different positions in the Medical Field. Her presentation gave us an overall in-depth knowledge of the different levels of long-term care in PA. We learned that there are over 2 million PA citizens age 65 and older. She gave many statistics concerning Nursing Homes,

Personal Care Homes and Assisted Living Facilities in PA. We were told the number of each type of facility in PA, and also the cost. "How to Pay for Nursing Homes," led to quite a discussion, and questions about Long-Term Care Insurance. There was a list of Resources included in her handout, which can be shared with your resident councils. The program was concluded with a thought-provoking poem entitled "The Dash."

PARCR Business Meeting

The Minutes of the April 9, 2014 meeting at Pleasant View Retirement Community, Manheim, PA, were approved as distributed. Jeanie Bentzel, **Secretary**, reminded everyone, that the Executive Board may be able to use their experience and talents. She also reminded members to check out the PARCR web site and see all the changes! Jerry Kemmerer, **Treasurer**, gave us an up-to-date report, which was approved as given. We have a balance of \$6,719.77. Jerry mentioned that we are planning to use some of this balance to help pay for lunch, thus keeping the charge at \$10.00. Susan Martin, **Membership**, mentioned how exciting it is to have all 24 member villages represented today. There were approximately 120 people in attendance. Susan encouraged people to become associate members.

Gail Stelger, **Legislation**, told us about her "Legislative Tidbits" available on the PARCR Website. She mentioned that it is one thing to write and ask your legislator to vote a certain way—don't forget to also thank him/her when they do! Several members also commented on the importance of being involved in "politics." Henry Mathers, **2nd Vice President**, told of future programs he has planned. He passed out a survey of possible future programs and asked members to mark the three that would interest them the most. Remember to let Henry know of outstanding informative programs.

Bill Buehler, **Newsletter**, showed us a copy of the newly formatted "**PARCR Post.**" Eventually this will be posted on the PARCR Website. Bill asked Village Representatives to be sure to send him (rwbuehler@gardenspotvillage.net) information and pictures for inclusion in the next issue. He stressed that these can be history, recent, or future happenings at your village. Let's share our lives with other villages! Evert Fuller, **Nomination Chairman**, presented the Slate of Officers for 2014-2015. Paul Noyes, Green Ridge Village, is the new Asst. Treasurer, replacing Robert Allan. George Tjiattas read a report from Laura Paist about all that she has accomplished with the PARCR Website.

Following a delicious lunch, we had interesting presentations by Frank Stoltzfus on "Farm Conservation Efforts," Greg Thomas on a "Garden to Fork Program," and Jeff Gromis on "Solar Panels/Energy Savings." The programs were outstanding. After the meeting, some of our members went on a tour of Masonic Village.

Our next quarterly Meeting will be held October 8, 2014 – Brethren Village, Lancaster, PA.

Jeanette M. Bentzel, Secretary