



Pennsylvania Alliance of Retirement Community Residents

Ida Jeanne Smith, President

Email: ijsmitt@comcast.net

Telephone: (717) 262-3055

Cheryl Rhodes, Interim Secretary

Email: hwcdhrhoded@aol.com

Telephone: (717) 655-7932

MINUTES - PARCR Quarterly Meeting - Wednesday, July 10, 2019 Bethany Village 325 Wesley Drive Mechanicsburg, PA

MISSION STATEMENT: *“To educate and inform residents of not-for-profit retirement communities in Pennsylvania by promoting the exchange of ideas, education and civic responsibilities of residents, and to encourage members to seek to be a part of informed decision-making in their communities.”*

WELCOME: Meeting called to order by President, Ida Jeanne Smith at 10:00am with Pledge of Allegiance.

PRAYER: Pastor Bill Stelger

HOST: Ms. Anne Henry from LeadingAge PA, welcomed everyone to the meeting that LeadingAge is sponsoring today. Remarked how much they appreciate their relationship with PARCR and the opportunity to host this meeting today.

ROLL CALL: There were **111** people in attendance representing **24** of our **27** member communities.

LEADINGAGE PA: Anne Henry started her presentation with the word “Disappointment” referring to the State Budget. The “Good News” is that 16 Million was approved for Nursing Villages but this is directed to high occupancy, high medical assistance facilities, which qualifies about 36% of Nursing Homes in PA. Most of the communities represented here would not qualify. The second positive outcome was that more money was approved for affordable housing commonly known as PHARE. The “BAD” news there was no rate increase again this year. Even though we have an approved budget the Governor’s office will start working soon on the next year’s budget so we are encouraging you to start advocacy now with you representatives for the next budget cycle. As for last year’s House Bill 2291 which did not get approved, we are working on new language and hope to have information very soon and we will forward that new info to Gail and she will distribute to PARCR. On the federal side there is discussion in Congress on a possible extension to the Medical Expense Deduction which expired this year. Several bills are out there competing and Congress needs to take action.

NaCCRA: Dan Seeger – NaCCRA “National Continuing Care Residents’ Association” is a nationwide organization as PARCR is a statewide organization. Dan indicated he has placed website slips on the tables so that you can review the NaCCRA website for mutual understanding of the organization. It provides a consumer guide of CCRCs and also monitors so if someone is looking for a community they can get information on this web-site. It also provides information on how to model a CCRC, a Bill of Rights, and Model laws. In research they have found there is no official definition for Life Care Communities so they are working on a definition. NaCCRA’s next meeting is in October in San Diego on October 24th with their National Meeting to follow.

PROGRAM: Sebastian Detres, Manager of the Carlisle Social Security Office and Michele Dinsmore, Technical Claim Expert from the Carlisle Office spoke on the Future Status of Social Security Benefits, provided an overview of the Social Security Web-site and had a Question/Answer with the audience. The official web-site for Social Security is **SocialSecurity.gov**. On the web-site information can be found on how to apply for Medicare, forms for various issues such as changing your federal tax holding, changing address etc. There are many publications that provide information on all issues pertaining to Social Security. Everything is arranged by topic. As for the future of Social Security, based on current calculations the combined trust fund will be depleted by 2035. Unless Congress makes changes in 2035 most benefits will be reduced by 20%. Benefits will continue to be paid out of the Social Security taxes being paid by working individuals. Residents should be advocating their Congressmen for action to fix this problem. This was followed by a Question/Answer session. Some information provided

included the following: Residents must have their original SS Card to get their Real ID; Undocumented residents cannot receive SS benefits; you must be a US Citizen or documented permanent resident or naturalized citizen to receive any type of benefit from Social Security. Mr. DeTres encouraged everyone to create their “My SS Account” on the website.

PARCR BUSINESS MEETING: The Minutes of the April 10, 2019 meeting at Quincy Village will stand as presented.

Membership: Susan Martin – chair reported that all communities with the exception of one have paid their community dues. Susan did not have forms for individual memberships but if you provide your name and email she will be sure to send you the necessary form. Susan Martin reported the importance of accurate information on contact people at your communities, and correct spelling of their names. Delegates are selected by your residents; they receive notices, minutes of quarterly meetings, the PARCR Post, and legislative tidbits which are shared with your communities. Your delegates’ responsibilities are to not only share information with Council Chair or Association President, and their community residents, but to also respond to and communicate with the Executive Committee of PARCR. When responding about attendees for meeting it is preferable that one representative from each community replies for all those attending.

Programs: Bill Stelger - Chair, reported that he will be placing ballots on the tables during the lunch break and you are to select 4 programs for 2020. Ballots will be tabulated and results announced at the next meeting in October. The October Quarterly meeting at SpiriTrust Lutheran The Village at Sprengle Drive we will have Dr. Kenneth Brubaker (current Med Dir., Masonic Village ... formerly Director PA Officer) to talk about “Dealing with Dementia: What to Expect, Communicating with a Patient and Available Help”.

Legislation: Gail Stelger - An “alert” will probably be sent by next week that will give us more information about contacting our representatives. If you have or are in contact with your legislators, let Anne Henry know so she can work with you. Gail recognized three members who made contact with representatives about alerts. They were Lowell Sterling, Bethany Village, and Bill Confer of Brethren Village, Lititz and Louise Little from Ware Presbyterian. There have been six alerts since the April Meeting. Gail will issue information on new alerts as soon as they are issued.

"PARCR POST": Linda Heck - The July edition was released early primarily because of time-sensitive material with regards to leadingAgePA’s request for our support on State budgetary issues and the fact that again we were maxed out on space. There was also some compromise necessary to accommodate personal scheduling availability to make the publication available to all of you on a timely basis. Linda thanked the communities that shared articles for the July issue and reminded attendees that this is your publication to share your community information. She encouraged the communities to send material directly to her using the address on the last page of the newsletter. The deadline for October issue is September 9, earlier than originally planned because of personal scheduling availability. Linda already has three articles for the October issues so don’t delay to submit your articles in Word format (.doc) with photos in .jpg or .png format. When Linda receives material for **The Post**, she will format and return it to the sender for proofing and ask for the approval of a person from the community who is authorized to speak on behalf of the Community. It is not wise to publish something from a resident in the POST, until it has been authorized by their community administration or department leaders. Trust you understand our proactive position by not printing any material that would jeopardize our organization, nor any of our officers and members.

The primary focus of the **PARCR Post** is on residents – their activities, participation in events, items of interest involving residents, community announcements, etc. However, the key focus is to be on **residents**, and not that of Marketing.

Announcement: A gentlemen from Indiantown Gap Cemetery asked to make an announcement that they are looking for American Flags that are from coffins of military personnel. You may have a flag or know someone who has one they would like to donate. Information will be provided in the October Issue of **The Post**.

“SHARING AN IDEA”: “LeadingAge PA” was presented by Adam Marles, CEO/President Mr. Marles presented a Strategic Overview of LeadingAge PA and Legislative Priorities for Long Term Care Providers. Their mission is “Advancing the evolving continuum of aging services in Pennsylvania”. Their vision “To serve as the preeminent advocate for facilitating change and inspiring its members to positively impact the field of aging services in Pennsylvania”. They represent Not-for profit providers of senior services to include, CCRCs,

Assisted Living Residences/Personal Care, Skilled Nursing, and Home and Community Based Services to name a few. LeadingAge-PA provides members with **Advocacy** and access to experienced Government Affairs team. They also provide

Knowledge, using Education through E-Newsletters, Conferences, Webinars and Social Media. They use Knowledge through data and research including analysis tools, member case studies and research projects. Members have the benefit of Networking with their peers through Task Forces, Affinity Groups and Legislative and community forums.

Legislative Priorities for Long Term Care Providers: Medical Assistance Reimbursement; Medical Assistance for Assisted Living Services; Independent Senior Living Facility Privacy Act and Community Health Choices. LeadingAge PA members exist to serve our residents; raise our collective voices to make positive change for older adults in Pennsylvania and together both organizations are stronger.

(Cont.)PARCR BUSINESS MEETING

Treasurer: Henry Mathers - The Budget Report shows the Annual picture of income and expenses for the year ending June 30th showing a balance of \$6,845.24. The proposed Budget for next fiscal year was presented and explained and a motion to accept by Dan Seeger and seconded by John Voda. 2020 budget passed.

Business: At our June meeting, the Executive Committee elected the officers and appointed the standing committees for 2019-2020 fiscal year:

President – Ida Jeanne Smith (second year of second 2 year term)

Vice President – Dan Seeger (second year of second 2 year term)

Secretary – Interim Cheryl Rhodes

Treasurer – Henry Mathers (2 year term – no term limit)

Members at Large: *Susan DiGruttolo* (second year of first 2 year term – eligible for re-election to another 2 year term); *Nancy Hann* (second year of first 2 year term - eligible for re-election to another 2 year term); *Lowell Starling* (first year of 2 year term – eligible for second 2 year term), and *Elvin E. Heck* (first year of 2 year term – eligible for second 2 year term)

Membership Chair – Susan Martin (one year term – no term limits)

Program Chair – Bill Stelger (one year term – no term limits)

Legislative Chair – Gail Stelger (one year term – no term limits)

Newsletter – Linda Heck (one year term – no term limits)

Thank you to Janet Polak, Leon Bird, and David McIntosh for their service on the Executive Committee.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Next Quarterly Meeting will be held October 9th, 2019 – SpiritTrust Lutheran The Village at Sprenkle Drive, York

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Rhodes, Interim Secretary