



Pennsylvania Alliance of Retirement Community Residents

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Minutes – Quarterly Meeting – Wednesday, October 10, 2007 – Garden Spot Village

The PARCR meeting was called to order by **President George Tjiattas at Garden Spot Village, New Holland, Pennsylvania** at 10:10 AM. We were greeted by **Steve Lindsey**, CEO, Garden Spot Village, who also led us in the opening prayer. The idea for Garden Spot Village originated in 1980 and actually opened in 1980. They currently have 850 residents. The new concept in skilled nursing care buildings were completed, occupied and has proved very successful. Garden Spot Village has initiated a home based service and future expansion will include an urgent care center in conjunction with the Ephrata Hospital, adult day care and seventy-two (72) new apartments. Ray Vaughan, 1st^d VP, led us in the pledge to the flag. We enjoyed the coffee, tea and pastries prior to the meeting.

The Secretary's minutes of the previous meeting were approved as mailed to the members.

Ev Fuller, Secretary, reported on the envelopes prepared for each member community, and made available copies of NaCCRA life Line and copies of Harry Groves speech on "The Past, Present & Future of CCRC's"

Richard Morris, Garden Spot Village, Treasurer delivered the PARCR Treasury Report covering the period from July 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007. The ending balance was \$2,980.72. The Treasurer's report was approved as read.

Carol Wendel, Membership Chairman reported on efforts to secure two (2) potential new CCRC members for PARCR.

George Tjiattas reported on a visit to the office of Senator Vance and pending legislation which included Senate Bill 811, "A Control Data Base for Nursing Homes." & Senate Bill 379 which will allow discount on prescription drugs currently prohibited by Pennsylvania law.

Stuart Dickson, Green Ridge Village, Newsletter Editor, asked that information be sent to him from all communities belonging to PARCR for inclusion in the newsletter.

President Tjiattas introduced **Ron Barth, President & CEO of PANPHA** who spoke briefly on the theme "What services are going to be needed in the next 20 years and how are we going to provide and fund these services." PANPHA is a non-profit association for the communities in which we live. The role of PANPHA is one of advocacy and education for seniors. Mr. Barth stated that Pennsylvania needs a cohesive plan to provide service to our aging population. The system now is haphazard and future funding is in question. Barth also advised that PANPHA is monitoring the review of current regulations regarding personal care and assisted living. Too strict regulations could increase operating cost and a balance is needed between regulations and costs.

Mr. Barth asked if anyone knew why age 65 was adopted as the retirement age. Bismarck, ruler of Germany in the 19th century, first proposed age 65 as the retirement age for their civil servants. At that time, 95% of their civil servants died before age 65 and 95% of those still living at that age, died within 3 years. Using those criteria today, would increase our retirement age to age 97.

Bud Endler, 2nd Vice President & Program Chairman, introduced our speaker **Harriett Withstandley, Chief Council for the Pennsylvania Department of Aging** who spoke on “Understanding the Role of Pennsylvania Department of Aging.” Initially, the Department of Aging was a part of the Department of Welfare. She discussed the newly created department of “Long Term Living”, which will assume some functions of the Department of Welfare as well as the Department of Aging and is under the direction of Mike Hall, the newly appointed director. As a result of this transfer of duties, the Department of Aging suffered a staff reduction from 190 to 100 employees. The Department of Aging still supervises prescription drug benefits (Pace & Pace Net), the new waiver program and legal aid services. Act 169, passed in 2006, regulates the construction of living wills and redefines incompetence. A living will must be signed and witnessed by two people and a living will should be revisited as changes occur in life style. A health care Power of Attorney allows someone else to make decision for an incompetent patient.

Ms. Withstandley reported on the recently enacted Assisted Living Regulation which was signed by Governor Rendell in July of this year. The law defines assisted living and differentiates between assisted living and nursing homes. The law also allows some services performed solely by physicians to be performed by RNs, LPNs and Dental Hygienists. In defining assisted living, Pennsylvania becomes eligible for federal funding. Currently, Pennsylvania spends two-thirds of its Medicaid budget for long term nursing home care. She also echoed Ron Barth’s statement that increased regulations means increased administrative expenses.

Julia Hix, Assistant Secretary, called the roll of member communities of PARCR and Associate Members who had registered for this meeting which was interrupted by a break for lunch.

Chaplin Lucille Stoltfus blessed our meeting and the food we are about to receive.

A delicious “sit down” luncheon was provided by Garden Spot Village.

President Tjiattas introduced **Andre Dietzel, Information Technology Chief and John Farber, COO** of Garden Spot Village, the speakers for our educational component. They presented a power point program on “Security” at Garden Spot Village. They have progressed from little security to a “high tech” program which includes an enlarged security force, security cameras in strategic location throughout their campus, and a Wi-Fi system. The WI-FI system was demonstrated for us and provides enhanced security. The system allows for voice communication, automatic gates, security cameras, nurse call pendants which show actual location on campus, automatic gates at entrances, closed circuit TV, 3 com voice over IP telephone system and wireless computer access. A printout of the power point demonstration will be available at the next PARCR meeting.

Julia Hix, Assistant Secretary, completed the roll of member communities of PARCR and Associate Members who had registered for this meeting.

President Tjiattas adjourned the meeting at 1:45 PM. Our next meeting will be held at on January 9, 2008.

Regular Quarterly Meetings

January 9, 2008 – Bethany Village or
Masonic Village, Elizabethtown – To Be Determined

April 9, 2008 – Woodcrest Villa

July 9, 2008 – Quincy Village

October 8, 2008 – Sprengle Village

Executive Committee Meetings.

Monday, December 10, 2007 at Bethany Village

Monday, March 10, 2008 at Bethany Village

Monday, June 9, 2008 at Bethany Village

Monday, September 8, 2008 at Bethany Village

Respectfully submitted,

Evert Fuller, Secretary

PS If you wish to host a meeting in 2009, please advise as soon as possible. The Executive Committee will have the ultimate responsibility for approving future meeting sites.