



Pennsylvania Alliance of Retirement Community Residents

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MINUTES - PARCR Quarterly Meeting - Wednesday, October 10, 2018
Pleasant View Retirement Community, 544 North Penryn Road, Manheim,
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." The Mission Statement was revised by our Executive Committee on September 9, 2018.

WELCOME: President, Ida Jeanne Smith, opened meeting at 10:00am, along with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRAYER: Chaplain Neil Benedict led us with an opening prayer.

HOST COMMUNITY WELCOME: Ms. Kim Focht, Vice President, Human Resources, gave us a very warm welcome with background history of their Pleasant View Retirement Community.

ROLL CALL: There were 92 in attendance representing 23 of our 26 member communities.

LEADINGAGE PA: "Word of the Day" - success, again. Anne Henry announced the passing of House Bill 2291 (Independent Senior Living Privacy Act) with a 191 - 0 vote. The bill will now move on to the Senate, and as residents of CCRC's, we need to phone or email our respective State Senators to pass this bill so that it will make it to Governor Wolf's desk by November.

There are only 4 more session dates scheduled before the Senate breaks; they will not resume their duties until January 2019. If this bill does not pass this time around, it will have to go through the process all over again in January and February 2019, with the precedence of it passing in the House. Let's make noise to get it on the Agenda by contacting your State Senator before session ends. This bill protects all of you.

There is another bill, SB 780 in the House which is the Telemedicine Act (AARP support) - this bill will cover and expand Telemedicine providers in PA. This bill will most likely be carried over to 2019. It does not hold as much urgency as HB 2291 at the present time.

HR 6986 (Federal bill) regarding CNA Lockout is a bill representing the fact that if your community has a deficiency (a fine), your CNA training program is put on hold for 2 years. By

passing this bill, it would override the 2 years wait after completion of the deficiency.

NaCCRA: Dan Seeger announced that the NaCCRA Annual Membership Meeting (Speakers: Katie Sloan, CEO of National LeadingAge and AB Powell, Actuary, Finances of CCRC's) will be at the Philadelphia Convention Center, Room 110, from 9:00am to 11:30am starting Sunday, October 28th. This is an open membership meeting and is free for residents of CCRC's. If you are unable to attend, you can join the meeting by logging on to Zoom (also known as Skype); if you are interested, please see me. Sunday afternoon the LeadingAge National Convention will follow our NaCCRA meeting.

Two other bills coming up for vote are: SB 568 and HB 1421 - contact both Senator Casey and Senator Toomey to pass these bills. The bills mandate that whatever status you are admitted to the hospital, that Medicare will pay for the care after your 3-day overnight.

PROGRAM SPEAKER: Bill Stelger, Chair, introduced Dr. Joseph Torchia, Chief Medical Officer of Geisinger/Holy Spirit, and an MMM (Master of Medical Marijuana). Dr. Torchia presented the *gray area* of "Observation vs Admission" with regard to Medicare payments. The *gray area* of Medicare payment is based on severity of illness and intensity of care. Make sure you ask what your status is in the hospital. Points to ponder are:

Some hospitals are paid by DRG's (Diagnostic Related Groups): Observation status - paid by each piece of care (IV, meals, medications, x-rays, etc.) and Admission status - paid as one piece (all tests and everything required per illness).

Observation vs Admission is a tug of war and very complex, which is not easy for hospitals.

Commercial payers (Highmark, Blue Cross, etc.) have followed the Medicare lead who sets policy.

You receive same care whether in Observation or Admission status.

The focus of your status is on severity of illness (heart attack, stroke) and intensity of care (flu like symptoms, viruses).
Bottom line - there is no clear understanding of Observation vs Admission.

Dr. Torchia also included a presentation on "Medical Marijuana" - there is much research going on with focus on moving forward with marijuana. The 2 medical marijuana's are: THC - Tetrahydrocannabinol (has psychoactive - high - side effects), and CBD - Cannabidiol (has no side effects). Medical marijuana is using part of each plant and extracting things from it in order to use to treat a disease or a symptom. There are over 100 chemicals in marijuana. CBD originally was used for epilepsy, migraines, and to relieve pain. Long term use has schizophrenia outcomes. Marinol, FDA approved, relieves effects of chemotherapy. If you use marijuana, and enter a hospital as a patient, the State of PA DEA does not honor use within the hospital.

A "thank you" to Pleasant View Retirement Community for hosting PARCR and providing a delicious breakfast and lunch.

"SHARING AN IDEA": "Immersive Reminiscing: Using Virtual Reality to Tell Life Narratives" by Mr. Keith Hoover, Director of Information Technology. Keith's thoughts and ideas about virtual reality started with the question of memories. One of the residents at Pleasant View gave him permission to go back in time and look for places, things, and locations during her singing career for a real life experience.

Upon further study, Keith and a student intern (Brian) from the nearby high school worked effortlessly to put together a virtual reality video that she can now watch anytime she wants. Her career in singing was noted for her opening stage debut with Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis in Wildwood, New Jersey at the beach boardwalk theater.

The goggle apparatus she wears on her eyes and head give her a 360 degree look at everything that surrounds the area she is watching. This whole experience for Keith, Brian, and the resident were *priceless*.

There is a kit available from Google (Virtual Reality Kit) that consists of 10 headsets with phones and a tablet for about \$4,000.

REPORTS: Minutes of Quarterly Meeting held at Messiah Lifeways @ Messiah Village on July 11, 2018 were approved as presented.

Treasurer - Henry Mathers: Financial reports were distributed covering finances for 7/1/18 to 10/8/18. Budget Report: Shows income and expenses that occurred, and Income & Expense Report: reflects Income and Expenses with a checkbook balance of \$7,216.55, as compared to last year which was around \$6,900.

Membership - Susan Martin: Communities represented today were 23 out of 26 memberships. We also are welcoming Jenner's Pond in West Grove and Juniper Village in Bucks County.

Deadline responses for this meeting were better, including notification of any additions or deletions of attendees.

Ida Jeanne stressed the importance of Susan knowing who your officers are at your communities. We are headed into the winter months, and the only way we can contact you of delay or cancelled meetings, is through your officers. Make sure Susan has this information when you change officers.

Legislation - Gail Stelger: Anne Henry covered the most recent and exciting news out of LeadingAge PA for us. I will be in contact with Anne for any PARCR assistance she will need from our members, especially House Bill 2291 we need to pass in the Senate before end of this year's sessions.

Programs - Bill Stelger: The program topics from the 2019 survey are:

January: *Dept. of Aging and/or PA Attorney General's Role in Safeguarding*

CCRC Residents (Speaker: AG Rep. David Shalcross)

April: *Current Scams, Frauds, Identity Theft, Latest Schemes (Speaker: Bruce Myers, AARP, Retired Baltimore County Police*

Sergeant)

July: *Future Status of SS Benefits, Its Future and Promised Increases*

(Speaker: John H. Johnson, Public Affairs Specialist)
October: Dealing with Dementia: What to Expect, Communicate
with Patient &
Available Help (Speaker: Dr. Kenneth Brubaker - Current
Med. Dir.,
Masonic Village)

Newsletter - Linda Heck: The PARCR Post newsletter has reached another record - 13 pages (the largest to date). Thank you to those who contributed to the October edition: Cross Keys Village, Garden Spot Village, Londonderry Village, Masonic Village and Ware Presbyterian. Copies of each newsletter are sent to all members via electronic mail (if you do not have computer, Susan sends through snail mail), and you can also locate PARCR Post on our website (parcr.org).

I have formulated a contact list from various communities, and would appreciate your help in letting me know whom within your community I can contact for newsletter material. My contact information is located on the last sheet of each newsletter.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting ended at 2:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Polak, Secretary

REMEMBER TO VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH