

PARCR NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VIII, ISSUE 1

January 11, 2006

After being called to order by President Elma Kreps, the delegates and visitors were led in prayer by the Rev. Jim Browning, Chaplain of Bethany Village. Next we were graciously welcomed by Angela Dohrman, the Executive Director of Bethany Village, who reported that Bethany Village presently has 640 residents.

The program chairman, George Tjiattas, introduced the speaker for the morning, Senator Patricia Vance. Senator Vance of the 31st Legislative District, a trained nurse, is presently the only member of the Senate or the House with experience in a health care profession. Naturally, her in-put is important on many issues related to health care.

Senator Vance said she wanted to talk about many of the issues she is concerned about in the current legislative session. First of all, however, she spoke about the pay raise, since she indicated that the issue is top priority in the minds of many citizens. She voted against the pay raise, and when it was passed, she did not take the raise. Since she did not accept the raise she could not repay what she had never taken.

Some of the issues she discussed included the Social Security Offset, which has now been abolished by law. She spoke about concerns over persons with criminal backgrounds being employed in nursing homes. Hospital employees must have a background check, but up to this time that has not been required for nursing homes. Certain nursing homes with serious problems have a ban on admissions place on them. Up to this time, however, the families of patients have not been notified of such bans. At times the nearest responsible member of the family is so far away that it is not possible for that person to be aware of the problems.

Another concern is the need for dental care for nursing home patients and children in Head Start programs. Many patients cannot be taken to see a dentist. Dental hygienists would be able to come and clean teeth but dentists are opposed to this, saying that they are afraid this might lead to unqualified persons attempting to do other work which could cause serious problems. Senator Vance hopes some compromise can be reached.

Other problems are the rising costs of medical assistance for the elderly and the need for property tax relief. Pennsylvania is 29th in the amount of current property tax, but nevertheless there is a need for relief. The money from slots will not be available for approximately another two years, and none of it will be available for medical assistance since it has been allocated to other specific areas.

An interesting issue was the result of an instance of "up-skirting." This problem was the result of new technology which provided the cameras which made the crime possible. Since there was no law against the deed, a new law had to be passed.

The Legislature is currently considering bills dealing with questions of "Eminent Domain" and also with the Chesapeake Bay. Senator Vance and a colleague from her area proposed a moratorium on some proposed regulations, not because they doubt the need to clean up the bay, but because the standards imposed need to be clarified. There is a pilot project of Community Based Health Care currently underway in Cumberland County. The Chronic Casting Disease effecting deer has not yet been found in Pennsylvania, but is close and must be studied. Another difficult issue concerns the closing of the Harrisburg State Hospital. The Danville Hospital is already too crowded, and families of patients do not want to have relatives taken too far from where other family members live.

Among the questions asked was why nursing homes facing a ban on admissions were not closed. The problems are where to place the patients when other homes are already crowded. Among the concerns about the Chesapeake Bay are questions about restrictions on Sewage Treatment Plants and the rising costs of meeting high standards. The size of the legislature was another matter questioned. Senator Vance agreed that it needs to be reduced, especially in the house, but said that the time to make such change would be when redistricting is under way. Another questions concerned the shortage of doctors and nurses. Senator Vance said that she did not believe that there was a real doctor shortage now, but that there is a problem in educating more nurses. The salaries of nursing faculties are very low, and qualified nursing educators are reluctant to take such positions. Ms Vance noted that HACC currently graduates more RNs than any other school in Pennsylvania.

President Elma thanked Senator Vance for her informative talk and the delegates gave her a rousing round of applause.

The roll call followed with persons from 17 communities present. Bethany Village reported that they are working to promote unity of the west and east campuses. They also want to encourage more participation in the meal plan. Several excellent programs celebrating Christmas and New Years were mentioned. Brethren Home Community, New Oxford is building new Country Homes. A new Wellness Director is on staff.

The Brethren Village in Lancaster County is ready to start a HUD Building in the spring. Garden Spot Village reported that there are now no vacancies in their village. Green Ridge Village has begun building four Lodges, larger and more expensive homes than the cottages previously built. Homestead Village in Lancaster reported considerable confusion in Medicare D questions. Landis Homes is conducting a survey of the community to discover what directions should be taken in the near future. Messiah Village is getting ready to celebrate their 110th anniversary. Penn Hall and Menno Haven told us that stage 3 of their latest building project is nearing completion. They reported that Menno Haven had been sued for not using minorities in their marketing advertising. Quincy Village has just opened a remodeled short term stay unit and a 6 bed hospice unit. To help with improvement of Chesapeake Bay improvement, they worked with other volunteers in planting 300 trees on the banks of Antietam Creek. Tel Hai is about to celebrate their 50th Anniversary. Kelly Drive of York spoke of the Utz Estates in Hanover, where the first group of cottages have been sold. A permit is being sought for a HUD Building. A Skilled Nursing Building has been started. Woodcrest Villas has circulated a petition opposing the introduction of casino gambling in Lancaster city with a great majority of the residents signing it. Other community's present but not reporting changes were Jenners Pond from West Grove, Normandy Ridge, York, Pleasant View, Manheim, and Sprenkle Village, York.

After a nourishing lunch, the business meeting continued. George Tjiattas spoke about various possibilities for future programs. He also spoke about Medicare D. It is important to know what Medigap Insurance a person has. Be sure that there is a provision for catastrophic care. Be sure to check the Formulary to make sure your current prescriptions are included. Enroll as soon as possible. Coverage begins the first of the next month after one enrolls, and if one enrolls after May 15th there will be a penalty. He said most seniors will save money under the program. If one is confused, it is wise to check with the County Department of Aging.

Elma called our attention to NaCCRA in which PARCR is a member. A total of 9 states are now members. In addition there are 12 communities which have joined. There are 150 Life Members and a total of 350 individual members. The Spring NaCCRA meeting will be held April 6th and 7th at Ingleside in Washington, D.C.

There was a discussion concerning Pet Policies. Tel Hai has a weight limit on dogs, and all dogs and cats must be on leash when outside. A one time \$100.00 fee is imposed, but will be refunded if no damage is found. Only one dog or cat is allowed. Brethren Home community has a 30 pound limit on dogs in apartments. Residents in cottages may have larger dogs and more than one. Homestead Village requires a record of pets and their care in the main office. Woodcrest Villas allows residents to bring their pets, but pets cannot be replaced. Bethany Village originally

had the same restriction, but since has relaxed this rule.

Ev Fuller reported that the PARCR Web Site is up and running. Garden Spot Village and PARCR have linked their respective web sites by placing a PARCR logo on Garden Spot's web site and linking it to the PARCR web site. By the same token, Garden Spot's website can be accessed by clicking on their logo on the PARCR web site. PARCR is requesting that all communities belonging to PARCR link their web sites to PARCR's web site.

It was announced that the April 12th meeting will be at Quincy Village; the July 12th annual meeting will be at Green Ridge Village; the October 11th meeting at Normandy Ridge and the January 10th, 2007, will be at Bethany Village.

More News from Our Communities Bethany Village Every week, residents in the Oaks Skilled Nursing Care have a special visitor – three year old Tara. A beautiful, medium sized, calm English springer spaniel, Tara is a Certified Pet Therapy Dog owned by Jean Felty of Harrisburg. The evening visits which Ms. Felty and Tara make are fun for grown ups, visiting family and grandkids alike. They stay for an hour, making their rounds in the neighborhoods and rooms. Their routine, as Jean Felty explains, involves “Tara engaging residents in conversation, letting them pet her and tossing one of her toys. Often a blanket is placed on a bed or chair so that Tara can sit or lie down. This helps a resident pet her more easily.”

At Bethany Village’s Vesper Service, November 20th, Bernadette Kulikosky was inducted as a Vicar assigned to work under the supervision of Chaplain Jim Browning for the next year. Following her residency at Bethany Village, Bernadette will return for a final year of theological education in preparation to serve as Pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

The Brethren Home Community The Education Committee is sponsoring a lecture on Gettysburg during the Civil War. The lecture will be held on Wednesday, February 15 in the Community Center Activities Room. Debra McCauslin will present two historical programs, the first centering on Yellow Hill and the Quaker Valley. Decades before the war, abolitionists were active in this area, providing a safe haven for bringing slaves to freedom along the Underground Railroad. A second program will discuss the 1845 kidnapping of Kitty Paine, a freed Virginia slave living in Pennsylvania with her children. After a lengthy imprisonment in Virginia following the kidnapping, Kitty and her children eventually regained their freedom.

Michelle Collins, a Wellness Specialist is a new staff member. She will be teaching classes, and assisting in developing programs for the community. She has a degree in Health and Sports Science from the University of Oklahoma.

Chapel Pointe Julia Carvalho has begun her work as the Activities Coordinator for Assisted Living and Apartment residents.

Garden Spot Village “The Giving Tree”, a sculpture recognizing donors of gifts of \$1000 or more is now displayed adjacent to the Village Square parlor. The engraved leaves and stones on the tree represent three levels of giving to Garden Spot Village.

During the holidays The Angel Tree sits majestically in the Chapel Lobby. Len Cummins, a resident and member of the Garden Spot Village Woodshop, handcrafter over 300 angels for the tree, using a band saw to cut out the angels from plywood, and then spray painting them white. Milly Slick, also a resident, artistically painted each of the angels with gold trip. For a ten dollar donation, an angel will be place on the Angel Tree to celebrate the life of someone special to the giver. All donations go to the Benevolent Fund to help residents who need financial

assistance. Rain didn't dampen the spirits of the folks who attended the Fall Festival and Benefit Auction held on October 22nd. Over 400 people enjoyed the event that raise over \$22,000 for the Benevolent Fund. The event featured a craft fair, bake sale, silent theme basket auction, Jolly Trolley hayride, cake walk and festival food stand. The New Holland Dixieland Band provided musical entertainment.

Green Ridge Village The Thrift Shop budget target for 2005 was \$20,000. Total receipts for the year were \$22,108.99. Receipts from the Thrift Shop go to the Green Ridge Village Auxiliary which provides funds for equipment needed for Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing programs of the village. One recent project was the construction of an attractive pavilion in the Garden area outside of the Assisted Living quarters in Swaim Building.

Landis Homes For years there was a dream to some day have an on-campus child care center. In November 2002, the Board of Directors adopted a strategic plan for 2003-2006 that called for new opportunities for intergenerational interaction by establishing a child day center. Two years later in November 2004, the new center was opened, and this year the center observed its first anniversary. The new program is operated by Hildebrandt Learning Centers. What does it mean to have a Children's Learning Center on campus? For residents, employees and visitors, it is both heart warming and "a breath of fresh air" to see and hear bright-eyed infants and chattering preschoolers making their daily trek through the pathways, playgrounds and hallways of Landis Homes.

Masonic Village As they eat their breakfast, they anxiously thing about what lies ahead: their first day back to school. They anticipate the bus ride with all their friends. "They" aren't students from the Masonic Children's Home but Elizabethtown residents who participate in the Resident Mentoring Program at Fairview Elementary School in the Elizabethtown Area School District. Resident mentors read to kindergartners and first-graders, listen to them read and assist them with schoolwork... "We help them work on assignments for subjects they are learning in school," said one of the mentors. "We help the kindergartners write, count money and work on their colors. We use a lot of flash cards with the first graders." The mentors agree that interaction between older and younger generations is important, one of the reasons they participate in the program.

Quincy Home and Village Every morning around 8:00 a.m., the woodshop regulars pick up their tools to create something beautiful and useful, usually working until noon and often in the afternoon as well in the woodworking shop. Among the items Quincy woodworkers make as gifts for family and friends, donations to the Benefit Auction or items for the Village Store re stools, picture frames, spice racks, newspaper recycling bins, hanging shelves, lazy Susan's, jewelry boxes, quilt racks and doll houses. They've also repaired furniture; refurbished the Minnich Manor sign; and made cabinets for the Minnich Manor dining room, fixtures for the Village Store and screen doors for Quincy Village cottages.

As needs change, so does Quincy Village. After being closed for nearly a year, the Colestock Nursing Unit has reopened with the first new skilled care residents admitted in September. The renovated unit with six private and 14 semi-private rooms is primarily for short-term rehabilitation residents and those who require respite or hospice care. A response to the growing need for hospice and respite care, the six large, private rooms will provide increased comfort for residents and better accommodation for visiting family and friends.

The second Annual Benefit Auction on October 18th was another success, raising \$15,000. The auction proceeds support the on-going renovations of the Colestock Center, which is home to skilled care and personal care residents.

Newsletter Editor: James Stuart Dickson 67 Spruce Circle 717-776-8414 Newville, PA 17241 e-mail jmsgrv2@aol.com