

PARCR NEWSLETTER

Volume IX, Issue 1

January 10, 2007

Bethany Village, Mechanicsburg

President Elma Kreps called the regular January meeting of the Pennsylvania Alliance of Retirement Community Residents to order and introduced the Bethany Village Chaplain, the Rev. Jim Browning who led the group in prayer. The new Executive Director of Bethany Village, Melissa Hadley, welcomed the group and spoke of her gratitude for such a group of concerned residents working to help CCRC's improve.

In the roll call, 19 communities were recognized. Among the reports from the communities were the following. Bethany Village has begun a marketing program to sell 50 new duplex and estate homes. The duplex units are 1400 square feet and the Estate Homes begin at 1800 square feet. Asbury Communities has established a for profit unit that sells services to other retirement villages. Bethany Village has completed an evaluation procedure to certify the Chaplaincy Program as a training center for future ministers, working with the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg. Brethren Home Community at Cross Keys is continuing plans for expansion. Also reported was the fact that the community had experienced robberies and delegates were urged to keep apartments and cottages locked. Cumberland Crossings has firmed up long range plans for the community. Foxdale Village now has 250 residents and they are planning for expansion, although some residents are concerned about such plans. Garden Spot has just celebrated its 10th anniversary. The new skilled nursing unit has completed 2 family units of the 4 which are planned. Total beds in the completed facility will be 72. At a fund raising auction, \$29,000.00 was raised and an additional gift of \$30,000.00 was presented. Sylvia Camp, the spokes person from Green Ridge Village spoke about concerns for health service for independent residents, as the group ages and have greater needs. She asked delegates from other communities to share their thoughts on the subject. Homestead has celebrated its 20th anniversary. A problem in the community is speeding and they are considering speed bumps. Jenner's Pond now has 500 residents of whom 400 are independent residents. The community is working to raise its benevolent fund. Luther Ridge is smaller than most of the other communities. They do not have a skilled nursing unit, but skilled nursing is available from Lutheran Social Services. Masonic Village has a total of 1800 residents, with 806 Independent residents. Messiah Village last year had its 110th anniversary. A Quilt Auction raised \$17,000.00. In April, they will start 42 more cottages. Quincy Home and Village is now under Presbyterian Homes, Inc. and are seeing a number of changes of employees. Some residents are finding the change a little upsetting. Sprenkle Village in under Lutheran Social Services, although not the same as Luther Ridge. There are now 215 independent residents. A new bus has been purchased. Tel Hai is observing its 50th anniversary. A Big Gala is planed for March. Renovations in the Assisted Living Unit have been completed. The Skilled Nursing Unit is to be renovated next. They have plans for expansion but are facing zoning problems which must be resolved first. Woodcrest Village held a celebration of the U. S. Constitution which was a great

success. Homewood at Plum Creek reports it will peak at 750 residents. They report a goose problem, to which others can relate.

George Tjiattas. The Program Chairman introduced the speaker, Alicia Richards, News Anchor for ABC, Channel 27. Ms Richards gave us an interesting and amusing look into the work of a news anchor. She related some of the “crazy” events which caused problems during news broadcasts. What she likes about her job are the exciting things she gets to be a part of, and the people she meets. She particularly mentioned Lori, a cancer sufferer, who proved to be a truly amazing person as Ms Richards worked with her through her time of dealing with breast cancer. Among the exciting visits she has made she mentioned ground zero and Ecuador. She visited Ecuador with a surgical team. The country is the poorest in South America, although it has plenty of resources. The problem is a bad government. The people heard about American doctors and came in throngs seeking surgery. She also visited Kosovo, where she said the people were happy to have U. S. soldiers there. The Serbs and the Albanians have hated each other for a long time. A homesick soldier told her he logs onto ABC traffic reports of this area to make him feel better.

A question was asked about why channels have “promos” for a special story which is often postponed until nearly the last part of the broadcast. She said that because there are now so many channels giving news reports that channels use such promos to hold on to the listeners. Another questioner asked if there was much abuse following a bad news story. She said people are usually nice. Her most intriguing story was the story of Lori and her breast cancer. Someone wanted to know how so many stories get leaked about the administration. She said often the White House deliberately leaks a story to get advance reaction to what is planned. Another question was as to whether or not channels censor the news. She said censorship was not really a problem, but noted that sometimes there is a battle between the news desk and the advertising sales department. Another questioner wondered why bad news is almost always given first. She answered that while the bad news often is unpleasant to hear, it nevertheless seems to be what people are most interested in.

Following a delicious and nourishing lunch, the group reconvened to continue the business meeting. Frank Lookingbill reported that PARCR now has 24 community members and 40 associate members. He said contact was needed to reach some communities such as Chapel Point and the Church of God Home in Carlisle, and Maple Farms in Akron. Elma reported that because Frank is having some health difficulties, she has asked Carol Wendell to be Interim Chair of the Membership Committee.

The Program Chairman, George Tjiattas, announced that at the April meeting at Quincy Retirement Community, Steve Proctor of Presbyterian Homes, Inc. will be the speaker.

A report was given by the Grant Committee. The first request to a foundation was denied, because that foundation only serves the Carlisle area. A second request has been made to the Rite Aid Foundation, which has not been answered yet. Several other foundations are available and will be considered.

It was moved and seconded to purchase a high speed printer for the secretary, costing between \$600 and \$800. The funds are available in the treasury now, partly from special contributions for the computer fund. The motion carried.

The annual convention for PANPHA will be held in Hershey, June 27 to 29. Once again PARCR has been invited to have an information booth. Volunteers are needed to set up and man the booth.

NaCCRA, the National Continuing Care Residents Association, will hold its spring meeting at Greenspring Village, Springfield, VA March 22 and 23. The registration fee is \$44.00 per person, which includes all refreshments at breaks plus lunch and dinner, Thursday, March 22. The Hampton Inn, 6550 Loisdale Court, Springfield, (phone 703-924-9444) has given a good rate of \$124.00 and will hold rooms until February 20. Reservations should be mailed to Ronald Levin, Greenspring Village, 7446 Spring Village Drive, Apt. 113, Springfield VA 22150-4453 not later than March 1.

Reporting for Evert Fuller, secretary, George Tjiattas said that the PARCR web site shows the PARCR logo surrounded by member community logos. Some of those logos have changed, and some of the communities are not shown. He requested that all communities notify Evert of their present logos.

Hugh Fitzgerald, Legislative Chair, told the delegates that he had been asked about the Sarbanes OCA Act. After investigating it carefully, he learned that it does not apply to not for profit CCRC's. To meet its requirements if it did apply would be quite expensive.

The next meeting will be held at Quincy Retirement Community on April 11th.

News from Our Communities

Bethany Village

Among recent programs of interest at Bethany Village was a Veteran's Day program. The featured speaker was Col. Paul L. Kucharek of the U. S. Army War College in Carlisle.

Brethren Village, Lancaster

Brethren Village has announced a redevelopment plan. This project will be the most widespread in the history of the village and builds on the 110 year mission and tradition of providing Christ-like care for seniors. In 2008, the Village will begin implementing the development of a state of the art 120 bed skilled nursing facility; 135 independent living apartments; 30 assisted living units; and 21 memory support assisted living units. The plan will add improved dining, wellness facilities and multipurpose space for residents, team members, and the greater community to enjoy,

Brethren Village's construction of the newest addition, Fairview Meadows, is well underway with an anticipated opening date of April 1, 2007. This unit, meeting all conditions of the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will contain 60 one bedroom affordable housing apartments.

Garden Spot Village

The Center for Health at Garden Spot Village is expanding. Ephrata Hospital has broken ground for a 16,500 square foot expansion to the existing 33,500 square foot building. The increase to the size of the building will provide additional space for services such as Workplace Partners (occupational medicine), Meadow Creek Family Practice, Imaging Department (that will accommodate new technology) and specialty physician services. It will also accommodate a new E-Care Service to provide after hours emergency care for non-major emergencies. Construction is expected to be completed this summer.

Green Ridge Village

The first phase of the Lodges will close with the completion of the final lodge, this month. So far, four couples have moved into the spacious new lodges and the fifth could move in soon.

A 14 unit apartment building is about to be marketed, and will be constructed soon as an addition to Green Hall. Eight units must be sold before construction can begin.

Landis Homes

Landis Homes is embarking on a new program to take services to persons living in their private homes in the surrounding community. *Landis at Home* offers support services including personal care, companionship and homemaking. Faith Hoover assumed the position of Director of Home and Community Services this fall. She has served as the Director of Adult Day Services and Special Care since 1997. She is a registered nurse with a baccalaureate degree from Eastern Mennonite University in management and organizational development.

Masonic Village

Although thousands of miles separate Elizabethtown, PA from Gulfport, Miss, residents of Elizabethtown felt compassion and determination to help their neighbors down South. Four staff members of the Masonic Village drove to Gulfport to assist in the rebuilding of houses and lives. Ann Dinsmore, Music Therapy Supervisor, her husband, Cris, Director of Finance; Jennifer Hinton, Recreation/Music Therapist; and John Marsh, Director of Purchasing and Materials Management made the trip with 35 members of Christ Church, UCC, in Elizabethtown.

The Masonic Villages periodically update and renovate their residences. The used furniture is normally auctioned off to the public, but this year, there was a much greater need for it to be donated to the hurricane survivors. In September, a truckload of mattresses, dining room chairs, recliners and couches was driven to Gulfport. In October, a van, donated by Rep. and Mrs. Thomas Creighton, of Manheim, with six Masonic Village Computers also headed down South to benefit local schools.