

PARCR NEWSLETTER

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Annual Meeting, July 13

Frank Lookingbill, the first vice president of PARCR, opened the meeting and informed us that Elma Kreps, our president had been in the hospital, and although home from the hospital, was still not able to be with us. He introduced Ray Tierney, the CEO for Independent Living Retirement Services for the Masonic Villages, who welcomed us and gave us some information about the Masonic Villages. The Masonic Village in Elizabethtown has 1400 acres, of which 1000 acres is currently a working farm. There are now 1500 residents. Recently the two Eastern Star Homes became Masonic Villages, and since another Village has opened and a fifth one is currently being prepared. He asked a retired clergyman and resident of the Masonic Village to lead us in prayer.

Charles Astfalk, our Program Chairman, introduced the two speakers for the day, William C. Davis, CEO of Health Care Services of Masonic Villages and Raymond E. Tierney, whom we had already met. He announced that they would speak to us on trends in retirement living and health care services affecting CCRC's.

Ray Tierney spoke first, telling us about changes which have taken place during the 24 years he has been at the Masonic Home, now one of the Masonic Villages. There has been tremendous growth in the number of Retirement communities, and as the number has grown, there has been a demand for expanded facilities. New residents have asked for fitness centers with pools for water therapy and exercise. There is also a demand for larger homes. Another new trend is the offering of "Aging in Place" opportunities. This brings both advantages for aging residents who enjoy staying in their homes longer, and problems as mobility issues arise. Some more active residents are not always happy with the special needs and services necessary for those near by who are aging in place. A special service which many communities are offering is Hospice Care.

Other changes have involved unbundling of services, and offering more flexibility, variety of dining plans, and refund opportunities of varying sizes. Some communities are beginning to work in partnership with other community institutions, as Garden Spot Village is working with the local hospital.

As the competition increases, some single unit communities have found it necessary to become part of a larger system such as the Masonic Villages or Presbyterian Homes, Inc.

A concern of which CCRC's must be aware is the explosion of 55 + active communities. While these do not offer the continuum of care which the CCRC's can offer, they are appealing to the younger retirees in today's market.

William C. Davis next spoke about health care issues. He began by speaking about the concerns resulting from the new state budget. For the first time ever, the budget places a cap on Medicaid increases. The Medicaid Cap the Governor has first asked for was 2%, which the legislature increased to 2.8%, but since the cost of care already far exceeded what Medicaid paid, it is clear that the difference will have to be made up by charitable care and increasing the cost to private residents.

Another concern is a new set of Personal Care Regulations. CCRC's will have to study these new "Regs" to know what if any changes will have to be made.

Mr. Davis then gave an excellent presentation on What's New in Medicare. He told us that some new preventative benefits such as physical exams and cardiac screening will be available. Then he gave us a good introduction to the Prescription Drug Coverage to be offered under Medicare D. He noted that the drug discount cards which have been offered are temporary and will not be used after Jan. 1, 2006. Medicare D coverage for Prescription Drugs will be provided through Private prescription drug plans, or Medicare Advantage, or some Employer or Union Plans already in existence. After the Plans are made public October 1st, employer or union plans must notify those receiving them concerning the benefits of the new plans. Beginning November 15th, enrollment in Medicare D will be available. If one enrolls before Dec. 31st, coverage will begin Jan 1st. After Dec. 31st, one can still enroll up to May 15th without additional cost. Coverage will begin the first of the month following the date in which one has enrolled.

Since all people on Medicare can enroll, and they must be offered a minimum of two different plans, it is important for all to carefully consider whether or not the new coverage will be of benefit. The cost is said to be approximately \$37.00 a month. After a \$250.00 deductible, the new plan will pay 75% of prescription costs up to a total of \$2250.00 a year. Between that and \$5000.00 there is no coverage, but when one has reached a total out of pocket expense during one year of \$3600.00, Medicare D will begin to pay 95% of the cost of prescription drugs.

We were told if further questions remain, one can call 1-800- Medicare or go on the internet to www.medicare.gov.

Following the program, Frank Lookingbill asked for the roll call. A total of 19 communities were represented, and many of them reported on changes in their communities. Bethany Village is working on plans for the space left free by the transfer of Assisted Living units to the West Campus. Some new cottages and a new community center are contemplated. A conservation team has begun working on ways for apartment residents to help keep cost down. Angela Dohrman, Bethany's Executive Director was selected the 2005 Pennsylvania Not-for-Profit Housing Associations' Leader of the Year. Brethren Home Community reported that 37 new cottages are under construction. Some planning is being done to assist residents in aging in place. A new satellite community is being considered. Brethren Village of Lancaster is adding representatives of various interest groups to their Residents' Council. A HUD sponsored project with 60 units is about to be started. Garden Spot Village is about to start building a 32 bed nursing facility. Green Ridge Village has been trying to market some "lodges", single unit homes which are larger and more expensive than the cottages already in place. So far, none have been sold. Homestead Village held an open house on June 23rd with a large crowd attending. Homewood at Plum Creek has dedicated their new Community Center. They have 32 new apartments. Landis Homes reported that the Children's Learning Center recently begun is doing very well. Messiah Village currently has 655 residents, and is now land locked. A study is being conducted to see how the village could accommodate new people. Penn Hall told us that work is proceeding on the villas at Northfield, the new area being developed by the Menno Haven communities. Pleasant View spoke of the 50th anniversary of that community. The representatives of Quincy Village asked if other communities had had problems with the increasing use of electric vehicles. Their Resident Council has been asked to prepare guide lines for their use. Sprenkle Village and the Village at Kelly Drive have a new Executive Director. Two residents at Sprenkle Village are working with the Apprise Group. The Village has a new Food Service Company working with them. Kelly Drive is the oldest of the Lutheran Social Services facilities. They reported on a new community being established in Hanover, to be called the Utz Village. Woodcrest will break ground this fall for 38 new villas.

Following a delicious lunch (actually a dinner!) the business meeting resumed. Dick Morris, the treasurer, introduced the budget for the next fiscal year, with an increase of about \$450 to a total of \$3340.00. He reminded the delegates that the annual membership fees are necessary to meet the budget, and urged those communities which have not yet renewed their memberships to do so. It was announced that the By-Laws Committee will meet on Sept. 12th following the regular Executive Committee.

Bill George, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented a slate of officers for the coming year. Elma Kreps has agreed to continue as Interim President until a new president can be secured. The remaining elected officers have agreed to continue. Hugh Fitzgerald has agreed to be the Legislative Chair for PARCR. A new Program Chair is needed. After the slate was announced, it was moved and seconded and passed to elect the officers.

The next PARCR meeting will be held October 12th at Garden Spot Village in New Holland. Speakers from the Administration of that community will provide the program.

More News from Our Communities

Bethany Village

The Bethany Village Men's Chorus was organized with 12 members in April, 1989. A resident, Elizabeth Kleffel agreed to organize and accompany the chorus and it was directed by Bob Lamb. Both continue to be with the chorus. From the beginning, the chorus adopted the Sunday evening chapel services as its mission. Once a month, it provides the special music. Today, with the expansion of Bethany West, the chorus has grown to twenty members.

Not to be out done, the Women's Chorus is celebrating 12 years of fun and fellowship. Bob Lamb, the director of the Men's Chorus, suggested that the then director of activities get in touch with Jean Thurston, part time choral director in Trinity High School. During these 12 years, she has continued to teach at Trinity and work with the chorus each week. The chorus presents two concerts a year, and joins with the men in a holiday concert at Christmas. Today, the chorus includes 25 women.

The annual Bethany Spring Garage and Furniture Sale had a successful effort in May. Many volunteers spent countless hours organizing, pricing and selling a vast number of donated items. John Creighton, treasurer, says total sales as of May 21st was \$6,184.67. The fall fair is scheduled for September 17th.

The Brethren Home Community

The Village Chimers meet every Tuesday morning from 8:45 to 9:30. Any one who loves music and would enjoy being a part of playing some old favorite melodies is invited to give it a try. Those who cannot commit to every Tuesday are needed for substitutes when regular members are away.

Saturday, August 13th is the 45th Annual Chicken Barbecue & Quilt Auction. A fun filled day, which begins at 9:00 a.m. and concludes at 3:00 p.m. Delicious baked goods will also be available.

Dennis Hare will resume offering Comedy Classics on the Village Channel 25, featuring such special treasures as Abbot & Costello, Red Skelton, Ma & Pa Kettle and other old time movie greats.

Brethren Village, Lancaster

Virginia Whiskeyman was recognized recently as Volunteer of the Month. For the past 5 years Ginny has been a part of the Red Cross Therapy program with her golden retriever, Maggie. Maggie is 11 years old and every one she visits becomes a new found friend.

Garden Spot Village

The Wellness Center at Garden Spot Village now offers Arthritis Foundation certified exercise classes for GSV residents and non-residents. The P.A.C.E. (People with Arthritis Can Exercise) Class is an arthritis exercise program that's been designed to improve endurance, joint motion and ease pain. The class meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 1:30 p.m.

Garden Spot Village held its first Employee Recognition Luncheon and Dessert Reception. With a total of 40 employees and managers attending, the Luncheon recognized employees who've been working at GSV for more than five years. In addition, 123 facility employees with more than two years of service were honored at the Dessert Reception which immediately followed the luncheon.

Green Ridge Village

Sylvia Camp, the new president of the Residents' Council and Director of the Thrift Shop, announced that the Thrift Shop received \$2077.43 during the month of June. The profits from the Thrift Shop go to the Green Ridge Village Auxiliary and help to provide needed equipment for Swaim Health Center.

Landis Homes

Francis Harvey had a party for his 100th birthday on March 10, 2005. What made this event even more unusual is that his wife Elsie, of course a guest at the party, celebrated her own 100 year milestone back in October, 2004. The couple married June 20, 1928. The Harvey's had three children of their own and also raised two nephews whose mother died in 1943. They have 10 living grandchildren, one has died, and 14 great-grandchildren.

Masonic Village

Once a month, a group of 30 Elizabethtown residents participate in Rebecca Circle, a women's Bible study group that discusses books of the Bible and how they relate to women. Rebecca Circle recently began a service project "to share what we have with others." Pastor Margaret Rohnacher, who leads the group, suggested sponsoring a child through Compassion International. The group agreed to sponsor a girl and in December 2004 began sponsoring Mariam Juma Gombe, a 5 year old girl from Tanzania, Africa. The women are encouraged to send letters and photographs often and are permitted to send monetary gifts twice a year. In February, the Circle received its first letter with a drawing and photo from Mariam.

Elizabethtown residents recently competed in the Concept 2 Rowing Challenge, sponsored by exercise equipment manufacturer Concept 2. Several residents achieved world rankings on Concept 2's rowing exercise machine.

Penn Hall and Menno Village

Joyce Suffecool, Nursing Assistant at Menno Village Nursing Center was honored recently with the Caregiver of the Year Award. The Institute for Caregiver Education presented the award at a county wide conference for direct caregivers sponsored by the Institute.

A Menno Haven team is scheduled to join the American Heart Walk to benefit the American Heart Association. The walk is scheduled for Sunday, September 25th.

Jane Mowrey and Wayne Mowrey, residents of Penn Hall, were presented with alumni citations at Lebanon Valley College at the Annual Awards Ceremony and Recognition Rally. The citations were given for their volunteerism and cultural contributions to Menno Haven and Penn Hall campuses and the community of Chambersburg.

Quincy Retirement Community

The Annual Day, a long tradition at Quincy Village, was celebrated June 11. Among the special entertainments were the Mason Dixon Barbershop Quartet, the Glitter Bugs Tap Dancers, Whirley Birds Square Dancers, and the German Oompah Band. Annual Day is a time for remembering, enjoying and looking forward.

Volunteers Are TEA-RRIFIC was the theme of this year's volunteer recognition celebration. Last year 264 volunteers gave 21,500 hours of service. The volunteer with the most hours from the neighboring communities was Mary Lee Cline who provided 604 hours of service last year. During her years as a volunteer at Quincy, she has given a total of 17,000 hours. Quincy resident John Simek with 801 hours was recognized as the resident with the most hours for 2004. He has accumulated 4,000 hours in a short period of time.

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