



*The Tree Unites the  
Branches; The Branches  
Bear the Fruit*

# O The RANJ TREE

Quarterly Newsletter of the Organization of Residents Associations of New Jersey  
[www.oranjccrc.org](http://www.oranjccrc.org)

Number 36

Fall Issue

October 2012

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



The ORANJ Fall Plenary Meeting will be held at 10:00 am on Wednesday, October 17, at Monroe Village in Monroe Township. We are fortunate to have a centralized location for this meeting and hope to see a great many of you there.

At the business meeting we will be presenting a budget for the coming year and hear presentations on the work of some of the ORANJ standing committees. In the President's Report you will hear more about the study of ORANJ priorities

that is the focus of the Regional meetings this year. Make sure that you attend the Regional meetings to make your voice heard. We truly value your opinions.

Our morning speaker will be Stephen Maag, Vice President of Leading-Age and an old friend, who will talk about national issues relating to CCRCs and health care. Our afternoon speakers will focus on state issues. Frank Blee will speak on Accountable Care Organizations in the CCRC context and Judith Henninger will talk about tools for health assessment. (See back page.)

Several important studies are under way at ORANJ and we hope to have reports at the Spring Plenary meeting, if not earlier. Netty Lowenstein, chair of the Health Care Committee, is conducting a study on Assisted Mobility Devices (AMDs), such as wheelchairs, scooters, and walkers, focusing particularly on CCRC policies and procedures. We anticipate that the report will include a model for policies that can be adapted to meet CCRC needs. Mike Geran, a resident of Winchester Gardens, is carrying out a study of types of meal plans currently used by CCRCs in NJ. This is a particularly timely study because of the many recent changes in meal plan offerings. Completed studies can be found on our website [www.oranjccrc.org](http://www.oranjccrc.org).

I hope that you will find the Plenary Meeting a good place to catch up with old friends and make new ones. It will be a pleasure to welcome you to our fall meeting, so please sign up as soon as the information is distributed.

*Ellen*

### Officers

Ellen Handler, *Winchester Gardens*,  
President

Al Lyter, *Applewood Estates*,  
Vice President, Central Region

David Hibberson, *Harrogate*,  
Vice President, Southeast Region

Helen Vukasin, *Medford Leas*,  
Vice President, Southwest Region

Ed Babbott, *Fellowship Village*,  
Vice President, Northeast Region

Gil Dorfman, *Cedar Crest*,  
Vice President, Northwest Region

Ted Brock, *Harrogate*,  
Secretary-Treasurer

### Members

*Applewood Estates, Freehold*

*Arbor Glen, Bridgewater*

*The Atrium at Navesink Harbor,*  
*Red Bank*

*Bristol Glen, Newton*

*Cadbury at Cherry Hill, Cherry Hill*

*Cedar Crest, Pompton Plains*

*Crane's Mill, West Caldwell*

*Crestwood Manor, Whiting*

*The Evergreens, Moorestown*

*Fellowship Village, Basking Ridge*

*The Fountains at Cedar Parke, Atco*

*Franciscan Oaks, Denville*

*Friends Village, Woodstown*

*Fritz Reuter, North Bergen*

*Harrogate, Lakewood*

*House of the Good Shepherd,*

*Hackettstown*

*Lions Gate, Voorhees*

*Meadow Lakes, East Windsor*

*Medford Leas, Medford*

*Monroe Village, Monroe Township*

*The Pines at Whiting, Whiting*

*Seabrook, Tinton Falls*

*Stonebridge at Montgomery,*

*Skillman*

*Wiley Christian Retirement*

*Community, Marlton*

*Winchester Gardens, Maplewood*

### Newsletter

Pearl Lehrhoff, *Winchester*  
*Gardens*,

Editor

Maggie Heineman, *Medford Leas*,  
Production

### ORANJ contact

Ellen Handler

333 Elmwood Ave Apt M459

Maplewood, NJ 07040

973-275-9290

[e12handler@verizon.net](mailto:e12handler@verizon.net)

## ORANJ MISSION

The purpose of the ORANJ mission is something we should all be aware of. The Organization of Residents Associations of New Jersey exists for the purpose of supporting, empowering, and bettering the lives of senior citizens in New Jersey. We accomplish this mission by:

- Facilitating communication among member Residents Associations on matters of common interest and concern.
- Keeping abreast of developments in the world of senior citizens.
- Coordinating action on behalf of the rights and responsibilities of residents.
- Monitoring and seeking to influence the enactment of laws and regulations that pertain to residents of CCRCs in New Jersey.

We couldn't ask for better guidelines to protect our senior citizen population.

In order to implement this mission we have a board of 13 officers led by our president Ellen Handler. Each board member has a specific area to work in. In this newsletter we have focused on the legal work done by David Hibberson, chair of the legislative committee. I personally feel more secure knowing that his committee is carefully monitoring any legal issues that affect all the senior citizens of our 25 certified CCRCs. David's article, which follows, provides a description of the work his committee is now involved with.

*Pearl Randall Lehrhoff*

~~~~~

## A BILL OF RIGHTS FOR CCRC RESIDENTS IN INDEPENDENT LIVING

This draft bill has now reached the Legislature in Trenton in the form of two identical bills, S2032 in the Senate and A3132 in the Assembly. They were assigned to the Health and Seniors Services committees.

The reason for creating these two bills was to collect together any and all existing "rights of residents in independent living CCRCs" and

present them together in one document for the convenience of all concerned. These rights were established over a number of years and appear in many state and federal laws. The draft bill also required that these rights be made known to prospective and current residents.

The Bill of Rights is divided into seven sections.

- Entry rights,
- Rights when in residence,
- Rights when contemplating or being transferred to an assisted living facility or nursing unit (either for a temporary or a permanent stay),
- Communicating the residents' rights,
- Financial considerations,
- Termination of residence, and
- Penalties for violations of the Bill of Rights.

The draft bill included a requirement that these rights were to be made available to prospective and current residents.

The Legislative Committee first discussed the idea of a Bill of Rights for Independent Living residents early in 2011 and has worked since then to produce a suitable document.

It is now time to help these bills move through committees, be voted on by the full Senate and Assembly, and signed into law by the Governor.

The Legislative Committee will very soon seek the help of residents to persuade legislators to endorse these bills, by sending letters and emails and telephoning to support our efforts.

*David Hibberson*  
*Chair, Legislative Committee*

~~~~~

## FINANCE COMMITTEE OFFERS REFRESHER ON FINANCE GUIDE AT REGIONAL MEETINGS

If you thought the original Finance Guidebook a tough though worthwhile read, you may be pleasantly surprised by the updated version. One of the most important changes is the addition of tables on a mythical "Jolly CCRC"

that illustrates some of the kinds of reports that you may encounter on a resident Finance Committee. Since some of you probably have not yet explored the updated guide and tested its usefulness, members of the ORANJ Finance Committee have decided to bring the guide to our members. They will be attending ORANJ regional meetings to explain the guidebook and answer questions.

The ORANJ CCRC Finance Guidebook was first published in 2007 and updated in 2010. It covers five key financial topics:

- Financial statements,
- Long-term financial stability,
- CCRC contracts,
- NJ statutes and regulations related to CCRC finances, and
- Federal regulations related to CCRC finances.

We encourage the CCRCs to bring members of their Finance Committees, particularly newcomers, to the Regional meetings.

A copy of the guidebook can be found on our website, [www.oranjccrc.org](http://www.oranjccrc.org). We suggest that residents look at the Guide before the meeting.

*Mel Williams*  
*Chair, Finance Committee*

~~~~~

## BIO OF NEW VICE PRESIDENT



Just recently, Gil Dorfman stepped in to take over the vice presidency of the North-west Region of ORANJ. Until then, he had been the ORANJ representative from Cedar Crest, where he lives. Taking on the new responsibilities provides substance to his comment, "When I get involved in something I go all the way." He is thinking about strategies to strengthen his

region and considering ways to "get out the word" about ORANJ and its achievements.

In 2007 Gil had the good fortune to sell his house and move into Cedar Crest with his wife. He quickly became a member of the Residents Advisory Council and enjoys being part of the decision making in his community. One of his projects was to bring about significant changes in the operation of their Renaissance unit. He convinced the Council that prospective residents would be strongly influenced by the quality of a Renaissance program, even though they had no immediate need for such services. Currently, he is also active in raising money for the Benevolent Care Fund that helps residents who have depleted their resources.

Gil was an accountant by profession and partner in his own firm. He was appointed by the Governor to the NJ Board of Accountancy, and served as trustee for the NJ Society of Certified Public Accountants (NJSCPA). He has won a Distinguished CPA of the Year Award and a NJSCPA Service Award. For several years he volunteered for the Blood Bank of Paramus, where he collected blood donations for 31 hospitals.

~~~~~

## DRAT

I miss "Drat." That is, the word *drat* and its corollaries like darn, durn, nuts, rats, doggone, and pshaw. Pshaw is the only expletive I ever heard my father use. It is pronounced like the surname of George Bernard with the p silent, similar to the one in pswimming. My mother used an occasional epithet in an elegant, tangential way: she would refer to someone as "a horse's rosette" or comment that there were more horses' asses in the world than horses.

We oldies who have lived through most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century are inclined to think of the "good old days" when refrigerators, television, cell phones and iPads weren't around and life was a lot less complicated. Were they better days? Hard to

*(continued on back page)*



## SPEAKERS FOR OCTOBER 17



The morning speaker will be Stephen Maag, Director, Residential Communities for LeadingAge, the organization whose mission is to help improve the critical issues of life and health for the aging. Mr. Maag will be speaking about CCRC trends and give us an update on issues at the federal level.

Mr. Maag is responsible for developing and implementing public policy for LeadingAge residential communities, including assisted living, CCRCs and senior housing. He serves as a resource for members when dealing with a wide variety of legal and regulatory matters on a state and national basis. He is part of the advocacy staff at LeadingAge and works with members of Congress and committee staff on public policy issues important to LeadingAge members. Mr. Maag is an attorney who has represented numerous healthcare clients in all aspects of facility and professional licensure, including Medicare/Medicaid survey/certification issues, fraud and abuse investigations, liability litigation and negotiating and drafting contracts with managed care facilities.

In the afternoon we will have a pair of speakers who will address issues at the state level. Frank



Blee is a former assemblyman who is currently Director of Senior Services in the Clinical Program at Atlanticare, which provides healthcare delivery along with programs in health information and health engagement. He has been their government liaison at the state and federal level and has

considerable expertise regarding ACOs (Accountable Care Organizations) and how they fit into the CCRC mix of services. He is also expert on the PACE program (Patient All-inclusive Care for the Elderly), which has been discussed as a possible model for healthcare services.



Judith Henninger, a nurse-educator at Atlanticare, will make a presentation on tools for health assessment and suggest how they can be modified to suit different populations. Ms. Henninger has had 26 years of experience as a health and wellness coach in a variety of settings and has been a school nurse teacher for over 15 years.

All three presenters have assured the ORANJ Executive Committee that they speak English real good.

*Gene Lanigan*

## DRAT

*(continued from page 3)*

say. But they sure were simpler and more innocent. And nothing illustrates that more than our language and the change it has gone through: becoming coarser, ruder and more vulgar as the years swept by.

When did the change happen? The seminal moment for America may have arrived when Rhett Butler spoke his final words in *Gone With the Wind* —“frankly my dear I don’t give a damn.” What an uproar that caused in 1939! Not that the offending word wasn’t in regular use on the street, but to hear it at the movies! Shocking!

Only a few decades later George Carlin made a full frontal attack on the issue with his “Seven Dirty Words” comedy routine.

It was all downhill from then on as the motion picture industry discovered the F word and its manifold placement in the screen script. Probably another generation or so and we’ll be hearing it and others of the genre over the radio. Too bad that the process is irreversible and we’ll never again use or hear those sweeter, kinder, gentler words and phrases of yesteryear.

Drat.

*Gene Lanigan*