



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

The ORANJ TREE

Quarterly Newsletter of the Organization of Residents Associations of New Jersey

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The October 18, 2017 Plenary was superbly hosted by Stonebridge at Montgomery and attended by 135 residents and guests. John Williams, Resident Council President, organized the event and headed a team of highly qualified volunteers who implemented innovative services including valet parking and lunch meals served to tables by wait staff in their beautiful dining room. The speakers were Marsha Greenfield of LeadingAge, who urged all residents to advocate their congressional representatives to retain the medical income tax deduction; and NaCCRA President Basil Pflumm, who called on New Jersey residents to join the national organization to form stronger advocacy for seniors living in CCRCs. The speakers' handouts are on the ORANJ website at www.oranjccrc.org/about-oranj/meetings/.

**Save the Date: ORANJ Plenary Meeting
Tuesday, April 24 at Cedar Crest**

New Jersey Ombudsman Jim McCracken was a special speaker presenting the much-improved name: "Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman." Jim will be moving to a new leadership position in January. He will become President and CEO of LeadingAge New Jersey. We are delighted that we will be able to continue to work with our good friend Jim.

I want to personally thank all the NJ CCRC residents who joined together to fight to retain our traditional medical income tax deduction. This part of the tax code is urgently needed for ORANJ members and for CCRCs throughout the nation. LeadingAge, NaCCRA and ORANJ made their wishes known to senators and House of Representatives members in Washington, DC. Everyone can be proud of successfully influencing this legislation.

I attended the NaCCRA Board of Directors meeting last October in New Orleans. Also, I attended LeadingAge educational sessions and walked through the exhibit hall at the New Orleans Conference Center. This was a good place to learn what is working at CCRCs nationwide.

Working with NaCCRA, I have become experienced in audio-video teleconferencing technology using a product named Zoom. A LeadingAge exhibitor (Senior Portal) is developing technology that interfaces with CCRC residents who have Amazon Echo devices.

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**TO CONTINUE ITS IMPORTANT WORK, ORANJ urgently needs CCRC resident volunteers to fill positions on our Executive Committee: Chair of the Finance Committee and Chair of the Health Committee. Send an email to me at [2whalins@gmail.com](mailto:2whalins@gmail.com) or call me at 973-723-5699.**

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

**Ron Whalin**

### Executive Committee

RON WHALIN, *Fellowship Village*  
President

DAVE MARR, *Lantern Hill*  
Vice President, Northeast Region

HARVEY PETERS, *Crane's Mill*  
Vice President, Northwest Region

BARBARA GRUTTER, *Applewood*  
Vice President, Central Region

BARBARA TROUGHT, *Medford Leas*  
Vice President, Southwest Region

GARY BALDWIN, *Seabrook*  
Vice President, Southeast Region

MAGGIE HEINEMAN, *Medford Leas*  
Secretary/Treasurer

GENE WACHSPRESS, *Meadow Lakes*  
Legislative Committee

### Members

Applewood, *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*  
The Oaks at Denville, *Denville*  
Friends Village, *Woodstown*  
Fritz Reuter, *North Bergen*  
Harrogate, *Lakewood*  
House of the Good Shepherd,  
*Hackettstown*  
Lantern Hill, *New Providence*  
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*

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## THE REASON FOR REGIONS

by Gary Baldwin, past president, VP Southeast Region



Regional vice presidents are extremely important in the ORANJ system as they are the first step toward the solution of a problem which otherwise might remain at the local level in a community. My personal thanks to those of you who have stepped forward to keep this system working as designed.

I have said repeatedly that regional meetings are the backbone of ORANJ and the regional vice presidents are the most important positions in ORANJ. ORANJ will succeed only if there is active and current communication between the ORANJ Executive Committee and the member CCRCs across the state.

The value of the ORANJ Executive Committee to its membership communities rests not in what the committee members feel is their agenda, but rather, what the committee is asked to consider through input from its region's vice presidents.

The regional structure was developed many years ago by members of the Executive Committee as a way to begin to bring together, at the grass roots level, a small number of CCRCs within each geographic region. Face-to-face communication between community leaders periodically results in solution-based crosstalk on the issues and concerns experienced by residents across the state.

The region system is the beginning step in a process that can result in a positive change for residents in CCRCs throughout the state. Issues or potential actions suggested at region-level meetings are evaluated by the Executive Committee to determine if an issue is widespread and is appropriate for subsequent action. In other words, the Executive Committee is there to evaluate and possibly act on matters brought to its forum by regional vice presidents. This system provides positive sharing of solutions and gives a macro voice for each CCRC.

## INTRODUCING DAVID MARR, VP NORTHEAST REGION

by Paul Basham, Wiley Christian Retirement Community



**David Marr** is the Vice President for the Northeast Region of ORANJ and was one of the early residents to move into the Lantern Hill Retirement Center, which opened in 2015 in New Providence, NJ. A person reading his resume soon discovers that David is a high tech communicator. A graduate of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore with a degree in electrical engineering, David

spent his career designing and developing software for computers.

For most of his career he was a member of the technical staff at Bell Laboratories in Whippany, NJ. In his early years he was a field engineer working on Nike radar and missile systems. In Germany he was attached to the military mission at the US Embassy and he was a technical advisor to the German Air Force. His work for the United States Navy with underwater sonar and radar systems has taken him throughout the United States and to other countries including Japan, Wales and Kenya. As a technical supervisor, he has talked with people at Boeing, Lockheed, Hughes, RCA labs, Naval Postgraduate School and others regarding the top-level designs for communication equipment.

Since moving to Lantern Hill, David has joined a chime choir, which has been a new experience in playing music. He has always enjoyed writing and has done considerable research on genealogy, producing two books on family history. He has volunteered to proofread textbooks in math and science. In high school he played soccer, football and basketball, a sport in which he made it to the state finals one year. In college he played on an intramural lacrosse team. He and his wife, Valerie, are still playing golf.

One thing of which David is very proud is the award he received from BellSouth for helping to provide digital wireless service at the 1996 Olympics. The new digital radios developed by his department were deployed at the Olympics venues all over the Atlanta area. He said, "This was the first time that digital radios had ever been tried in such a big way. It was a huge success. The Olympics opening and closing ceremonies were the busiest time the wireless world had ever seen up to that time."

As a resident of a new CCRC, David looks upon ORANJ as a vital resource. He mentioned that his conversations with residents of other CCRCs have been very helpful. There is no doubt that David, with his experience as a high tech communicator, will be making a valuable contribution to ORANJ and to his Lantern Hill community.

## AN INTERVIEW WITH BARBARA GRUTTER, VP CENTRAL REGION

by Paul Basham, Wiley Christian Retirement Community



**PB:** In what CCRC are you a resident and how long have you lived there?

**BG:** I've lived at Applewood, Freehold, for eight years. Six of these years I was snowbirding to my home in Ft. Myers, Florida. I had been a snowbird for 22 years.

**PB:** What was your major profession?

**BG:** I was a Nurse Educator, serving as Dean of Nursing and Allied Health in the Long Island College Hospital School of Nursing, and in post-retirement, serving as the Interim Assistant Dean of Nursing in the Ocean County College in New Jersey.

**PB:** Tell me about the schools you attended.

**BG:** New Brunswick High School, valedictorian; Rutgers University College of Nursing, BS with highest honors; New York University, MA.

**PB:** What have been some of your awards?

**BG:** Rutgers Alumni Federation Meritorious Service Award, 1986; Rutgers College of Nursing Outstanding

Alumna Award, 1991. Sigma Theta Tau (Nursing); Kappa Delta Pi & Lambda Theta (both in Education).

**PB:** What are some of your hobbies?

**BG:** In addition to my great grandchildren, ages 8, 5, 3, 2, my hobbies include reading mysteries, music appreciation, gardening and being a hospice volunteer.

**PB:** As an ORANJ vice president, how do you view the contribution ORANJ is making to our New Jersey retirement centers?

**BG:** The value of ORANJ is the sharing of solutions to common problems. There is strength in organized numbers. ORANJ members are available to be mobilized for quick action, from the grassroots upward.

**BG:** Tell me something you have done that would surprise your current friends.

**BG:** I've traveled to France, Italy, and UK and I have accompanied my husband on business trips to Switzerland. We owned a well-used vacation condominium in Puerto Rico for ten years and I was "First Mate" to our good ship "Ahoy" that was captained by my husband when we visited places like Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket and islands off the Florida east coast. I have surprised my family by being a green thumb as I transformed our Florida yard into a garden of beauty.

## AN INTERVIEW WITH HARVEY PETERS, VP NORTHWEST REGION

by Paul Basham, Wiley Christian Retirement Community



**PB:** In what CCRC are you a resident and how long have you lived there?

**HP:** Crane's Mill Retirement Center in West Caldwell, NJ, since January 2016.

**PB:** Where did you live prior to moving to Crane's Mill?

**HP:** My wife, RuthAnn, was born in Oshkosh and I was

born in San Francisco. Since our marriage in 1955, we have lived in eight different states.

**PB:** What was your major profession?

**HP:** A Lutheran parish pastor for 22 years, and I served on the national church staff for 18 years.

**PB:** Tell me about the schools you attended.

**HP:** I attended public schools in California and Michigan. I earned my BA degree from the Wittenberg University of Springfield, Ohio, and my Master of Divinity from the Hamma Theological Seminary, also in Springfield.

**PB:** What have been some of your honors?

**HP:** Arrested for civil disobedience in Detroit.

- Received an honorary doctorate from the Wittenberg University.

- Published a book, *The Parish as Place*.

- Married for 62 years with four children and seven grandchildren.

**PB:** What are some of your hobbies and interests?

**HP:** I have been a Road Scholar with Elderhostel, traveling to places like Rome, Venice, Italian Lakes, Central Europe, Scandinavia and many locations in our country. I have restored old houses, churches and cars. I enjoy reading, golf, bocce and following my curiosities.

**PB:** As an ORANJ vice president, how do you view the contribution ORANJ is making to our New Jersey retirement centers?

**HP:** ORANJ advocates for residents' rights and provides mutual support for resident associations. Also, ORANJ assists research in issues impacting the lives of elder citizens.

**PB:** Tell me something about yourself that would surprise your current friends.

**HP:** I own a restored purple pickup truck with the license "PAPAROX."



## NORTHWEST REGION REPORT BY HARVEY PETERS

In making my rounds as a newcomer to this job, I've recognized both the similarities and differences of the experiences of CCRCs these days. Here are two reports showing how essential communication between the residents and management is so vital to a thriving community. Good organization by a purposeful RAC is helpful. Here are two insights to that. I intend to complete my visits to Bristol Glen in Newton and The Oaks in Denville in January. Here at Crane's Mill our RAC and the management are having a one day retreat in January. I will gather all the RAC presidents after that.

### **The House of the Good Shepherd, Hackettstown**

Tarcila Sutterley is the President of the Residents Association. It was founded by the Episcopal Diocese of NJ. Five Episcopal congregations in the Oranges founded The House of the Good Shepherd in 1882 in a rental facility. By 1890, a new home was built. In the early 1960s a wooded 15-acre site was purchased in Hackettstown. The goal was to develop a retirement community for the ever-growing population of seniors in northern New Jersey. Times and needs changed, leading to establishing itself as CCRC and building facilities for Independent Living, Assisted Living and Skilled Care in 1965. Still owned by the Diocese, which holds quarterly Board meetings, and on which the residents are represented, future development under consideration includes the establishment of a facility for memory care. Currently, the census consists of approximately 42 IL, 59 AL, and 57 SC. The residents hold IL council meetings with the Executive Director in attendance. Monthly informal chats called "Coffee with Deb" are held where all residents are invited. There is no Financial Review Committee, but quarterly reports are given by the executive director. Food service is provided by Sudexo and several plans are offered. The chaplain, in addition to pastoral care, is an accomplished musician and a source of fellowship and inspiration under the theme of "Music and Civilization." Tarcila

would be pleased to host the other RAC presidents in this region for a joint meeting in the future.

### **Cedar Crest Village, Pompton Plains**

Carolyn Krause is the President of the Resident Advisory Council. Cedar Crest is owned by the residents who purchased it at the time the original Erickson Corporation was in bankruptcy in 2010. They now are managed by the successor, Erickson Living.

Currently, Cedar Crest is in a time of transition. They have a new Executive Administrator and are also in the midst of a process, called "Be Heard," which was designed to provide immediate answers to the questions of residents. A new staff member was added to work with the RAC in designing and implementing this effective way of identifying concerns and reporting results to the entire community of about 2,000 residents using multimedia, including their own in-house TV channel. Buttons worn by residents and staff stating "Be Heard," and word of mouth, encouraged comments which took much of the guesswork out of which concerns were real and required attention. As concerns were resolved, it was reported immediately and new buttons were being worn proclaiming, "We Listened." As a result, resident interest, involvement and hope have increased measurably. The RAC committees have been restructured and regular open "Conversations with Administration" are being provided. There are four dining venues, each with its own menu, operated by Erickson/Cedar Crest. As another sign of the benefits that come with a critical mass of resources, the RAC has its own office and meeting space. They didn't know about the ORANJ guide book for members of CCRC resident finance committees. The link to this resource on the ORANJ website was emailed to Carolyn to be shared. She is also interested in meeting with regional RAC presidents.

## SE REGION MEETING, CRESTWOOD MANOR, DECEMBER 6, 2017

### **A very brief summary of the meeting notes by Gary Baldwin, VP of the Southeast region:**

Harrogate, Seabrook, Crestwood Manor, and Pines of Whiting are the four CCRCs in the SE region. Nine people attended, including presidents of each of the four resident associations and Ron Whalin, president of ORANJ. There were discussions of the speaker quality and subjects at plenary meetings, the recently edited guidelines for hosting plenary meetings, and the minutes of the ORANJ Executive Committee

meeting held at Crane's Mill on November 15, 2017. It was mentioned that Katheryn Pearson, a law professor at Pennsylvania State University, is expected to be a speaker at the April plenary meeting which will be held at Cedar Crest.

Members of the region were advised of the recent contact from Senator Bateman, who said that he would initiate a new entry fee reimbursement bill with a different number in the forthcoming legislative session.