



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

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YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

...to an ORANJ plenary meeting on October 15, 2014 at Cedar Crest Retirement Community. The meeting is scheduled for 10:00 AM.

ORANJ meetings are both fun and interesting. On the fun side is the opportunity to meet and make new friends in other communities around the state. ORANJ surveys have long demonstrated that, like humans in general, CCRCs have different personalities. These differences are accentuated at this time of ferment when CCRCs find different ways to expand amenities to attract the coming Baby Boomer wave while providing excellent care for the older frailer residents who constitute the bulk of the residents already there. Some communities have initiated architectural changes and given themselves a new look. If you have time, look at the beautiful new patios at Cedar Crest.

The interesting side? We'll have three speakers. We are fortunate to have James McCracken, Ombudsman for the Institutionalized Elderly in NJ, as our morning speaker. He will tell us about the programs and services provided by his office, such as the outreach service to implement the new POLST program. The acronym stands for Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment and their official forms can be recognized by their bright green color.

In the afternoon, Keith Grady will be our main speaker. He is the new Executive Director of Applewood CCRC. He will share with us some innovative ideas he has developed for structural changes at CCRCs that will serve residents who are not truly independent but yet not ready for transfer to Assisted Living status.

In addition, Dan Seeger, President of NaCCRA, will make a brief presentation on a national Bill of Rights. As you know, ORANJ has helped to pass our own New Jersey Bill of Rights and a few other states have done likewise. However, NaCCRA is looking for help in drafting a national version, which will protect the rights of residents of CCRCs anywhere in the US.

As you can see, there should be plenty of food for thought as well as food for lunch.

See you at the meeting!

Officers

Ron Whalin, *Fellowship Village*,
President

Robt Geberth, *Applewood Estates*,
Vice President, Central Region

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

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

Ron Whalin, *Fellowship Village*,
Vice President, Northeast Region

Adam Gaus, *Cedar Crest*,
Vice President, Northwest Region

Ted Brock, *Harrogate*,
Treasurer

Maggie Heineman, *Medford Leas*,
Interim Secretary

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*

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

No resident was willing to become President of ORANJ last year. The five Regional VPs agreed to take turns being the President. David Hibberson, Helen Vukasin and Regina Tetens have served their terms and now it is my honor to be the President. I look forward to serving until the next election. Revised bylaws covering this situation were approved at the April 16 plenary meeting. ORANJ has openings on all standing committees. Please be a volunteer. Call me, send me an email or talk with me at the plenary meetings to explore opportunities.

Ron Whalin, President, ORANJ

FRANK HONN, CHAIR BYLAWS COMMITTEE



Frank started coming to ORANJ Executive Committee meetings as a visitor and volunteered to become a recorder soon thereafter. When it became apparent that the bylaws needed attention, a committee was formed and Frank was

appointed its chair.

Frank's interest in ORANJ followed a term as President of the Residents Association of Crane's Mill. During his presidency, he successfully initiated several building ventures and changes in policy.

Frank has had a long career as a chemist at MIT and several major companies, including BASF, with specialties in polymer chemistry and rubber and plastic technology. In addition he has had an active volunteer career at many organizations, including the Commercial Development Association, the American Chemical Association and the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, where he has been appointed a lifetime board member in recognition for his many contributions.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE TAKES A BROADER VIEW

Last winter an ad hoc Bylaws Committee was formed under the chairmanship of Frank Honn to re-examine ORANJ bylaws and suggest changes. The committee's wide ranging and thoughtful discussions came to the conclusion that current problems at ORANJ required strengthening ties between the organization and the CCRC presidents. They suspected that the CCRC presidents who are the crux of the "Organization of Residents Associations of NJ" were hard to involve because presidents kept changing.

Therefore the Committee's first step was to survey the CCRCs to find out the length of their presidents' terms of office. 22 of 25 responded. They found that only 8 had a term longer than 1 year. One reported ruefully that terms of office lasted "as long as they consent to stay." In addition, the terms of office at the CCRCs did not coincide, so that it was very difficult to consult with a stable body.

Each community was also asked whether it had an official ORANJ representative who had been designated to learn about ORANJ activities and events and to report these at CCRC resident meetings. Virtually none had a resident officially designated as ORANJ representative.

Most of the news came from residents who were also members of the ORANJ Executive Committee and therefore well informed. Five saw the need and reported that they were trying to find a representative. Only one saw no need.

This situation is compounded by the fact that ORANJ standing committees have been losing members and become less active, meaning that they have less to report. Recruiting new leaders is difficult when longtime leaders are aging and communities have not yet tapped many younger, potential residents who prefer to age in place until something forces a move.

Organizations flourish when they have energy and enthusiasm. Hopefully, ORANJ will rebound when a new, exciting issue captures our imagination.

Ellen Handler

THE ORANJ LEGACY OF CHARLES GERMANY



Charles Germany died on July 13, 2014. Charlie, as he was known to us, was among the founders of ORANJ and probably its most important builder. His policies and innovations created the structures that have guided our operations ever

since. Charlie wrote the Mission Statement that has been quoted in every version of the ORANJ brochure. He brought us our logo and firmly believed that ORANJ, the tree, unites the branches, the Residents Associations of the CCRCs of NJ, and that it's the branches that bear the fruit. Because he believed in the primacy of the Residents Associations and their presidents, he organized a meeting of all the presidents to support his most important legacy, the Mandate, passed in 2007, that established the resident trustees and decreed that any new policies or programs must be discussed with CCRC residents BEFORE they are enacted.

He pulled out all the stops to ensure passage of the law and was disappointed that compliance was not yet universal. We still have CCRCs without significant resident input at their boards of trustees, especially in their executive functions. In addition, our repeated transparency studies show that discussion with residents concerning changes in policies BEFORE implementation is still far from universal.

Charlie gave much thought to creating an effective instrument of communication within the ORANJ community. Before his time our newsletter was a loose collection of news items about different CCRCs and its editor begged for news at each Executive Committee meeting. Charlie persuaded expert editors and artists to take part in a workshop to set up new ground

rules. This resulted in a masthead that has served us with minor modifications ever since. He persuaded his former colleague and friend at Winchester Gardens, Dodie Younger, to organize a team to carry out his vision for a new, respected *ORANJ Tree*, and the rest is history, as they say.

Charlie carried the torch to prevent the imposition of a bed tax at CCRCs and to persuade the legislature to pass the 2007 Mandate. In his appeal to the Senate and Assembly for passage of the Mandate he described his own contributions to the Methodist hierarchy and to the National Council of Churches and pointed out that his preeminence was not to single him out but to demonstrate that ORANJ was guided by talented leaders who understood the needs of residents and deserved a respectful hearing by the legislators.

Charlie was a wise man who listened to all who sought his counsel and gave thoughtful responses larded with his wicked sense of humor and friendly smile. We only wish that he had found a way to clone himself so that he could continue his important work as friend and builder of the Organization of Residents Associations of NJ.

Thank you, Charlie, and Good-bye.

Ellen Handler



I to r: David Hibberson, Wink Livengood, Charlie Germany, Gary Baldwin.

OMBUDSMAN TO SPEAK AT FALL PLENARY MEETING



James W. McCracken has been New Jersey's Ombudsman for the Institutionalized Elderly since his appointment by the Governor in 2010. His office is dedicated to preserve and promote the health, safety, and welfare of NJ citizens, 60 years of age and older

and residing in long-term healthcare facilities. His office also advocates for such residents and investigates more than 3,000 allegations of abuse and neglect each year.

In addition to his professional staff Mr. McCracken has also established an active group of volunteer advocates who visit long-term care

facilities and work to prevent abuse and neglect before complaints are filed. He manages a busy outreach office that runs meetings throughout the state on numerous topics, such as how to choose a facility for a loved one, on writing advance directives, and encouraging residents to communicate with their physicians to complete the new POLST forms.

Prior to being appointed Ombudsman, Mr. McCracken was CEO and Executive Director of The House of the Good Shepherd, a CCRC in Hackettstown, NJ. In 1995 he was Manager of Program Development at the United Methodist Homes of NJ and in 1999 was named Executive Director of the Francis Asbury Manor in Ocean Grove, NJ. From 2000 to 2007 he served as administrator of the Bristol Glen CCRC in Newton, NJ.

For further information visit www.nj.gov/ooie/.

KEITH GRADY IS THE AFTERNOON SPEAKER



Keith Grady is the new Executive Director of Applewood, CentraState Healthcare Systems' Active Continuous Care Retirement Community.

Mr. Grady has had 30 years of management and operational development experience.

He is responsible for all the day-to-day operations of all three levels of care that Applewood provides. In addition he will be developing quality initiatives to protect and improve the residents' quality of life and the operational processes of the community. Prior to coming to Applewood, Mr. Grady was Vice President of Operations at Winchester Gardens, a Continuous Care Retirement Community in Maplewood, New Jersey. During

his tenure at Winchester Gardens, Mr. Grady became involved with strategic planning and gradually developed new ideas on how CCRCs were going to have to change in order to satisfy the new expectations of the expected "Boomers" while, at the same time, continuing to meet high quality standards of care for the security and comfort of the older, frailer residents who live in CCRCs today. His ideas about structural modifications to meet these needs have crystallized gradually. Mr. Grady has embraced the wellness movement and has moved as far and fast as he could to implement planned changes.

Mr. Grady has a BA degree in healthcare management with an emphasis on gerontology from American Intercontinental University in Hoffman Estates, New Jersey and is currently working on a master's degree in gerontology at the University of Massachusetts.