



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 REPORT



ORANJ held a successful Fall Plenary Meeting at Cedar Crest Village, which provided an excellent meeting room, support staff and luncheon. Feedback forms were collected after the meeting.

At the business meeting, David Hibberson, Nominations Committee Chair, presented two new 2015 officers of ORANJ. Maggie Heineman was elected Secretary of ORANJ and I was elected President of ORANJ.

Maggie Heineman also was appointed Chair of the Communications Committee now consisting of Maggie, Ellen Handler (also serving as Immediate Past President) and Adam Gaus (also serving as Northwest Regional VP).

Ellen Handler continues to serve as the outstanding Editor of the ORANJ Tree. Webmaster Adam Gaus has made many important improvements to the ORANJ website.

Early last year, the CCRC Library Survey was completed and the report is posted on the website. The Health Committee is working on the design of a survey of CCRC Health Care Facilities. The Finance Committee is considering a survey of CCRC procedures for refunding down payments when the resident moves to another facility.

At the Fall Plenary, Jim McCracken, the NJ Ombudsman, handed out for the first time a brochure covering the CCRC Independent Living Bill of Rights. This excellent document is being widely distributed at CCRCs by residents. You can obtain a brochure by contacting the President of your Residents' Association or by telephoning the office of the Ombudsman at 877-582-6995.

The Bill of Rights law went into effect on May 1, 2014. The NJ Department of Community Affairs publically posted draft Regulations to implement the Bill of Rights law. Comments on the draft Regulations must be submitted by January 16, 2015.

Best wishes to our ORANJ family for Good Health and Happiness in 2015 – Ron Whalin

Officers

- Ron Whalin, *Fellowship Village*,
President
- Robt Geberth, *Applewood Estates*,
Vice President, Central Region
- David Hibberson, *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*,
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*

Newsletter

- Ellen Handler, *Crane's Mill*
- Website
- Adam Gaus, *Cedar Crest*

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SETTING PRIORITIES

As most readers know, an effective organization requires planning and planning requires setting priorities. At this moment in its history, ORANJ needs a cohesive long range plan and is appealing to its members to help us in setting priorities. Fortunately some of your colleagues have already made helpful suggestions at recent events. Some of you submitted ideas on forms left on dining tables at the Plenary Meeting and others took part in a regional meeting where suggestions were solicited. Below is a combined list. Choose those that you think should have the highest priority (top 3), or add to the list. Send your suggestions to the editor e12handler@verizon.net and put "priorities" in the subject line.

- Expand health and medical services including wellness centers
- Attract younger residents with additional amenities, more options
- Ensure compliance with regulations/laws covering CCRCs, e.g. do resident/trustees have all rights and responsibilities of other board members? Are changes in prices or policies discussed with residents BEFORE they are carried out?
- Carry out surveys on how different CCRCs welcome new residents and supply them necessary services
- Help CCRCs use available resources, e.g. ORANJ Finance Guide, applicable for the finance committees
- Find and recruit leaders for volunteer positions at ORANJ and within CCRCs
- Help residents deal with rising fees vs. static incomes
- Bring in more intellectual resources, speakers, events; connect with college campuses
- Get Veterans the property tax reduction they lost when they entered a CCRC
- Conduct survey on transportation policies of CCRCs
- Persuade CCRCs to create two-year rather than one-year terms for CCRC presidents
- Distribute information concerning tax deduction guidelines
- Study and enhance Policies and programs at CCRCs to protect residents who have run out of funds

This list is just for starters. ORANJ is an important organization for all of us. Help us to steer it in the right direction.

LANTERN HILL



Among CCRCs in New Jersey, Lantern Hill is the new kid on the block and, according to its Executive Director, Patricia Swann, who provided information for this article, it is already exceeding benchmarks. Today (November 2014) there is a busy sales office that has already sold 83%

of the 161 units in Phase One. The opening date for Phase One is Fall 2015. Lantern Hill will be located on a beautiful site in New Providence with a ten-acre front lawn. Because it is a brand new community, not a retrofitted structure, it is being planned according to the latest research in CCRC design and service.

Lantern Hill is described as a "high end" Erickson community. From the Erickson model it retains the apartment house style with all units under one roof. Therefore residents will not get wet or cold when they run out for dinner. Inside, the setting is deluxe with large, open-style apartment layouts and top-of-the-line appliances. Residents receive free underground parking. The monthly maintenance fee includes housekeeping as well as meals and other services. Three eating venues are planned with enough choices to appeal to the most demanding palate. Each restaurant will have a distinctive flavor. There will be a pub for casual dining, a family dining room offering three hearty meals a day, and an upscale restaurant for themed dining on special occasions and fine foods at all times.

Lantern Hill will appeal both to the busy, active retiree and to those who are looking for less demanding leisure time activities closer to home. For those with an active lifestyle, requiring access to New York City, there will be transportation to nearby train stations, most likely Murray Hill and Summit. In addition to offering a varied fitness program in the pool and on exercise equipment, the community plans to include continuing education classes and specialty workshops. There are even plans for a theater for performances by outside groups or by talented residents who would create their own.

Contracts will be fee-for-service with down payments refundable at 90%. The community will offer a full continuum of care with a medical center on site with staff who specialize in senior care. Of course,

residents who prefer to do so can retain their outside physicians. In addition, the 24-hour security staff will be trained for emergency response and will be available to provide service anywhere on campus in a matter of minutes.

Other on-site medical care will include post-acute rehabilitation services, assisted living, memory care and nursing care. The fee-for-service contracts will allow residents to use their money wisely to pay for just the services they need.

Lantern Hill has an active and growing list of prospective residents on their priority list. For a fully refundable \$1,000 deposit, those on the list will have the right to reserve their units before the public, and to receive insider news and updates including invitations to special events.

For further information visit the website at www.ericksonliving.com/Lantern-Hill/



ORANJ ONLINE

By "ORANJ Online" we mean both the website and the electronic distribution of the ORANJ Tree. The printing and mailing of 300 copies of this newsletter is by far the largest ORANJ expense. Consequently, we hope that those who receive it electronically will forward it on far and wide. It is emailed to the presidents of ORANJ member associations, to ORANJ liaisons, and to all those who **SUBSCRIBE** by sending their name, email address, and name of their CCRC or organization to oranjnewsletter@gmail.com.

Adam Gaus does a terrific job as webmaster and I hope this article will encourage many of you to spend some time at our website oranjccrc.org.

The main section of the Home Page has basic information about ORANJ and its purpose, with links to its [mission statement](#), the websites of allies and some of the major sections of the website: [members](#), [leaders and standing committees](#), and [history](#).

What is easily overlooked, however, is the table of contents: the two rows of links in the beige areas at the top and bottom of each page. The newest link (at the extreme right of the longer row) is ["Bill of Rights."](#) It goes to a page with a series of links concerning the rights of NJ residents in nursing homes, assisted

living, and independent living, with links to the relevant brochures and to the laws themselves.

The link to ["Research and Surveys"](#) is at the extreme right of the shorter row. This amazing page provides a summary paragraph and for each of these 18 studies and links to the complete studies: 2005 Pet Policies; 2006 Meal Credit Survey; 2006 Finance Committee Survey; 2007 Health Care Survey; 2007 Gift Shop Survey; 2008 Report on Dining Room Computer Systems; 2008 Income Tax Deduction Survey; 2009 Report on Subsidization Practices of CCRCs; 2010 Transportation Survey; 2010 Study of Resident Board Members; 2010 Transparency Study; 2011 Survey of Fire Emergency Preparedness; 2012 Meal Plan Survey; 2012 Report on Assisted Mobility Devices; 2012 Report on Hurricane Sandy Survey; 2013 Transparency Update; 2013 Hurricane Sandy: Lessons Learned, Preparations for the Future; 2014 Survey on CCRC Libraries.

An archive of the annual surveys of Residency (Occupancy and Fees) is also available from the [Research Page](#).

The [Publications Page](#) links to the [Finance Guidebook](#), the [Legislative Handbook](#), the [Trifold Brochure](#) and to an archive of newsletters since 2007.

The [Members Page](#) is especially cool. It has a Google Map that shows the location of the 25 CCRCs that are members of ORANJ. There are links to the corporate website of each member CCRC, to websites of four residents associations, and to driving directions for each of the CCRCs.

Maggie Heineman, ORANJ Communications Chair



NEWS FROM MEADOW LAKES

Our 1.6 megawatt backup generator, with four days fuel on site, is fully operational. It will replace fuel lost from an event like Sandy, i.e. supply 100% coverage. Arrangements have been made for backup fuel supply for more extended loss of service.

Our resident association supports a resident committee called the “Academy.” An extensive array of lectures and classes are run throughout the year by the “Academy.” Wide use is made of Teaching Company materials and other videos. Last month we held our first “Academy Day,” during which twelve lectures on human relations with nature were given by eleven residents and one outside speaker in three parallel sessions. A free luncheon for over 150 participants was sponsored by Meadow Lakes Marketing.

The Meadow Lakes Thrift Shop added almost \$30,000 to the Resident Assistance Fund this year. Furniture, clothing, and household items not removed by families of departed residents were collected, adapted for display, and sold at greatly reduced cost to current residents, staff, and their relatives and friends. Additional savings accrue from reduced need to pay for disposal.

Visitors to our Thrift Shop from other CCRC residents associations were welcome. Director Eileen Kendall is prepared to give a two-hour presentation on how to organize a thrift shop program if there is sufficient interest.

Gene Wachspress, ORANJ Legislative Committee Chair, Pres. Meadow Lakes Residents Association



EXPANDED RESIDENT EDUCATION

Education is not new to CCRCs but traditionally it was the occasional lecture that offered variety in the entertainment program. There were exceptions such as Kendal Dartmouth and Kendal Oberlin that were planned with educational opportunities for residents in mind. But now we are seeing wide-ranging educational programs addressed to residents that often welcome visitors from the local community as well as staff. Meadow Lakes and Medford Leas provide two examples.

As explained in the article by Gene Wachspress (above), at Meadow Lakes the education program is known as the “Academy.” Now in its second year, the Academy is run by a steering committee of eight residents and two staff with a small budget.

Fortunately many of the Teaching Company’s “Great Courses” videos can be borrowed. The broad theme

is Human Interaction with the Natural World as expressed through the arts, literature and philosophy.

At Meadow Lakes the Academy calendar offers five lecture/discussion series of three lectures each. One is based on the “Ascent of Man” by Jacob Bronowski, originally shown on PBS. Another is an art history course based on the Teaching Company video called “From Monet to Van Gogh.” Presenters are usually residents with knowledge of the subject.

The highpoint of the year is Academy Day, a full day of courses, including several concurrent items, plus a free lunch offered by marketing for all attendees.

In 2012 Medford Leas started a program called “Pathways to Learning” that brings together a wide range of programs including forum lectures, the Foreign Policy Association’s “Great Decision” series, and videos from the Teaching Company. Pathways also includes music programs and numerous workshops, some of which are “how to” such as nature journaling and photography, and even a one-day workshop on “Assassinations and Attempted Assassinations,” which offered multiple lectures and lunch. Another group is Technology Tuesdays, where the experts share their knowledge and experience with the learners. The program is able to attract a number of program speakers at no fee or nominal charge.

Outdoor activities include guided trail walks and a birding trip. Some programs are sponsored with partners in the community such as the brain fitness program given by a Medford Leas staff person at a local senior center and the tour of a local landmark.

The Director of Community Relations works with a committee of residents on the selection of the programs. There are two 3-month seasons a year: spring and fall. In addition to serving residents, the program provides “soft marketing.” In a typical Pathways season, Medford Leas hosts approximately 600 visits from the local community, and over 1000 visits to the programs from residents.

Ellen Handler, Editor ORANJ Tree

PLENARY MEETINGS

APRIL 15 – CRESTWOOD MANOR

OCTOBER 21 – MEADOW LAKES