

# Resident Councils of Washington

220 E Canyon View Road

Belfair, WA 98528

[www.residentcouncil.org](http://www.residentcouncil.org)

[www.residentcouncilstore.org](http://www.residentcouncilstore.org).

## Minutes/ NEWS BRIEF – September 17, 2009

### Present:

Louise Clark, Past President; James Galbreath, President, Renee Gibbs, Vice President and Sharon McIntyre, Director. We had no board members present. Visitors included: Louise Ryan, State Ombudsman, student from U of W Social Work, Tacoma, Hilke Faber and Darlene Marron from Life Care of Bothel.

**Minutes** were read by Sharon and approved. Thank you Kay.

### Old Business

**Legislative Report:** Louise reported on the success of Aldercrest's legislative forum.

The time in the evening seemed to be a barrier for participation. Generally, a dialogue was initiated and legislators appreciated the input from residents and RCW. With the challenge of state budget short fall discussion was discouraging but necessary. Louise emphasized the need to keep the personal needs allowance in the forefront bringing the human side to the need for more money. Discussion continued on the concern of Initiative 1033 which will be voted on this fall. This would have a tremendous impact on human services.

Louise Ryan reported that on the local level the the LTC Ombudsman were a plaintiff in a lawsuit against DSHS regarding Adult Adult Day Care services cut from the budget

The argument: people attending adult day care still had medical needs like physical therapy and nursing care handled at the adult day care. What was going to replace these services? Medical transportation was also reinstated. This is not a permanent fix, however. The 20 million thought to be saved was not that great. Medicaid still has to pay for medical needs.

Louise is our representative at NCCNHR, the national voice representing residents.

They are also struggling financially. Louise asked if she could sign up our board at her cost as individual members. The board accepted her gracious donation.

Discussion followed regarding Medicare.gov and the Nursing Home compare a tool that measures quality. There is a 5 star rating in place; 5 being the best, 1 the worst.

Louise says the accuracy is close to what Ombudsman have observed. Although the system is not perfect it is the best we have in place. Advocates are rallying to keep the system in place improving it as necessary.

#### **Resident Rights Week:**

### **National Residents' Rights Week 2009: October 4-10, 2009 "HEAR OUR VOICE: RESIDENTS OF LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES SPEAK OUT ON RESIDENTS' RIGHTS"**

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[Residents' Rights Week](#) is designated by NCCNHR, The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care and is celebrated the first full week in October each year to honor residents living in all long-term care facilities, including nursing homes, sub acute units, assisted living, board and care and retirement communities. It is a time for celebration and recognition offering an opportunity for every facility to focus on and celebrate awareness of dignity, respect and the value of each individual resident.

**RCW** has offered a program to celebrate Residents' Rights week or pick a week with a Wheel-a-thon or Roll-a-thon to act as a fundraiser for RCW and celebrate Resident Rights at the same time. All information is attached for board members which at this

late time might need to be filed for 2010. It has been planned and available online since early summer where it will remain for next year. It might be better accepted if the facilities split their fund raising 50/50 with RCW instead of totally raising money for RCW.

**Membership:** Thirty late notices were sent out with invoices the first of September.

We have received 6 so far. We will continue to follow up giving facilities the benefit of the doubt, but need all of the board members to be promoters.

**Signature Event:** By the time you receive these minutes our "Putting on the Ritz" will be over. We had a very successful event about 100 guests and close to 100 silent auction items. We had 16 wonderful desserts and Kay did an exceptional job speaking from her heart about the benefits of RCW and her involvement. We grossed a little over \$11,000 and probably netted close to \$8,000. This is a tremendous amount of work but keeps us in the public spotlight. The committee has not met to evaluate the event nor plan the date for next year.

**Luncheon:** The luncheon invitations (all 150) of them have been mailed for several weeks now. We so far have 2 paid and 5 promised:) typical of people waiting for the last minute, but hopefully registration will pick up. Get your reservations in soon please!! If you have lost your invitation go online [www.residentcouncilstore.org](http://www.residentcouncilstore.org) We will have a great time. We are looking for basket donations for the raffle and have a great speaker. John Gibson and Judy Pigott, co-authors of SafetyNet.

## **Education Report**

### **Resident Conferences almost completed for 2009**

**Sequim:** At the time these minutes were written we have completed our PIP in Sequim. We had 65 attend and had a wonderful time. Our speaker shared inform

about the value of laughter and and the affect it has on lowering our blood pressure and helping particularly those with Diabetes. This was followed by a series of fun activities lead by three activity directors. We never laughed so hard....since the theme was Laughter makes the World go Round. Following our morning activities we had our catered box lunches and a sing-a-long with Sonia Lein a popular piano player and entertainer. The community raised its own money through table sponsorship and with the help of the Unitarian Church of Port Townsend we were able to cover the outlay of cash.

**Centralia:** The Thurston, Lewis, Mason county PIP will be held at Sharon Care Center this Thursday. They are also covering laughter but also what is not funny, some information on identity theft. They are expecting their targeted and limited space amount of 50 .

### **Professional workshops**

RCW has 2 blocks or 72 hours of training left this year for the Modular Education Program for Activity Professionals. Block III will be held Wednesday through Saturday October 7 – 10, 2009 at the Renton United Methodist Church. Due to the economy the challenges professionals have getting away, taking the time etc. RCW is looking to put their seminars on line starting January 1, 2010. There IS a demand for continuing education but not the venue we are using.

Our next block will be November 4 – 7, 2009. Presently, students can register online. We are NOT mailing flyers out. Our second challenge is to be able to send out notices through an electronic mailing.

Other:

Bylaws input was sent out with the last set of minutes in early September. This

committee will need to implement the changes and bring to the next board meeting so we can move forward on the changes.

After our Annual meeting we may need to gather new and old board members together to look at the changes anticipated for the year of 2010. Sharon is looking at working part time permanently or until we can level out our finances. This will mean she will need to make some tough decisions as to where her time is best spent. On the other hand, it will challenge us to take more ownership at the local levels.

Onward and Upward!

Respectfully submitted:

*Sharon mcIntyre, RCW Director for*

*Masíne Behan and Kay Sweeney, secretaries*