
VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION OF DOYLESTOWN



OCTOBER 2014

As we enjoy this beautiful time of year may I extend a warm welcome back to all as we prepare for another exciting VIA club year.

At our September 30th New Member Orientation and Coffee we were excited to welcome many new members as well as perspective members. Thank you to the membership committee for arranging a delightful morning with special thanks to the ever smiling and welcoming greeters Co-Chair Clara Smith, and new members Jacquie Kennedy and Debbie Kniese who set the upbeat tone for the entire meeting. Thanks to Joan Parlee and Jeanne Sandusky who showed the history of the VIA and not to forget all of the Board members and committee chairs who welcomed all and gave a snip-it of how their committees offer members a chance to get involved.

At our October 7th Member meeting, Joyce Hanson, the 2014 Designer House Chairman presented a check to Jim Brexler, President and CEO of Doylestown Hospital along with Kathleen Donahue, RNC OB, Director of Maternal- Child Services for \$253,627.56. Additionally, Marge Martin, Welfare, \$22,633.71, Phyllis Morris, JLMH, \$22,633.71, Women's Scholarship, \$6,500 and the VIA Unrestricted Fund, \$6,000. Thank You to Joyce Hanson, the Designer House Committee and the scores of volunteers for their hard work and dedication.

As the fall venue fills up, I invite you to participate in one of the many activities planned. Chairman Jean Upton and co-chair Joy Levy were pleased to announce a spectacular home has been found for our 2015 Designer House. Please consider joining the Designer House committee, there's always room for one more set of hands to help.

Tuesday, October 14 is the Cardiac Cook-Off at the Doylestown Country Club, always a wonderful time. On Friday, October 17th at 12 Noon the Conservation Committee's Card and Games Party will be at the James-Lorah Auditorium and to celebrate Miss Sarah James's 150th Birthday, the James-Lorah Memorial Home will be Open on Saturday, October 25th from 12 Noon – 6 PM. If you haven't already toured the house here's your chance to have a docent lead tour of our beautiful living Museum.

Not to forget our beloved Doylestown Hospital, there is much excitement as the Carol and Louis Della Penna Pediatric Center of Doylestown Hospital will open its doors on October 20th. We are proud to mark a new era at Doylestown Hospital in providing quality care for all members of the community close to home.

Mark your calendars for our next member meeting on Tuesday, November 4th for our Petite Luncheon at 12 Noon at the James-Lorah Auditorium and don't forget it's also voting day.

Linda McElhinney

President

**November 4, 2014 – 11:30AM
James Lorah Memorial Auditorium
Luncheon**

“Bucks County Veterans Van & Veterans Services”

Presenter Dan Frayley
Program Coordinator Jan Cope
Meditation Carla Odell

Program Preview

Cory H. Schroeder

November isn't just the lead-in to Thanksgiving and the holidays. We also commemorate Veterans Day and the sacrifices our military families have made and are still making for us. Bucks County has one of the most active military support programs in the state. Our guest speaker is Mr. Dan Frayley, Director of Bucks County Veterans Services. He will give us an overview of the county's military support programs, including the Veterans Van, which is one of our Veterans Committee's charities for this year. (Watch for the Veterans Committee members in their red aprons, as they close out their donation collection for this year.)

And don't forget November is our Petite Luncheon.

SHUTTLE

Shuttle service from the County parking garage, Broad Street entrance, Level 2 to the JLMA will be available from 11:00 to 11:30 on November 4th. After the membership meeting, the driver will make **ONE** trip from the JLMA to the parking garage.



Let's Talk!

Cory H. Schroeder

Each month, at 11:30AM before the monthly Membership meeting at the JLMH, join me in the dining room to chat and get to know the VIA better. All are welcome, especially for our new members.

The Bylaws Corner
Georgia Ford

The Bylaws Committee will begin the new fiscal year discussing how to best implement term limits. We already have term limits in place for our Executive Committee and the Designer House which work very well. It's important that all of our members have a chance to experience working on different committees of the VIA, and by limiting the number of years someone serves on any one particular committee, it opens up the opportunity for more members to serve on committees where once there were no openings.

Additionally, we will be addressing Bylaws and Policies suggestions that have been submitted by VIA members that they would like the committee to consider. As more information becomes available on these issues, we will post it here. If you have something for the Bylaws Committee to consider, please send your thoughts to me at **gford7@att.net** or phone 215.343.0321.

Marketing Committee

Nancy Gimbol

If you or your committee is hosting an event, or out in the community representing the VIA, the Marketing Committee can help you promote the event by posting your event to the VIA website and we can help you design appropriate materials for distribution.

PETITE LUNCHEON

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2014 @ 12:00
JAMES –LORAH MEMORIAL HOME**

Our theme is a Patriotic one, falling on Election Day and celebrating Veterans' Day. We will offer a choice of entrée's this year. When you register, please indicate whether you prefer salmon or chicken. Both will be served on a bed of greens. Lunch cost is \$25.00pp. Make your check payable to "VIA of Doylestown" and send to the VIA office. This event sells out quickly. Don't delay. We cannot take a reservation without payment.

Newsletter Staff:

Marie Johnston, Editor Joy Anderson
Phyllis Morris Karen Simon
Barb Thompson Betty Trossett

Membership Handbook Changes, Apologies

Cory H. Schroeder

There will always be some misprints. My apologies if yours is one of them. Some I can explain, others I can't. If you find a need for a correction/addition, please let me know and I will take care of it. Add the following:

Ruth Carlson-Treasurer, 1895 Society/Community Response

Marianne Chabot-Veteran's & Women's Scholarship

Jean Rutherford- James-Lorah Memorial Home

(Special apologies here!!)

Veterans Committee

Jan Cope

November is one of our committee's busiest months. With Veterans Day in mind, here's a little more information on one of the committee's charities: the Washington Crossing National Cemetery. FYI: many of us are eligible for burial or markers there, either as veterans **or as the spouse of a veteran**. As our donation, the Cemetery's administration asked us to help purchase sod to put on the gravesites. Sod is used instead of grass seed, and is renewed after every winter. While sod may not sound too exciting, think of your garden after last winter! New sod is critical for the comfort of visiting families. This is only one of the programs your donations will support this year.

We only collect donations in October and November, so watch for our red-aprons and red-white-and-blue buttons. As always, thank you for your support, and please talk to one of our members if you would like more information on this year's six charities or want to join the committee.

Veterans Committee donations can be mailed in to the VIA Office:

V.I.A. Office/Veterans
595 W. State Street, Doylestown PA 18901

Make checks payable to the *VIA of Doylestown*.
Note "*Veterans Committee*" on the memo line!

James-Lorah Memorial Home

Phyllis Morris

The JLMH is beginning its first phase of paint and repair. Work has begun on the front exterior with more to come over the next two years. The committee's mission is to maintain and protect our historic house and we are determined to do so. We have begun to think spring and have planted dozens of flowering bulbs. What a lovely sight that will be, come March.

We are looking forward to our **Fall House Tour, Saturday October 25th noon-6 pm**. Please see the enclosed flyer for more details!

VIA Book Club

Book selection - "THE HEIST", by Daniel Silva.

When: Monday, October 27th @ 10:30AM

Where: Forest Ridge Clubhouse on Bristol Rd in Warrington. Questions: Marilyn Mele @ 215.343.6063

Here is a great volunteer opportunity

We need at least 5 more volunteers (one per month) to meet the Pine Run Shuttle at the Parking Garage before each monthly membership meeting from 11:15AM to 12:00PM. The Shuttle will make a continuous loop from 11:30AM to 12:00PM. There will be a portable sign "VIA Shuttle" at the Broad Street exit of the Parking Garage to identify the pick-up location. The volunteer of the month will also announce the arrival of the Shuttle at the end of the meeting. Please contact Helen Hammes at **hhammes@comcast.net**, or 215.348.0453 for details.

Membership Committee

Lee Scheeler

The Membership Committee would like to welcome three new members to the VIA. They are:
Susan Tew Sherri Kerr Christine Stevens
For all new members please contact the chairman of any committee you are interested in serving on.

2015 Bucks County Designer House & Gardens

Jean Upton

Momma Mia – We have a house!

The Designer House Committee is very excited to announce the selection of the 2015 Bucks County Designer House – Villa d’Braccia in Chalfont (Warrington Township). This stunning 4 acres, 7,800 square foot home was lovingly built by the owner to reflect the old world style and quality construction of his homeland in the Abruzzo region of Italy. Nick and Lisa Braccia have graciously agreed to lend their home to the VIA for the Designer House and we deeply appreciate their generosity.

The Designer Committee and Landscaper Committee are both working hard to prepare for the Walk-Thru event on October 22nd and 23rd. Invitations will be going out by October 10th. The house has very large rooms and numerous interesting outdoor porches and areas that are sure to delight the designers and landscapers.

At our September meeting, the Designer House voted to once again host both the Mother’s Day Brunch and the Blue Jean Bash. Both of these events were held for the first time last year and were very well received by those in attendance. We are looking forward to building on these new traditions along with our long time favorites – the Empty House Party, Fashion Show and of course, our wonderful Gala. There is no shortage of fun at the Designer House!

Thanks to Mary Gerczyk and Edi Eisenbraun who have both come forward with computers for use at the Designer House in response to last month’s request in the newsletter. These computers will help us to be more efficient and to put in place some labor saving new programs.

Our next Designer House meeting will be at the James Lorah house on Tuesday, October 14th with our gathering beginning at 9:30AM and business meeting starting at 10:00AM. All Designer Committee members are encouraged to attend and new members are always welcome.

Social – Bethlehem Trip

Mary Bachman

It’s not too early to sign up for the Christmastime Tour to Bethlehem on Saturday, December 6, 2014. Visit the Christkindlemarkt and Christmas Village. Some may want to visit The Putz (optional), which is an elaborate Nativity Scene at Moravian Central Church. Cost of the trip is \$135.00, which includes motor coach transportation, Moravian breakfast treat, dinner, Night Light Tour of Bethlehem, all tips, admissions and donation to the VIA. Contact Mary to make your reservation. Checks made payable to “VIA of Doylestown”.

Reservation deadline is Thursday, November 6th.

Fundraising Committee

Sharon Orr

I hope you were able to visit our booth at the Doylestown Art Festival. We were able to connect with the community and share with them some of the VIA projects. We passed out reusable grocery bags with our 120th logo on the front and the Doylestown Hospital Pediatric Unit on the back. The children were given coloring books and crayons with pictures and information about VIA .

The committee is launching a campaign. We need your help, this is an easy way for the organization to make money on items you would buy anyway.

Please use the information on the insert to visit www.smile.amazon.com and see what is available.

We are going to be selling Poinsettias again this year. More information and an order form is enclosed.

Home Life Committee – Bakers Needed!

Kathy Lambert/Denise Fingleton

The committee is having a bake sale at Pine Run on Friday, November 21st. Please deliver your baked goods to the Health Center by 8:30AM.

Help us give the residents a very Happy Holiday! For more information, contact Denise or Kathy.

For the first time, the Hospital and Foundation Finance Committees met in a joint meeting. This allowed the Foundation Board to get the financial results in a timely manner. It also gives them a more complete picture with both Foundation and Hospital results available to them.

The two months ending August 31, 2014 were unusually busy for that time of year with inpatient discharges 2.4% higher than expected and observation cases 6% less. Surgical volume was up 2% over prior year and outpatient visits were 3% ahead of budget. As a result, while our net patient revenue was 2% below budget, it was 5.7% above last year.

The Patient Safety Committee had a lengthy report since it was from both August and September. An important piece of that report had to do with Antibiotic Stewardship. This committee is looking into the management of c-diff. since the over use of antibiotics seem to be implicated as one of the causes of that infection and c-diff has been increasing nationwide. Also reported is the new Daily Safety Huddle adopted by health care as an intervention to promote awareness of situations that could cause safety issues.

The Pediatric Unit will open October 20th. We are fully staffed with three pediatricians who are anxious to get started. We are very excited about the success of the fund raisers. Both the Boardwalk Bash, chaired by Kelly Brexler and Lou Della-Penna's challenge to his friends and our faithful donors were highly successful. Thank you all!!

A new entity, known as Doylestown Health Partners (DHP), is off to a great start with excellent support from our doctors. Soon the doctors will elect six physician members to be part of the Management Committee along with six Health System members. This group will formally organize DHP. What is most impressive is that both our general practitioners and our specialists are willing to work together to support each other and our Health System while working to coordinate care for our patients by eliminating redundant testing and care. DHP will contract with various payers and support both clinical and financial integration with our physicians.

Also new, our physicians and the Health System became members of the Delaware Valley Accountable Care Organization or ACO. Other members are Jefferson, Main Line and Holy Redeemer. Rather than mergers, this kind of affiliation can strengthen each member by utilizing each other's individual qualities. This is a Medicare Shared Savings program that will focus on Traditional Medicare

Linda Felt made a surprise announcement at the Foundation Board meeting that she will retire as of October 24th. It is a retirement that is well earned after a successful career at Doylestown Hospital. She will work with Jim on transitioning information and contacts for Development. We all wish her well!

The new "consent agenda" seems to be working quite well in the Hospital Board meetings. It allows for approval of various reports without redundant verbal reporting in the meeting. If something needs additional attention it can be placed into the regular agenda but this new format allows for more time to be spent on education and discussion.

The discussion piece this month was presented by the Systemness work group speaking about removing the 'silos' of our various pieces and coordinating these multiple components into a more powerful, centralized system. I have already told you about the new name by which we hope to be recognized, that is: Doylestown Health. That new name and the reason behind it caused us to recognize that our various pieces all had different logos and consequently not one of them could be associated with another since they were kind of random with no connection between them. That led to a search for a logo that would make that connection and also identify it as part of the VIA and give a sense of moving forward. We did decide that in no way would we negate our old logo. It will remain a part of our legacy and may still be used as a special honor, especially for our Volunteers of the Month.

Carolyn Della-Rodolfa

Vice President, Health Services

October

21	JLMH Committee	JLMH	10:00 AM
28	VIA Board Meeting	Conf Room K	8:30 AM
28	Bylaws Committee	Conf. Room K	10:30 AM

November

4	Membership Meeting	JLMA	12:00 PM
11	Designer House Meeting	JLMA	10:00 AM
12	Welfare Meeting	Conf Room A	9:00 AM
13	Fundraising	Conf Room A	9:30 AM
18	JLMH Committee	JLMH	10:00 AM
19	Marketing Meeting	Conf Room A	11:30 AM
25	VIA Board Meeting	Conf Room K	9:00 AM
25	Bylaws Meeting	Conf Room K	10:30 AM

Please refer to our website for additional events!

WWW.VIA-DOYLESTOWN.ORG