

## January 2016 Newsletter

Happy New Year! This year's VIA schedule is filled with many interesting and fun events. Don't hesitate to join one that interests you.

Our January 5 membership meeting was held in the VIA Auditorium at the Health and Wellness Center in Warrington. Diane Smith, President and Founder of Roxy Reading Therapy Dogs along with a team of her therapist and their canine charges presented a very informative program about the role of therapy dogs in the life of children at risk in our community. We found ourselves riveted to our seats by the moving stories of how these special dogs can reach a child when often no one else is able. Thank you to Lee Scheeler for arranging this program.

A motion to rescind the new logo that was presented in October 2015 was brought to the floor and voted on by the membership via paper ballot. The tally of the final vote resulted in a majority vote to rescind the adoption of the new logo. We will continue using our familiar VIA seal. Please see the marketing article inside for the details of this vote.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our popular Empty House Party on Sunday, February 28, chaired by Debbie Thorne. Come and view Foxwood Manor before the designers and landscapers begin to create their magic on this expansive property. Take this opportunity to invite family and friends alike for a very enjoyable afternoon.

A big thank you to the Home Life Committee chaired by Kathy Lambert and Denise Fingleton for organizing the Bake Sale at the Pine Run Health Center this past holiday season. The proceeds from this fundraiser were then used to purchase gifts for the residents at the Health Center who otherwise might not have received one.

As we turn up our thermostats, the Welfare Committee, the VIA's oldest committee, is busy responding to requests from those in our community most needing assistance. Welfare helps with rent, electric, and fuel oil payments just to name a few of the many needs that are met.

On January 18, there will be a celebration of the completed VIA Maternity Center to honor the donors and those who faithfully supported the renovation. Congratulations and special thanks to the VIA and our Bucks County Designer House Committees from 2011 to 2015 as they worked tirelessly to meet our pledge of \$1 million for this project. Job well done!

For our February 2 member meeting, we will again be meeting in the VIA Auditorium at the Health and Wellness Center in Warrington. See you there.

Sincerely,

*Linda McShinney*

*President*

# Membership Meeting

February 2, 2016

12 noon

Health & Wellness Center Conf. Room

## “Planting to Attract Birds, Butterflies and Bees”

Presenter: Nancy McIlvaine & Becky Jones of Bucks Country Gardens

Program Coordinator: Jean Leister

### Program Preview

*Cory H. Schroeder*

Our February program features Bucks Country Gardens giving us pointers on “Planting to Attract Birds, Butterflies & Bees.” As always, the garden center will provide us with wonderful and important information to start or add to our gardens, small and large. Although up until this point we have had a very mild winter, this will be a wonderful harbinger of spring! Just think of how wonderful summer will be with all the flowering additions and the wildlife you will attract!

### Meet Me At The Podium!

*Cory H. Schroeder*

If you are a new or relatively new member and would like to learn more about the VIA, join me at the Health & Wellness Center auditorium podium beginning at 11:30 AM before the February membership meeting. Ask questions or learn more about committees. Committee chairs or vice-chairs are welcome too.

### Strategic Planning Update

*Cory H. Schroeder*

The Strategic Planning group has been on hiatus due the the holidays, but work hasn't stopped entirely. We will be presenting the concept of a Governance Committee (non-profit organizations best practices for overseeing the organization, maintaining quality, helping determine succession and more) to the Board at the January meeting. We had the opportunity to discuss the reduction or realignment of some of our committees at the Committee Chairmen's meeting held on 1/7/16. Something interesting to note about the current VIA committee structure: because the VIA was originally part of the Federation of Women's Clubs, we followed

and named many of our committees along the lines of the Federation. Today, some may be outdated, could be consolidated or could be renamed? This is what we'll be discussing in an attempt to become more relevant in today's world.

The Board and membership will continue to be kept aware of all the key issues and strategies.

### \$4,000 Grant Awarded to the VIA

*Cory H. Schroeder*

I am extremely happy to announce that Foundations Community Partnership has awarded the VIA a \$4K grant for Strategic Planning. FCP provides technical assistance funding for non-profits in the areas of capacity building, business management, business planning, strategic planning, board development, and training workshops.

Thanks to the suggestion of Liz Vibber, our strategic planning facilitator, we applied in fall 2015 for this grant. Most of their technical assistance grants were \$2,500, but based upon our proposal and our need, the board approved a greater amount. Many thanks to Ron Bernstein and the FCP Board for their generosity.

### HANDBOOK UPDATES/CORRECTIONS

**Please add new members:**

Michelle Bowen	215-622-5840
Martha Richino	215-918-1321
Andrea Tucker	312-320-0225

**Please Change:**

Jeanne Sandusky to : 727-742-2066

If you find missing or incorrect information, please call Admin. Asst. Denise Sanders at 215-345-2347 or email [dsanders@dh.org](mailto:dsanders@dh.org). Thank you.

### WINTER WEATHER CONDITIONS

In the event of winter weather conditions, our membership meeting will be cancelled when the schools are closed in the Central Bucks School District. In the event the schools remain open or are delayed, you will be notified via email about meeting cancellations.



# VIA Health Systems Report

January 2016

Last month I updated you on advances in our stroke program. This month I can report that the clot retrieval program is called intra-arterial therapy or (IAT). The Hospital Board was treated to a first-hand explanation of this astounding development in stroke care. As I wrote last month we have been recognized for our treatment with t-PA. Dr. Jeffrey Gould, one of our Neurologists, told us that Joint commission has found that we surpass state and national averages and we are now designated as Honor Roll Elite Plus. Because of our work with local EMS teams, they know to call ahead to coordinate care so that our stroke team is waiting. As a result, EMS squads know to bring a stroke patient to Doylestown Hospital.

Dr. Abraham Ashkenazi spoke about stroke being a worldwide problem. While t-PA has been the usual treatment if given within 4.5 hours, for large blood clots that treatment is limited. After multiple studies the American Heart Assoc. recommended use of clot retrieval. We had been sending these patients to Jefferson but the therapy was not often given in time. This was the reason Doylestown Hospital decided to set up an IAT therapy program.

Drs. McGarvey and Guidera spoke about the process needed to set up the program and the cooperation necessary among multiple specialties. The results of the therapy have been hugely successful. The Board got to see visuals of two retrievals and watching a "dead" brain come back to full function was amazing. In both cases the patients started to move their limbs and began talking while still on the operating table. There is no way I can describe the truly incredible process of saving a patient from a debilitating injury to the brain or death. We have to be thankful for our skilled and courageous physicians on staff here who were willing to start the IAT program.

In October of 2015, there was an article about heater/cooler devices regarding infections in cardiac surgery patients at York Hospital. While Doylestown Hospital uses a different heater/cooler device we did do a complete review of cleaning practices. We found no cases of infection from 2011 to the present and no problems have been identified.

The financials for November show Net Patient Revenue is \$144K above budget and compared to 2014 is up \$900K or 5%. For the five months ending November 2015, Net Patient Revenue, while below budget, is actually 3.9% over the prior year. Mr. Upton commented that productivity is very positive and net patient revenues are up from last year. There has been a significant change in outpatient payer mix which has resulted in a YTD decrease in revenue of \$1.7M. Without that shift we would be ahead of budget.

Mr. Brexler spoke about our contract with Ken Coburn and Health Quality Partners. While our Care Managers cared for patients until discharge, the program is being redesigned and care will continue when they leave. This is already being done with cardiovascular surgery with great success and will be expanded to other departments.

Jim also announced that Sheri Putnam has been promoted to Vice President of Strategic Initiatives. Sheri has been with us for 25 years, acting as Executive Director of BCPHA and now DHP. She has been an invaluable member of the hospital's management team. We are so happy to see her hard work recognized and wish her heartiest congratulations.

Other recognitions:

- Andrea Mahoney and Amy Rzaca were recognized with Outstanding Educator Awards. Since 1995, more than 20 Childrens Village teachers have received this award.
- The American Heart Assoc. presented the Heart Failure team a certificate for Get with the Guidelines-Heart Failure Gold Plus Quality Achievement award. This is the third year in a row the hospital received the highest honor for heart failure care.
- For the fourth consecutive year, the hospital received the Press Ganey Guardian of Excellence Award for patient safety. Presented annually, this award honors hospitals that consistently perform in the top 5%.
- The American Heart Assoc. presented the 2015 Mission STEMI Receiving Center-Gold Plus to a group of associates from the Heart Institutes Cath Lab and the ER. These two teams, along with local EMTs have improved heart attack care. This is the highest level of recognition by the AHA.

Isn't this a nice way to start the New Year? Happy New Year to all of you!

*Carolyn Della-Rodolfa*  
Vice President, Health Services

WWW.VIA-DOYLESTOWN.ORG

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## **Marketing Committee**

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*Nancy Gimbol*

At the January 5, 2016 membership meeting, a vote was taken to rescind the approval of the logo presented at the October 5, 2015 meeting. The results were as follows: 77 VIA members voted to rescind the vote; 6 VIA members voted not to rescind the vote; 1 VIA member abstained from voting. The motion to rescind the October 5<sup>th</sup> vote carries.

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## **Membership Committee**

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*Lee Scheeler*

The Membership Committee would like to welcome Andrea Tucker as a new member and Marty Richino as a returning member to the VIA. To all members, please consider bringing a friend to our next meeting.

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## **SAVE THE DATE**

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*Mary Bachman*

The Social Committee will be offering some "just for fun" activities in 2016.

Carlow Cookery will be the location of an Italian dinner cooking lesson on Thursday, March 31. The lesson begins at 11:00 am followed by the enjoyment of the meal. Cost for the lesson and dinner will be \$50/per person. Please register with Gourmet Chair Marilyn Jones at 215-822-1109. Checks made payable to VIA of Doylestown. Seating is limited.

A series of "Doylestown Appreciation" days will be scheduled through the year. All will feature a particular venue in and around Doylestown followed by lunch with friends.

The first in this series will be a tour of the Michener Art Museum, held on Wednesday, April 20 at 10:30am with lunch following at Slate Blue. Please contact Mary Bahman to sign up for this event. Our goal is to strengthen friendships within the VIA. Someone once said "I've never met a VIA woman that I didn't like."

This year, *West Side Story* will be the musical at the PA Shakespeare Festival. More information will be in the next newsletter.

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## **James - Lorah Memorial Home**

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*Phyllis Morris*

The JLMH Committee ended 2015 with a wonderful Holiday Open House. Our guests enjoyed a tour through our home along with refreshments, holiday music and raffles in the auditorium. Visitors were impressed with the history and the fact that this is the home of the Village Improvement Association. Thank you to all who supported this event.

We continue restoration to the JLMH and have found several artifacts dating perhaps over 100 years. Pieces of pottery and part of shoes were found during excavation in the porch area. We plan to investigate the origin of our find. Old wood beams from this area will be made into a bench thanks to our Conservation Committee. The James-Lorah Memorial Home is the VIA's treasure. We do not want to take for granted the history and valued contents of our beautiful home.

Please save the date for our annual fundraiser, **An Evening at the Theatre**. It will be held April 6 at the Town and Country Players Theatre in Buckingham. The musical this year is Stephen Sondheim's *Company*. Mark your calendars and look for a reservation flyer with more information in next month's newsletter.

A happy 2016 to you all!!!



# Designer House & Gardens

VIA Support Needed

## Designer Treasures

This year Designer Sales will feature an attractive selection of clear and etched glassware. Please contact Terry Steinberg about bowls, candlesticks, decanters, cake plates, beverage glasses, vases, etc. that you, your relatives, or your neighbors would be interested in donating.



## A Bit of the Bubbly!

(*& wine, spirits and cordials!*)



The busy EHP Committee Bees are out in full force calling on businesses and collecting donations for the auction. We also have a mystery wine raffle and basket of cheer. This is where your generosity is needed: Please donate or re-gift your holiday cheer (wine, champagne, bourbon, whiskey, gin, vodka, cordials, etc.). Please drop off at the VIA office or call Debbie Thorne (267-546-8566) to arrange pick up.



This is the VIA's largest fundraiser and proceeds from this single event fuel the work the VIA accomplishes each year. Your support is essential to the VIA's success and each VIA member is responsible to fulfill two shifts at the Designer House. Positions are available as captains, guides, ticket desk sales, café, designer sales, 50/50 raffle sales and waterers.

To sign up please visit:

[BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org/viashifts](http://BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org/viashifts)



## Empty House Party

February 28 | 2 – 5 pm

*If you've attended past Empty House Parties, you know this kick-off is a popular and fun event. If you've never attended, then you definitely owe it to yourself to go!* Guests will see every room in this spacious farmhouse property before the designers, landscapers and boutique owners work their magic. The talented 2016 Design Team will be in attendance and you'll get to meet these creative designers and view their exquisite design boards. Rooms will also be filled with distinctive silent auction gift baskets brimming with an eclectic array of items from home decor to edibles. There will be wine and spirit raffles. Feast on fabulous food and decadent desserts from area eateries and locally produced wine and craft beer. \$25 advance sales thru Feb 18; \$30 reservations and at the door; \$40 *Before&After* ticket thru Feb 18. Reserve by Jan 25 and enter a raffle for two additional tickets. Look for the enclosed flyer to reserve tickets.

## House Tour & Gourmet Getaway

March 31 | 5 – 8 pm

Celebrate "Hollywood Glamour" and sample food and drink from 25 of Bucks' finest caterers, restaurants and wineries, plus raffles, silent auctions and live music at the Warrington Country Club. The Chamber will partner with the new Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Doylestown and Town & Country Players. Proceeds from the Gourmet Getaway benefit WIB's Scholarship program to assist Bucks County women who are going back to school to better provide for their families. \$60 – Gourmet Getaway and House Tour Combo ticket.

## Preview Gala

April 29 | VIP 6-7 pm and Main Event 7-10 pm

Save the Date - Tickets available soon. Please give Joyce Hanson additional names for the invitation list.

## House Tours

May 1 – May 29

View the transformation by 30 professional designers and landscapers. Tour the house, shop the boutiques & designer décor, and indulge at the café. Tickets \$25 Advance and Seniors (62+); Volunteer Tickets \$15, Committee members – 15 or more; Reduced rate \$25 for pre-approved companies or organizations IDs will be required. Contact Mary Bachman about groups who may be interested

**VIA OF DOYLESTOWN**  
595 W. State Street  
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**January 2016**

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20	Strategic Planning	VIA Office	9:00 am
20	Marketing Committee	Conf. Room H	11:30 am
20	Strategic Planning	VIA Office	9:00 am

**February 2016**

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2	Membership Meeting	H & WC Conf. Rm.	12 noon
3	Strategic Planning	VIA Office	9:00 am
9	Designer House Committee	Conf. Room J	9:30 am
10	Welfare Committee	Conf. Room A	9:00 am
11	Fundraising Committee	Conf. Room A	9:30 am
16	JLMH Committee	Conf. Room A	10:00 am
17	Strategic Planning	VIA Office	9:00 am
17	Marketing Committee	Conf. Room H	11:30 am
18	Hospital Board	Conf. Room K	8:00 am
23	VIA Board Meeting	Conf. Room K	8:30 am
23	Bylaws Meeting	Conf. Room K	10:30 am

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**Please refer to our website ([www.VIA-Doylestown.org](http://www.VIA-Doylestown.org)) for additional events!**

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