

The Silver Panther Newsletter

SUMMER EDITION

2018



**Statewide Coalition of Presidents of Resident Councils
Executive Board Members**

*Gregory Brooks, Ann Nichols,
Brad Parkhurst, Carol Runlett,
Jeanette Sullivan-Martinez, Dave Thomson*

New Long Term Care State Ombudsman Appointed



The staff of the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program would like to extend a warm welcome to the newly appointed State Ombudsman, Mairead Painter. Mairead's wide scope of expertise, unlimited energy and solid visionary ideas make her an excellent choice.

Mairead was appointed to the position of Connecticut State Long Term Care Ombudsman in May 2018. In this role, she promotes and protects quality of life for older adults and individuals with disabilities, while overseeing the Program's advocacy work. She serves more than 30,000 individuals residing in skilled long term care nursing facilities, residential care homes, and assisted living/managed residential communities. Ms. Painter has an extensive background working on Connecticut's long term care continuum.

As State Ombudsman, Ms. Painter identifies issues, develops policies, regulations and legislation to improve quality of life for residents receiving support services. Ms. Painter is committed to advocating for person centered care and informed choice for individuals, no matter their age and/or disability. She actively participates in a variety of stakeholder workgroups, legislative task forces/committees and is a member of the National Association of State Ombudsman Programs and National Consumer Voice. Advocating for the rights of residents is the mainstay of her vision for the Connecticut Long Term Care Ombudsman Program.

Annual 2018 Executive Board

The annual Executive Board of Presidents of Resident Councils Retreat was held on July 12, 2018, at 55 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT. The introduction and opening remarks were made by DORS (Department of Rehabilitation Services) Commissioner, Amy Porter and State Long Term Care Ombudsman, Mairead Painter.

Dan Lerman, regional ombudsman provided an update on the Legislative Session and a Focus presentation regarding the upcoming 2019 legislative session. During the morning session, executive board members met with Jennifer Glick, former long term employee of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), to discuss and form a creative collaboration group. The focus of the meeting was on leadership structure, goals and the interests and skills that each member brings to the table. As a direct result of the discussion, an election was held resulting in the following specific executive board positions: President – Jeanette Sullivan-Martinez, Vice President - David Thomson, Marketing – Greg Brooks and Public Relations- Brad Parkhurst. The board members also reviewed and modified current bylaws. Board members also discussed nominees for the 2018 Carol Rosenwald *Spirit of Advocacy* Award and the Brian Capshaw *Rock Star* Award which will be presented at the annual Voices conference in October. Members of the board also created and plan to submit their entry to the 2018 Resident's Voice Challenge, sponsored by the *National Consumer Voice For Quality Long-Term Care*, located in Washington, DC. All participants agreed the day long retreat was successful in providing direction and inspiration in moving forward with the board's mission to advocate for fellow nursing home residents and former residents who have transitioned to the community.

E-BOARD MEMBERS 2018



THANK YOU EBOARD!

For Making The 2018 Eboard Retreat A Great Success

Newest Member of the Executive Board of Presidents of Residents Council

Gregory Brooks

My name is Gregory Brooks and I am a resident at Quinnipiac Valley Center in Wallingford. I am the Resident Council President, and beginning my fourth term. Like the Allman Brothers song, I was born a rambling man I suppose. After graduating high school I enlisted in the Army, and served as a first sergeant in a parachute infantry regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division. After I left the service I traveled the country.

I've walked remote logging roads in northern Maine, rode air boats in the everglades in Florida, dipped my feet in the headwaters of the Mississippi, and netted shrimp in the Gulf of Mexico. I have swam in both oceans, rode dirt bikes in Death Valley and the Baja, camped in the bottom of the Grand Canyon and hiked sections of the Appalachian trail solo. I've witnessed two space shuttle launches close-up, and visited national Battlefields from Gettysburg, to the Little Big Horn. I've ridden my motorcycle to major rallies in Daytona, Laconia N.H., and Sturgis S.D. to name a few. I attended trade and vocational schools in Conn. and Florida. I was a metalsmith, welder and fabricator. I owned three different shops over the years, specializing in custom motorcycles and hot rods. I was also a Health and Safety director at a major hot tub manufacturer. I love the outdoors, and am a little bit of an artist I'm told. I was involved in a motorcycle vs. car accident, and am confined to a wheelchair as a result. But I never give up and I want to be an advocate for the residents here and elsewhere in the state while I'm still able to physically and mentally. I am a quick learner, and look forward to working on the Eboard and perhaps bringing some fresh ideas and different approaches to achieve our common goals.

BEST PRACTICE

These Hands Tell a Story

The Best Practice committee would like to share this terrific project-Regional Ombudsman Patricia Calderone states “the wall of photos is really powerful to view- the photographs are beautiful and it is interesting to see the different captions under the photos that reflect a rich history of many types of careers.”

A Local Waterbury Assisted Living Community, The Village at East Farms, (part of Benchmark Senior Living) has developed an innovative company- wide project designed to strengthen the connection among residents and associates. Benchmark Senior Living has been widely recognized and awarded for this project which is called ...These Hands.

These Hands... celebrates the lives of Benchmark residents through a public photography installation at participating communities, like the Village at East Farms. The photography features residents' hands along with what their hands have accomplished. As a result of the project, residents have discovered commonalities, associates have gotten to know their residents better, residents feel proud to have their accomplishments showcased and families are grateful for their loved one being celebrated. Some of the many achievements celebrated include hands that taught hundreds of disabled children for 35 years and others that ushered for the New York City Ballet, still others are the hands of professional athletes.

Village at East Farms Executive Director, Lee Ann Tyburski notes, “ Our families are so touched by this display, we have given duplicate photos to them as a remembrance. It is fascinating to see just what their ands have done through their lifetime. “



**Statewide Coalition of Presidents of Resident Councils
(SCPRC)**

Executive Board Members

**Gregory Brooks
Quinnipiac Valley Center
Wallingford, CT**

**Carol Runlett
Branford Hills Health Care Ct
Branford, CT**

**Jeanette Sullivan-Martinez
Pendleton Healthcare
Mystic, CT**

**Brad Parkhurst
6 Redden Avenue, Apartment F
New London, CT**

**Dave Thomson
Candlewood Valley Health & Rehab
New Milford, CT**

**Ann Nichols
Sheriden Woods Health Care CT
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Regional Ombudsmen

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Regional Ombudsmen

Brenda Torres & Thomas Pantaleo

