



The Helpers Fund

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Fall/Winter

Annual Meeting November 23, 2008

The Ninth Annual Meeting of the Helpers Fund at Friends Lake in Chestertown featured a complete brunch as well as a silent auction of holiday gifts and featured items. The day also included the drawing of the winning tickets for the Quilt Raffle, the Cronin's Golf Membership Raffle and the Scholarship 50/50 Raffle. Under the direction of host John Phillips, owner, the service was, as usual, impeccable, and the brunch exceptional.

Sign-In

Invitees signed in, they received a packet of material, which included a review of the 2008 assistance, an outlook for 2009 and the proposed budget. Everyone then browsed the silent auction, while enjoying the company of other attending the meeting.

Raffle Winners

The final event of the Meeting was the drawing for the various items from the raffles. The winners were:

Quilt Raffle - Jerry Kaminski, Woodmere, NY

Cronin's Golf Resort 2009 Golf Membership - Jerome Meader, Brant Lake, NY

Scholarship 50/50 Raffle - 1st Place: Judy McIntyre;

2nd place: Sheila Ellsworth, and 3rd place:

Carole O'Dwyer, all of Chestertown



Gordy & Carol Stetson (left) discuss events with Ed & Jan Beckler. Couldn't be Gordy was talking about the U.S.S. Champlain, was he?



Just some chit-chat. Dr. Bill O'Dwyer (leaning against pole facing left) talks with Ed Shutta (white sweater), and John Palermo (yellow shirt & tan jacket). Bill Lapierre (EMS Head) stands behind Ed and Dr. Bill. Pat Farrell (leaning against pole (facing right) chats with Floyd Wells (far right at end of bar.)

Silent Auction

There were more than 35 items at the silent auction which included gift certificates to local restaurants and businesses, as well as a gift certificate and various smoked items from Oscar's Adirondack Smoke House in Warrensburg; wreaths and Christmas Trees were donated by Pereau's Fir Tree Farm in Chestertown. There were also gift certificates from The Sagamore Hotel in Bolton Landing, The Place Restaurant, Deer Crossing Café and Main Street Ice Cream Parlor, all in Chestertown. There was a numbered print donated by well-known artist Cate Mandigo and a set of crocheted doilies donated by Lena Seeley of Schroon Lake. Also represented was Davidson's Brew & Pub, Glens Falls and The Black Bear Restaurant in Pottersville.

What's on the Horizon for 2009

The times we face are filled with uncertainty. Each day we pick up a paper or listen to a news report, there seems to be more turmoil on our world. Whether its an argument about saving the auto makers, or public money given to a financial institution in trouble or a rising unemployment rate, the news seems to be bleak.

States in Trouble

We hear reports of states facing huge budget gaps, retirement systems facing similar problems and states unable to face their financial problems without cutting back services and we ask, where is all this leading us?

Cutting of Services

It appears states are going to cut back services, particularly in the entitlement programs such as Medicaid and Medicare. Any changes made in these programs will also affect private health providers working within these programs. Just recently New York City announced it would no longer provide day-care services for seniors dealing with dementia. And some states have adopted a program that would not honor claims filed from the point there had been a medical error, whether by Medical Personnel or by some accepted procedures adopted by the medical facility.

We're Lucky

Living in this area with the umbrella of Hudson Headwaters Health Network, we don't experience some of the difficulties other areas are experiencing. HHHN's philosophy on not turning anyone away, serves our area in a very unique way.

But Still

But we'll feel the impact of some changes. it appears there will be modifications in private coverages and co-pays. The disability process, and its procedures, will receive attention, as well as the National Prescription Drug Program. There will be tinkering with the system, if not a major overhaul, but the impact may be softened by philosophy of HHHN.

Other Areas

Outside our area, and in the country-at-large, there are more than 40 million uninsured Americans, many of them able to receive only emergency medical services if they exist in the area where they live. The World Health Organization did a study in 2001 in an attempt to rank health care services in the world. France and Italy were at the top, and the United States ranked 37th.

Next Issue

In our next issue we'll look at the results, and issues that have arisen as a result of the study. We'll also take a look at personal responsibility in dealing with health care. Just a footnote: Almost two-thirds of our population is overweight; one-third of those obese. That type of statistic has an impact on the results.

E-Mail Or Regular Mail? Let Us Know!

This is the first newsletter being sent by e-mail to those who notified the Fund they would like the news sent in this manner. If you would also like to receive the Fund's news via e-mail just contact us at info@helpersfund.org and leave your name and e-mail address and we'll put on our e-mail list. The Fund's site is secure and your e-mail address will be used for no other reason than to receive our e-mails. If you would prefer to continue receiving the news by regular mail, there is no need to do anything. You may also withdraw your e-mail request at any time. E-mail will allow us to get out information much more quickly, more efficiently and at a much lower cost. If you have any difficulty opening the newsletter contact us immediately.

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