

Sonoma County Section on Aging
February 16, 2011

MINUTES

Opening Remarks:

Laurie White, President

Laurie welcomed all to this month's meeting and reviewed mission statement:

“The Sonoma County Section on Aging is a coalition of agencies, organizations and individuals concerned with the well being of older adults. As a network alliance, we advocate for and promote the development, coordination, and implementation of older adult services in Sonoma County.”

Laurie announced that SOA has over 150 organizations as members. Forty-nine of those members have not yet paid dues for 2011. She then asked Bob Cheal to demonstrate how to pay for SOA memberships on-line. Also reminded group to check off Code of Ethics when renewing membership in order to be considered an active member. For questions regarding this process, please contact Bob Cheal.

Laurie acknowledged and introduced new members. Welcomed visitors and reminded them that they can attend two meetings before being expected to join. Acknowledged coffee sponsors signed up already for 2011. Please see Carolyn Worley to sign up for future coffee sponsorships.

Because of the wealth of knowledge within the membership, Laurie proposed to organize one meeting, or part of one meeting, in the future to be dedicated to problem solving. Membership unanimously voted yes. SOA Leadership Committee to organize.

Spotlight Speakers for March:

Kim Isley, Trees for a Change (coffee sponsor)
Erika Copenhaver, Galanti & Copenhaver (raffle winner)

Member Introductions

Spotlight Speaker:

Fernande Bencze, Broker/Owner
California Reverse Mortgage Corp.
www.retireriskfree.com
707-535-2932

California Reverse Mortgage Corp. has been in existence for ten years. Reverse mortgages are geared for anyone 62 years of age or older, with equity in their primary residence. They are designed to allow people to tap into their equity for various reasons, while still keeping the guarantee that they will be able to remain in their home. Some examples for a reverse mortgage are to increase monthly income, to help pay medical costs, to avoid foreclosure, or to help a family member.

Spotlight Speaker:

Lynda Pinochi, Owner
Tru Scan Live Scan Fingerprint Services
www.truscanfingerprints.com
707-838-7226

Lynda and her husband, Tony, have been in operation for five years. They provide mobile services as well as having offices in Santa Rosa and Novato. Their primary clients are in the health care industry.

Program Speaker: **Dr. Katrina Bramstedt, PhD**
Clinical Ethicist

A clinical ethicist is a person who is trained to help resolve ethical problems related to clinical care/medical crises. An ethicist will see patients anywhere (hospital, assisted living facility, SNF, patient's homes), and will advocate, mediate, educate, and problem solve. They help steer patients as they are making medical choices. They write and review clinical policies. A clinical ethicist aims to build a therapeutic alliance between all parties (patient, family, medical team). Many times they are brought in for second opinions, e.g., questions pertaining to turning off life support, organ transplants, DNR's, pacemakers/defibrulators, disputes over care or end of life.

Ethics committees are a group of lay people who are not ethicists but who work together to try to solve problems. A committee could be made up of doctors, lawyers, social workers, nurses, chaplains.

Anyone can hire an ethicist. When hiring, you can expect the ethicist to interview the patient, medical team and family. They will review all medical records. They will also review medical and ethics literature and then write a report addressing your concerns/questions.

She invited all to contact her via her website for any questions or more information. She also publishes a monthly newsletter that is available to anyone. Please visit her website to sign up: www.AskTheEthicist.com. She also has a book that is recommended: [Finding Your Way, a Medical Ethics Handbook for Patients and Families](#).

The speaker for the March meeting will be Bettina Gentner, Social Worker, Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital, speaking on "The Role the Hospital is Taking with our Senior Population".

March's meeting will be on Wednesday, March 16th, networking at 8:45 with meeting starting at 9:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Cerri
SOA Secretary
Del Curto Real Estate
debcerri@aol.com
707-292-5495

