

Presidential Ponderings - January 2024

Next month will mark my 20th Anniversary as President of Londonderry Village, or the Lebanon Valley Brethren Home, as it was called when I arrived in February of 2004. There were over 200 people in the Di Matteo Worship Center for the Installation Ceremony that the Board of Directors had planned for me, and as a part of the agenda, I was given the opportunity to make a few remarks. Some of our current residents were at that ceremony, and they periodically remind me of the instructions that I gave the assembled crowd. I told them to repeat out loud, twice over, the following mantra: “Change is Good” !

Change is not only good, but it is necessary for the evolution and survival of all organizations and organisms. Change is not only necessary, but it is also inevitable. Whether we like it or not, the circumstances and the environment around us are always in a state of flux, and it is difficult (if not impossible) for any of us to “stay the same”. That has certainly been the case for me, personally. In the last twenty years I have been divorced, then remarried three years later, had two knee replacements, seen two of my children get married, became addicted to pickleball, and joined the happy ranks of being a grandparent. I am not the same person I was in 2004.

Londonderry Village has also changed, considerably, in the last twenty years. The adoption of the Green House Model on our campus has profoundly changed our culture, emphasizing the importance of resident choices and inter-personal relationships. We have obviously added more people to the community via expansion projects like the Wheaton apartments, the Lafiya duplexes, and (very shortly) the opening of our new Fox Run campus. We conquered our fears together, and found new hope and resolve through the “trial by fire” known as the Covid-19 pandemic. Our finances are stronger, our Activity programming more diverse, and our sense of Mission and Purpose have never been stronger.

It is a new year, brimming with a myriad of new possibilities. I pray this year that you will all be blessed with good health, a sense of purpose and direction, compassion for the less fortunate, and the grace and serenity to deal with life’s headwinds.

*Happy 2024,
Jeff Shireman, President*

