

Report by the Directors of the German Senior Residence NPC

To the NELCSA Synod 2023

The report to the previous synod did a detailed lay-out of the three organisations that relate to the German Senior Residence and the difficulties that were experienced in the interaction between the three bodies. Fortunately, these problems have been resolved, and the German Senior Residence (GSR), situated in Napier Road, Richmond, the Douglas Park Retirement Village (DPMA), situated in Hornbill Rd, Douglasdale, and the overarching German Retirement Village Trust (GRVT), have experienced a good working relationship during the past year.

With the settlement of the disputes, the German Senior Residence has now again received regular financial support from the GRVT and, together with other donations, notably from the Ohlthaver Trust, quite a few badly needed renovations could be undertaken. These included fixing leaking roofs, rusted car ports and uneven paving, renovating the bathrooms in the Frail Care and a total overhaul of the retainer wall behind the Frail Care. Now the main focus is on installing a solar system that will enable the Frail Care to become independent of Eskom.

As also mentioned in the previous report, the German Senior Residence had its 75th Anniversary in 2022. This was celebrated on the 8th October 2022 in the Aula of the Deutsche Internationale Schule Johannesburg as a “Varieté mit musikalischen und kulinarischen Leckerbissen”, which entailed a sit-down dinner and a variety of performances, some professional, but also some from the community. After an absence of two years, we were also able to hold the (previously) annual Winterabend, with Glühwein and Gulaschsuppe, on the 15th July 2023 and we hope that the Weihnachtsbasar will at long last also return this year.

Sadly, one of the Board Members of the GSR, CC von Flemming, passed away at the start of this year. The balance between the three promoters of the GSR is now somewhat skewed, as CC von Flemming represented the Johanniterorden, which at this point in time has no new representative available for the Board. The current Board Members are: H Schwäcke (Chairperson), HCOF Herrmann, I Lemon, H Braun, U von Ketelhodt and DH Thiele.

Occupation at the German Senior Residence is satisfactory, although the upstairs rooms in the Protea building have been empty for quite some time. The main problem here, is the access to these rooms, which includes quite a number of stairs. The Board is trying to find a solution to this problem, to ensure that the Residence functions to its optimum capacity. At the Douglas Park Retirement Village only one unit is not occupied at the moment.

We thank the Synod for taking an interest in the happenings at the German Senior Residence and wish you a blessed Synod 2023.

Regards, for and on behalf of the GSR Board,

DH Thiele