

Country Squires- Minutes of Meeting held April 9, 2026

President Steve Seamans began the meeting at 12:00.

Jerry Coogan's Words of Inspiration provided famous quotations from Erasmus, Abraham Lincoln and Desmond Tutu to inspire a better life.

After a pork loin entrée luncheon, the minutes of the March 12th meeting were approved and Andy Field of Eastman was voted in as a new member.

Dave Wood introduced our guest speaker, Dr. Don Kollisch from Dartmouth Health's Geisel School of Medicine and the VA Medical Center. Dr. Kollisch's topics were the "Privatization of Medicine- Promises and Results" and "Solutions to Resolve our Healthcare Problems".

Dr. Kollisch contrasted both the Medicare Advantage vs. Traditional Medicare programs and the US Health System vs. 30 High Income Countries.

In summary, while Medical Advantage is cheaper, great when it works well and has 54% of the market, it provides 15-25% profit margins to the Healthcare Insurance companies as opposed to a 2% Medicare program margin. A key take-away was that medical care billing is governed by the "Charge Master", a chart composed of 50,000 care items covered by 1,600 insurance companies. The resulting "bill for services" amounts bear no close resemblance to cost. An example of which was provided by Squire Coogan's recent invoice: "Bill for Services -\$85k; Paid to Provider \$7k". Dr. Don estimated actual cost at approximately 10% higher or \$7.7k.

US Healthcare, with the best research, best MD's, but limited/unequal access, costs \$12k per person with worse outcomes/mortality rates than the \$6k cost per person in 30 other countries, many of whom have National Health programs; a principal reason being our public health care starts at age 65. A key take-away was that the administrative burden caused by the "Charge Master" has caused a 4000% increase in billing clerks vs. 10% for MD's, e.g. Duke Univ. Medical Center has 1,600 billing clerks vs. 7 at Univ. of Toronto's facility.

In conclusion, Dr. Kollisch advocated a well-funded National Healthcare System.

Next month, our May Annual meeting, to which spouse and significant others are invited, will have Colby Sawyer President Dean McCurdy as guest speaker

The meeting adjourned at 2:05PM.

By Art Scutro, Acting Secretary
4/15/2026