Join Us at the 66th Annual Convention & Expo—Next Month in Peoria!

New This Year – Earn CEs while you browse the expo! It’s easy. Just visit the select participating vendors on Tuesday and Wednesday (a different set each day) to obtain the educational materials and test. Complete your tests and turn them in at the IHCA Registration desk to get your badge scanned for your CEs.

Join Us Tuesday Evening for the Party on the Riverfront! In addition to all of the excellent educational opportunities, and of course the expo, we also hope everyone will enjoy themselves while at convention. This year, we’re moving our kickoff party down to the Peoria Riverfront! Be sure to join us for good food, drinks, music and more!

Check out the Preliminary Program (click here) to see what’s in store! The Preliminary Program offers a wealth of information about our biggest event! Check it out to see descriptions of this year’s educational sessions, details regarding our special events (like the Party on the Riverfront (formerly the Kickoff Party), the Golf Outing and the Oksnevad 5K), bios for our keynote speakers and more! To register, complete the registration form found at the back of the program and send it along with your payment to: IHCA, 1029 S. 4th St., Springfield, IL 62703

Time is Running out to Reserve a Booth for the Expo! Get Your Space Today! Are you looking for a way to touch base with long term care professionals? Do you want access to facility decision makers? Exhibiting at our annual expo is a great way to do just that!! Don’t miss out on your chance to be a part of this excellent event! Reserve your space today for the annual show in September (click here to view the prospectus, or visit our Exhibitor Information page for more information)! If you have any questions, please contact Kelli Showalter.

If you have any questions, please contact the IHCA office – (217) 528-6455 or (800) 252-8988.

IHCA is Upgrading Our System—More Accessibility for Members!

It has been quite a project—hair has been pulled, tears have been shed… but the new content management system is coming soon! Not only have we upgraded our membership data to this new system, but our website is moving too!

Later this month IHCA will be moving over to our new system from Timberlake Solutions. This new database will be a great help to us behind the scenes at IHCA, but it will also mean some great changes for you, our members, as well.
You will notice some small changes to the look and feel of the website, but the biggest change is the addition of our new Member Portal!

Each user will now have access to their own profile in our Member Portal. Members of the same organization will have their own unique log in, but will be linked together through their organizational profile. You will have access to the usual Members Only features—special member tools, past issues of publications and Questions of the Week—as well as your own member information, your committees, invoices and transactions, event registration (starting after convention) and CEs earned through IHCA... and more! We will be reaching out in the next few weeks with more information about the new system. Once it is up and running, if you have any questions at all, please contact Ashley Caldwell at the IHCA office.

**Evaluation and Improving: Applying the Principles of Learning to the AHCA/NCAL Quality Award Program**

Winning an [AHCA/NCAL Quality Award](https://www.aha.org/ahca/quality-award) is a huge accomplishment! Several of our member facilities earned one this year, and we hope that more IHCA facilities will take part in this prestigious program. The National Quality Award Program recently [announced](https://www.aha.org/quality-award/2017/2017applicationpackets) that the 2017 application packets are now available online. In addition, the 2017 program calendar and submission checklist have been posted to each award level page. Please visit the Bronze, Silver or Gold application pages to download application materials specific to your respective award level to see how your center should begin preparing.

Below is an [article](https://www.aha.org/africa) about the program from AHCA’s blog—Long Term Care Leader:

This next year marks the beginning of the third decade of the Quality Award program. Twenty years ago, those directly involved in the program numbered less than 20; 6 examiners, 12 applicants and 1 staff member. The old proverb says, “Change is the only thing that never changes.” Anyone who’s been involved with the program for more than two years has been witness to this proverb in action; every year brings many significant changes to the program.

Here are just a few of the changes over the past few years;

- Once there were over 125 Bronze Examiners, today there are just 4.
- Once there were only 4 Senior Examiners, today there are almost 200.
- Once all Examiner training was conducted via webinars. Today all Examiners are trained on-site.
- Once there was virtually no engagement of the broader Baldrige community. Today some of the best-respected Baldrige experts serve as Judges, Examiners, and Trainers in our program.
- Once there were no available resources, now a variety of online training, data, and networking resources exist – most free of charge.
- Once most AHCANCAL State Affiliates were only marginally engaged in the program. Now many affiliates serve as key promoters, education partners, and staff members serve as examiners.
- Once Gold site visit were mainly courtesy calls with little formal evaluation. The site visit team made the award determination during the site visit. Today we have a formal process, solid accountability and reporting, and our Panel of Judges makes the award determination.

Additionally, there are literally hundreds of other important changes that have occurred over the last few years.

While some of those changes were admittedly reactionary, they are now the result of regular ongoing cycles of evaluation, driven by stakeholder feedback, data review, and oriented to strategy objectives. We are working hard to apply the Baldrige Core Values to the program.

If it has been awhile since you submitted an award application, we hope that you will consider 2017 as a “restart” year. If you have been progressing along with your journey, we hope that you will continue it in 2017. Either way, remember that your first step should be to review the 2017 application packets in full. Applications are now available so click [here](https://www.aha.org/africa) to get started today!
This year there have been changes to the Silver criteria, the addition of required results at the Silver and Gold level, and changes to the survey eligibility criteria at each level to name a few.

As always, thanks for your interest in the AHCANCAL National Quality Award Program!

**Few Seniors Seeking Health Advice Online**

In our technology-driven society, the internet is usually the first place inquiring minds go to find out what they want to know. However, a recent study suggests that this is not the case for seniors when it comes to their health. In a [Reuters article](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-seniors-interconnectedness/while-we-found-that-the-majority-of-seniors-use-basic-digital-technology-very-few-are-using-digital-health-technology-or-the-advanced-features-the-internet-has-to-offer-idUSKBN11L0ZG20151112) published earlier this week, Dr. David Levine explained that, “While we found that the majority of seniors use basic digital technology, very few are using digital health technology or the advanced features the internet has to offer. Dr. Levine is the lead author for this study, and is a researcher at Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. “The use rate is likely so low because we do not currently offer usable tools to seniors,” Levine added. “It's like asking a teenager to play backgammon or write a snail mail letter.”

For the study, Levine and his colleagues looked at data from more than 7,500 seniors from a nationally representative survey of adults ages 65 and older who don’t live in health care facilities. In 2011, 76 percent of participants had cell phones and 64 percent had computers, but only about 40 percent of them used the internet, emailing or texting.

The study authors noted that in 2011 around 16 percent of these seniors reported using the internet to find information about a medical issue, and that this number crept up to around 18 percent by 2014. In regard to contacting their doctors online, about 7 percent were likely to do so online in 2011 and about 12 percent in 2014.

Though there could be several reasons for these low numbers it is important to remember that how patients access health information has changed over the years. What used to require an individual going to their doctor’s office or using the phone can now, in many cases, be done online.

“This means that seniors who can’t or don’t want to go online to get patient education information or to communicate with their doctors are going to find that it will become harder to get what they want in the more traditional ways like phone and mail,” Gordon said.

[Click here](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-seniors-interconnectedness/while-we-found-that-the-majority-of-seniors-use-basic-digital-technology-very-few-are-using-digital-health-technology-or-the-advanced-features-the-internet-has-to-offer-idUSKBN11L0ZG20151112) to read the full article.

**Maitland-Warner Fund Announces Scholarship Winners**

Congratulations to this year’s John Maitland-Joseph F. Warner Long Term Care Nurses Scholarship winners! Each winner will receive $1,000 toward their nursing school tuition (paid directly to the school). Additionally, for the first time ever this year, we are awarding some scholarships for the Spring semester as well! The commitment shown by these individuals to the nursing profession and long term care is greatly appreciated!

- **Rachel Cooper** – Durand, IL
- **Andria Downs** – Rushville, IL
- **Kiley Harper** – Peoria, IL
- **Amanda Mueller** – Gibson City, IL
- **Nicole Scheerer** – Canton, IL
- **Sarah Thacker** – Quincy, IL
- **Brianna Wessman** – Dixon, IL

**August 2016 Observances**

*August is National Immunization Awareness Month*: This month-long observance, organized by the National Public Health Information Coalition, gives our communities the opportunity to focus on the need for improving national immunization coverage levels. This month encourage all people to protect their health by being immunized against infectious diseases. For more information, [click here](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-seniors-interconnectedness/while-we-found-that-the-majority-of-seniors-use-basic-digital-technology-very-few-are-using-digital-health-technology-or-the-advanced-features-the-internet-has-to-offer-idUSKBN11L0ZG20151112).
AHCA/NCAL Information

The Call for Presentations for the 2017 Independent Owner Leadership Conference Ends Soon!

The AHCA/NCAL2017 Independent Owner Leadership Conference is for independent owners (IOs) and not for profit operators of 10 or fewer long term care facilities. The conference can also serve as a national forum to share professional knowledge, insights, programs and ideas that enhance the long term care provider model.

AHCA/NCAL invites you to submit a conference proposal for consideration. Proposals should be geared toward individuals who own or operate 10 or fewer for profit or not for profit long term care facilities. Click here for more information. Proposals should be submitted by Wednesday, August 17 to ionfpconference@ahca.org.

Register Today for the 67th Annual AHCA/NCAL Convention & Expo!

Register before it's too late! The AHCA/NCAL 67th Annual Convention & Expo, October 16-19, in Nashville, TN is the gathering place for long term and post-acute care professionals, where leaders in the field gather to share ideas, learn about new techniques and services, network, and have fun. Educational sessions are designed to help you provide for your residents in the most efficient and effective way; keynote talks will inspire you; visits to the Expo Hall will expose you to the very latest in products and services for your business; and networking events will help you make new friends. Make your plans now to attend - we'll give you lots to sing about! Click here for more information! Click here to view the preliminary program!

National Assisted Living Week 2016

National Assisted Living Week 2016 is coming soon—September 11-17! Visit www.NALW.org for ideas and other resources, including the NALW logo that can be used to advertise the celebration in your assisted living center. Be sure to check out this year's planning guide. This year’s theme is: Keep Connected, which recognizes the increasing opportunity technology can offer to enhance the care and overall experience in assisted living communities. The annual, national observance provides a unique opportunity for residents, their loved ones, staff, volunteers and surrounding communities to celebrate the individuals served in assisted living and learn more about this sector of the long term care profession.

IHCA PAC Information

IHCA PAC 4th Annual Cardinals vs. Cubs Baseball Outing

Join us Friday, August 12 for the annual IHCA PAC baseball outing. This year’s outing will be held at the 3643 Sheffield Rooftop venue, one of the premier Wrigley Rooftop properties. As in past years the event is all inclusive, with costs covering admission, food and beverages. Tickets are priced at $225. In addition, we have a limited number of sponsorship opportunities available. This has become one of our most popular fundraising events, and has sold out each year, so be sure to sign up soon! You can register here. To register, or if you have any questions, please reach out to Matt Hartman or Kristin Dicenso. Thanks to our chief sponsors this year, Advacare Systems and Management and Network Services!!

IHCA PAC/The Center-PAC Golf Outing

It’s almost here! The PAC golf outing will be held at the annual IHCA convention in September. Tee off with us at WeaverRidge Golf Club on Monday, September 12, with an 11:30 a.m. shotgun start. Lunch, beverages and awards are included with the 18 holes of golf. The outing is a great way to kick off convention while enjoying a round of golf with your fellow long term care providers. This is one of IHCA’s biggest events and you are sure to have a good time! To register, fill out the registration form (you can also register for the Oksnevad 5K on this form—more info below) and send to Kristin Dicenso.

Oksnevad 5k Registration Open!!!

Registration for the 4th Annual Oksnevad 5k is open! The race will be returning to the Peoria RiverFront this year where clear course markings will guide you through the run with a special hydration station halfway through. Everyone will receive a swag bag and a special Oksnevad 5k shirt with registration. The shirt was designed to
continue the IHCA convention the—Quality Superheroes! Dressing as your favorite superhero for the race is encouraged! If you plan to participate, sign up now as prices will go up the longer you wait!! T-shirt sizes are preordered this year so participants will have first come first served privileges. To register for just the 5K, fill out the registration form and return it to Ashley Snavely.

The proceeds of the race will help raise important IHCA PAC dollars and 15 percent will be donated to the Leukemia Foundation for research.

Cost to Participate:
$35 through August 31
$40 September 1 through Race Day (September 13)

IHCA Association Information

Nominations Now Being Accepted for the Illinois Leaders Program Class of 2017
Last year, IHCA announced the inception of a new program—the IHCA Illinois Leaders program. The graduates from the inaugural class of Illinois Leaders will be recognized at the 66th Annual IHCA Convention and Expo in Peoria in September. IHCA is now accepting nominations for the 2017 class of Illinois Leaders—Click here for the program overview and application!

IHCA’s Illinois Leaders Program works to develop leaders within the Association and Illinois’ long term care profession. The program is modeled after the American Health Care Association’s Future Leaders, with an exclusive group of IHCA-member professionals chosen for their demonstrated leadership skills, support of the Association and an interest in pursuing leadership pathways to improve their personal and professional skills. Graduates of the Illinois Leaders Program will receive priority nomination for the AHCA Future Leaders program. Click here for more information.

IHCA Constituency Committees – Newly Elected Committee Members to be Installed at Convention

Every two years (even years), IHCA’s constituencies conduct elections in an effort to fill the constituency representation to appropriate steering committees. The results are in. The representatives you elect will be installed for a two-year term during the IHCA Annual Convention and Expo, September 12-15, in Peoria. The Vice Presidents elected by the constituencies will represent you on the IHCA Board of Directors. Please contact Gina Alex if you have any questions.

- Nursing Facility Constituency Steering Committee Installation Notice
- Assisted Living Constituency Steering Committee Installation Notice
- Associate & Individual Constituency Steering Committee Installation Notice

CDDACS Board Officers to be Installed at IHCA’s Annual Convention

Every two years (even years), The Center for Developmental Disabilities Advocacy and Community Supports (The Center) conducts an election in an effort to fill the CDDACS Board Office positions. The votes have been counted and validated. Click here to view the installation notice.

Two of the Board Officers elected by the CDDACS members will represent you on the IHCA board of directors. The Officers you elect will be installed for a two year term at during the IHCA Annual Convention and Expo at the CDDACS Constituency Meeting that will be held on Wednesday, September 14, 2016 in room 401.

LTCNA to Offer Training With New Simulation Mannequin

The Long Term Care Nurses Association (LTCNA) has purchased a simulation mannequin, Geri Manikin, and is offering competency testing for nurses in your facility! For the first year, LTCNA will offer a limited number of facility Charter Memberships.

The fee for the membership is $2,000 and the facility will receive 24 hours (4 6-hour days) of simulation time over the course of the year. Click here to access an informational flyer that can be used to “encourage” your facility decision maker to take advantage of this offering. For more information contact Debbie Jackson at djackson@ihca.com or 800-252-8988.
IHCA Member Spotlight

IHCA Associate Member – Infinity Rehab

**BUNDLED PAYMENT EXPERTS HERE**

Capitalize on tools, systems, and experience gained as a subsidiary of the nation’s largest SNF-based Bundled Payment Trial Convener.

Formed in 1999, Infinity Rehab is a leading provider of sub-acute rehab programs in 11 states and currently services over 225 post-acute rehab, nursing home, retirement communities and home health operations. Our evidence based, functional outcomes in physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech language pathology drive clinical quality and increase patient satisfaction scores. Infinity Rehab will share tools that will assist in migration from volume based to value based reimbursement, ensuring you are aligned strategically as provider panels narrow.

Looking for an accountable, transparent rehabilitation partner that will help move you into bundled payment landscape? Contact Susan Mayer, PT at 773-621-0627 or samayer@infinityrehab.com.

***Infinity Rehab is not affiliated with Infinity Healthcare Management***

**Interested in Seeing Your Company or Facility Featured in Our IHCA Member Spotlight?**

IHCA is proud of our diverse membership and all of your successes and accomplishments. Has your company recently celebrated a milestone? Accomplished a goal? Undergone a major change? Do you have positive stories or news to share? Would you just like to get your name out there among your fellow IHCA members? If you would like to see your company or facility recognized in Members Only--Associate Members, Facilities, Corporations alike--contact acaldwell@ihca.com.