The Annual ID/DD Symposium is Almost Here!

IHCA and The Center are hosting the annual ID/DD Symposium on June 10, 2015 at the Northfield Inn, Suites & Conference Center in Springfield. This event is specifically geared towards ID/DD providers and will include a Ligas update from Tony Records, an update from DHS and IDPH, a session on the Life Choices Project by Mary Spriggs-Ploessl and a general discussion/questions session with CDDACS President Mike Bibo and Executive Director Marie Rucker. Attendees will also be treated to an exclusive expo featuring companies that cater to the needs of this special population.

Want to Exhibit at the ID/DD Symposium Expo!? We still have a few spots left! This is a great opportunity for our vendors to connect with key personnel from ID/DD facilities and programs. please click here to view the information.

Click here to view more about the symposium.

Illinois Faces Future Nursing Shortage

A recent article in Crain’s Chicago Business discussed the nursing shortage that is on the horizon here in Illinois. According to the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, one-third of registered nurses in Illinois, ages 55 and older, who responded to a state survey are expected to retire in the next five years. Since there isn’t a long line of nurses coming up behind them, this retirement boom will leave nursing shortages in fields that include psychiatry, home health and community health nursing.

“As more baby boomers approach retirement, it is essential that our health care industry has the ability to quantify the forthcoming need for additional health care professionals and other health care services,” stated agency Secretary Bryan Schneider in an announcement regarding the survey results.

IDFPR surveyed nearly 53,000 nurses last year, which represented 31 percent of the workforce in Illinois.

Depression Leaves Permanent, Higher Stroke Risk

McKnight’s Long Term Care News recently touched on a study that shows depression can cause increased stroke risk, even after symptoms have subsided. Researchers reported that their findings “suggest that cumulative etiologic mechanisms provide a definitive link between depression and stroke.”

The study included interviews with more than 16,000 stroke-free, 65-and-older men and women over a two-year period. Researchers then examined the cases of the 1,192 who subsequently suffered strokes, discovering high stroke risks among participants who had experienced depression, but were later found to be symptom-free.
Studies Confirm Brain Plaque Can Help Predict Alzheimer’s

The New York Times recently reported that the largest analysis of amyloid plaques in people’s brains to date has confirmed that the substance can help determine who has Alzheimer’s disease, as well as who will develop the disease. Additionally, two linked studies published earlier this month in JAMA support the belief that beta amyloid (the protein that creates the plaques) plays a key role early in the disease.

According to the research, which included information collected from nearly 9,500 people on five continents, showed that amyloid can appear 20 to 30 years before symptoms of dementia. The data also confirmed that amyloid screening, by PET scan or a cerebral spinal fluid test, can help pinpoint individuals who would make good candidates for clinical trials for drugs being developed to prevent Alzheimer’s disease. Experts believe previous trials may not have been successful because candidates were not screened for amyloid and their brains may have been too damaged or they may not have had Alzheimer’s at all.

Click here to read the full article for more information.

FDA Seeking Data on the Safety of Antiseptics Used in Health Care Settings

Last month the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) began seeking information about the safety and effectiveness of antiseptics used in hospitals, clinics and nursing homes—after more than four decades of use since the last review in 1970. The FDA said they are looking to manufacturers for more data on issues such as absorption, potential hormonal effects and bacterial resistance.

Quite a lot has changed since this last review, including frequency of use, infection control practices and safety standards, as well as technology in health care settings. The review is focused on health care antiseptics, not home-use products like anti-bacterial soap and hand sanitizers, and relates only to products covered by the “over-the-counter” monograph. Once an OTC monograph is implemented, companies can market their product without approval from the FDA. For this review, companies will have a year to submit data for the FDA to evaluate before any determinations are made regarding the OTC monograph.

Click here for more information.

Tablets Help Seniors Cross the Digital Divide

Research has shown that the use of tablet computers by seniors can help them feel more comfortable with technology. These small devices are lightweight and portable and the touch screen makes them simple to use at any age. The touch screen also means they don’t have to struggle with a keyboard or mouse to use them. In addition, using tablets can be beneficial to seniors’ health. Not only can they access health information, medical records and much more through the internet, but they can also stay in contact with family and friends, which has proven to help ward off depression.

Tablets and other digital devices have been becoming more prominent in long term care in recent years; however, it has mostly been facility staff using them. With the health and happiness benefits that can come from individual use among residents, facilities may want to consider supplying tablets for resident use to keep them connected.

June 2015 Observances

**June 11-18 is National Nursing Assistants Week:** Organized by the National Network of Career Nursing Assistants, this annual observation is a great opportunity to honor the hard work and dedication your CNAs show each and every day. They care for our residents and now is your chance to show you care for them! Celebrate the 38th Annual National Nursing Assistants Week! Click here for more.

**June is National Safety Awareness Month:** Join the National Safety Council and thousands of organizations across the country as we work to raise awareness of what it takes to stay safe. Observed annually in June, National Safety Month focuses on reducing leading causes of injury and death at work, on the road and in our homes and communities. Check out www.nsc.org for more info!
**June is National Cataract Awareness Month:** Cataract is the leading cause of blindness in our country. More than 24 million Americans age 40 and older are currently living with cataract. Visit [www.preventblindness.org](http://www.preventblindness.org) to learn more about cataract treatment and Cataract Awareness Month.

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**AHCA/NCAL Information**

**AHCA/NCAL Unveils New Affordable Care Act Web Page**

AHCA/NCAL recently celebrated the launch of their newly revamped Affordable Care Act (ACA) web page. Visitors to the page will find helpful Agency resources pertaining to the health reform law, as well as information on key areas of the law that providers should be aware of. In addition, resourceful webinars AHCA/NCAL has held on the topic can be found on the site, along with important news updates. If you have any questions about this site or the content on it, please don’t hesitate to contact AHCA’s Dianne De La Mare or Dana Halvorson.

In addition, you can find key resources regarding the ACA and other long term care related issues in the AHCA/NCAL online store. Janemarie Mulvey’s *Health Reform: What Small Businesses Need to Know Now* brings clarity to the often-confusing implications of the ACA. By referencing this guide’s up-to-date and easy-to-follow explanations, checklists, worksheets, as well as links to other useful resources, small-business owners can begin to wrap their heads around the complexities of the ACA.

**AHCA/NCAL Joins the One & Only One Campaign**

AHCA/NCAL recently announced that they have become a member of the One & Only Campaign—a public safety campaign led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Safe Injection Practices Coalition (SIPC) to promote safe injection practices in all health care settings. By joining the campaign AHCA/NCAL is coming together with professional groups, health care systems, provider groups, private companies and others dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of injection safety. The Campaign aims to eliminate infections resulting from unsafe injection practices. Click [here](http://www.preventblindness.org) to learn more and download materials.

**Registration is Now Open for the 66th Annual AHCA/NCAL Convention & Expo!**

They say things in Texas are bigger and better. ACHA/NCAL’s 66th Annual Convention & Expo is shaping up to be just that! Experience historic and beautiful San Antonio—the food, the landmarks and the fun of this Texas-sized destination, while you network, learn and enjoy yourself at this must-attend event.

Early Bird Registration ends July 17, so make your reservations today! Visit our official Convention & Expo [website](http://www.preventblindness.org) for event times, speakers and all the important information. [Click here](http://www.preventblindness.org) to register!

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**May Webinars**

AHCA/NCAL offers webinars on a variety of important topics. May webinars include:

- **AHCA First Impressions on CMS Medicaid Managed Care Proposed Rule**
  Tomorrow—Friday, May 29, 2015 – 2:00 p.m. CDT

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**IHCA PAC Information**

**Last Chance to be Part of Our Southern Illinois Golf Outing!!**

*Sign up today!!* Next Friday, June 5, you can enjoy a round of golf on Stonewolf’s Jack Nicklaus signature course. That means the man, the legend himself; Jack Nicklaus took an active hand in the total design and construction of this magnificent golf course. Cost is $100 per golfer, which includes lunch, 18 holes of golf, awards and prizes, on course beverages and as always a great opportunity to network with your fellow IHCA members. Reserve your spot today by filling out the [registration form](http://www.preventblindness.org) and return to Ashley Snavely.

A big thanks to ONR and Wipfli for their generous support of the event. For additional sponsorship opportunities, please contact Nicole Edwards or Matt Hartman.
IHCA PAC Associate & Individual Member Monthly Giveaway Promotion
Each month an IHCA Member donates a prize to the IHCA PAC to be raffled off. The IHCA PAC Newsletter for that month will do a feature on the donating member, and offer members the opportunity to purchase chances to win the prize, usually in the $25 - 50 range. As the monthly giveaway sponsor, you would be the featured Member in the PAC Newsletter for that month, as well as receiving mention in the weekly IHCA News Brief and in this publication. The giveaway culminates with a grand prize drawing at the 65th Annual Convention and Expo in September in Peoria, with the grand prize still TBD. All past prize donors will be honored in materials promoting that event as well.

If you have an item or service that you would like to donate to this fun cause, and raise a little awareness for your company at the same time, get in touch with Matt Hartman or Nicole Edwards right away!

May Giveaway - Summer Garden Basket!
Summer is fast approaching and it's time to clean up your yard and start making home improvements! The May IHCA PAC raffle prize will be a "Garden Basket" full of gardening tools including a $200 Lowes gift card. One purchase of a $25 ticket will enter you to win!! The raffle opened May 4. Just a few more days to submit your entry!!

Here's how it works: You pay $25 per chance to win! Enter as many times as you want for a better chance. Keep in mind that each monthly drawing you participate in will also place your name in the Grand Prize Drawing at the 65th Annual Convention and Expo in September. Post this flyer to advertise it to your staff! Click here for the entry form that you can fill out and return with your entry fee ($25/chance to win!). You can also contact Nicole Edwards to buy a ticket or discuss sponsorship opportunities. All proceeds will go to the IHCA PAC.

Please make checks out to IHCA PAC and send your payment along with your entry form to:
IHCA PAC -- Monthly Giveaway
Illinois Health Care Association
1029 South Fourth Street
Springfield IL 62703-2224

Summer Baseball Game
This summer, IHCA will again be hosting a Cardinals vs. Cubs baseball fundraising event. After the very cold but successful event last year, IHCA PAC is offering another opportunity to take in a game featuring baseball's best rivalry, do some networking with other long term care professionals, and get out of the office! A day at the ballpark offers the chance to connect with other long term care professionals and conduct business in a relaxed atmosphere. The game will be held Wednesday, July 8 in Chicago, with a scheduled game time of 7:00pm (Doors open at 6:15). We will be utilizing a center field rooftop with great amenities and no blocked view!! Your purchase price of $200 guarantees you a seat and a variety of drink and meal options. We hope you'll take advantage of the opportunity to support the association and enjoy a ballgame!

Tickets to the game are now available! Interested parties can contact Matt Hartman or via telephone at 217-528-6455.

IHCA Association Information
Last Chance to Submit Your 2015-2016 Maitland-Warner Scholarship Applications!
All application materials must be submitted to IHCA by this Monday, June 1, 2015!!! Don't delay!
Each year, the John W. Maitland, Jr. – Joseph F. Warner Long Term Care Nurses Scholarship Fund awards scholarships to individuals seeking to pursue nursing degrees and employment in long term care in Illinois. The fund was created to honor Senator John W. Maitland, Jr., and Joseph F. Warner, two champions of long term care in Illinois. Since its inception, the fund has awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships to nursing students all over the state (click here to view map of past winners).

Click here for more information and to access the application forms (both online forms and printable).
Just a Few Weeks Left to Submit Your Nominations for the 2015 IHCA Annual Awards Program!!

Nominations must be submitted by Friday, June 19, 2015 to be considered.

The IHCA Awards are a great way to honor your outstanding staff members (from housekeeping to directors of nursing and everything in between), peers, volunteers and facility programming (innovative programs, media programs, communications and more!). Let IHCA give your facilities and key team members the recognition they deserve!!!

A list of award nominees will appear in several IHCA publications, in convention materials and on our website. All nominees will receive a certificate recognizing their nomination. Winners will be announced during the 65th Annual IHCA Convention & Expo, September 14 – 17, 2015. If you are ready to submit your nominations, click here for online forms, or here for printable forms, or check out the Convention and Expo General Information page to find out more about our Annual Awards Program!

If you have any questions please contact Ashley Caldwell at acaldwell@ihca.com or call the IHCA office at (217) 528-6455 or 800-252-8988. Nursing award questions should be directed to Debbie Jackson at djackson@ihca.com.

IHCA Member Spotlight

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.

We look forward to hearing from you!