Just One Week Left to Submit Your Nominations!!

Time is running out to submit your nominations for the 2015 IHCA Annual Awards Program!!

Nominations must be submitted by Friday, June 19, 2015 to be considered. Click here to submit your nominations online. Click here to download the PDF forms to fill out and submit via email or fax.

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.

ICD-10 Testing Reveals Few Errors, According to CMS

CMS recently released results from the first and second round of ICD-10 end-to-end testing. Results from the first round in January showed more than 80 percent of claims being accepted, with nearly 90 percent of claims efficiently accepted during the second round in April. The second round also showed a decrease in diagnosis errors.

According to McKnight’s, CMS officials believe that “the improved acceptance rate shows that the federal agency will be able to successfully accept claims when the IDc-10 implementation deadline hits.” A final testing week is scheduled for July 20-24, 2015.

A Stroke Ages the Brain by Nearly Eight Years

New research says that a stroke robs the brain of almost eight years, according to data analyzed by University of Michigan researchers. Individuals who suffer a stroke see impairment of memory and a slowing down in their thinking speed. Test results from nearly 5,000 stroke victims, black and white, aged 65 and older, showed that their brains appeared to have suddenly aged 7.9 years.
Previous research has found that rates of cognitive issues in older blacks are much higher than whites, nearly twice as much. However, this study showed similar results among both groups.

"Although we found that stroke does not explain the difference, these results show the amount of cognitive aging that stroke brings on, and therefore the importance of stroke prevention to reduce the risk of cognitive decline," said Deborah Levine, an assistant professor at the University of Michigan medical school.

To read the full article from HealthDay News, click here.

A Single Drop of Blood Can Reveal Much About A Person’s Health
Researchers recently developed a test that can reveal nearly every virus a person has ever been exposed to using a single drop of blood. According to a recent article from in the New York Times, this experimental new test can be performed for a little as $25. It has the potential to an important research tool for tracking diseases—in various populations, age groups, locations, etc.—and comparing those patterns.

With the ability to detect more than 1,000 strains of viruses from more than 200 species, the test essentially shows all viruses known to infect humans. It detects these viruses by analyzing the blood for antibodies.

“This will be a treasure trove for communicable disease epidemiology,” said Dr. William Schaffner, an infectious disease expert at Vanderbilt University who was not involved with the development of the test. “It will be like the introduction of the electron microscope. It will allow us to have more resolution at a micro level.”

As the test is still in the early stages, there are some limitations. It may miss some very small viruses or certain infections that occurred in the past where the immune response has diminished. Additionally, it can take anywhere from two days to two months to complete. However, as scientists continue to work on the test, newer versions may be more sensitive and streamlined.

Click here to view the full article.

Primary Care Doctors Are Key to Providing Quality, Affordable Care
Primary care doctors have a multitude of responsibilities. In his article "The Value of Having a Primary Care Doctor," Dr. Michael Rabovsky notes that in a single week at his family medicine office he treated patients from two weeks old to 98 years old, he worked to help control chronic conditions (e.g. diabetes, asthma, hypertension, etc.) and acute problems like back pain and shingles and more. He also performed wellness exams, verified that patients were up-to-date on immunizations and other issues and performed other small treatments. It’s all in a day’s work.

As Dr. Rabovsky says in his piece, "primary care doctors treat people, not diseases, with comprehensive, continuous and compassionate care and will be your advocate and guide through the health care system. Find a primary care doctor with whom you feel comfortable talking and sharing your concerns. That doctor-patient partnership will help you live longer and enjoy better health."

Research has shown that he knows what he is talking about—studies in areas of the U.S. where there is more primary care show better health outcomes at a lower cost. According to the World Health Organization, our country ranks 24th in health care outcomes among industrialized countries around the world. Those that are ranked higher than the U.S. are focused on primary care and have more primary care doctors available to their citizens. In areas with more primary care, people are less likely to end up in a hospital. It is estimated that one single primary care doctor per 10,000 people could lead to a decrease of hospital admissions by 5.5 percent, emergency room visits by 11 percent and surgeries by 7 percent in the U.S.

Click here to read the full article.
June 2015 Observances

Next Week 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 Aphasia Awareness Month: Aphasia is an impairment of language, affecting the production or comprehension of speech and the ability to read or write. Aphasia is always due to injury to the brain and varies in severity depending on the circumstance. Most often the injury is from a stroke, particularly in older individuals, but can also be the result of head trauma, infections or brain tumors. More than one million Americans are currently dealing with some level of aphasia. Click here for more.

AHCA/NCAL Information

2015 Bronze – Commitment to Quality Award Winners Announced!

Earlier this month, AHCA/NCAL announced the winners of the 2015 Bronze – Commitment to Quality Award. The Bronze Award is part of AHCA/NCAL’s National Quality Award Program, a recognition program based on the criteria of the Baldrige Performance Excellence program. Reviewed by independent Examiners, applicants who receive the Bronze Award are able to describe their mission, characteristics, and key challenges and to recognize the relationship of these factors to their ability to achieve performance improvement. The Bronze Award recognizes that the provider has developed a foundation to begin a journey of continuous quality improvement.

The Bronze Quality Award recipients will be recognized at AHCA/NCAL’s 66th Annual Convention and Expo in San Antonio, Texas, October 4-6, 2015. This year there were four Bronze Award winners from Illinois:

Sunrise Senior Living of Gurnee – Gurnee, IL
Church Creek – Arlington Heights, IL
Sunrise Senior Living of Palos Park – Palos Park, IL
Sunrise at Fountain Square – Lombard, IL

A full list of recipients can be found here.

Today is the Last Day to Submit Nominations for the 2015 Mary K. Ousley Champion of Quality Award

This award recognizes an individual that has made significant national contributions to advancing quality performance in long term and/or post-acute care, including either skilled nursing or assisted living settings. Recipients of the award are not required to be AHCA members.

Nomination Submission: The nomination process is a two-step process:

1. Download and complete the 2015 Champion of Quality Nomination Form.
2. Submit the completed nomination form and candidates resume via email to Courtney Bishnoi at cbishnoi@ahca.org.

2014 AHCA/NCAL Accomplishments Now Available in Interactive Format

AHCA/NCAL is now offering information regarding highlights/accomplishments from last year in a new online format. You can now explore all that the association has accomplished in an interactive format that includes not only great information, but photos, images and video selections as well! Scroll through to see information the Quality Initiative, LTC Trend Tracker and more! Click here to view AHCA’s report and here to view NCAL’s information.
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.

Don’t miss the special day of sessions for SNF administrators to learn how to avoid deficiencies. On Sunday, October 4, in partnership with the American College of Health Care Administrators (ACHCA), AHCA will offer this special opportunity geared toward leadership of a center or organization (e.g. Administrators, CFOs, Regional and Owners).

Early Bird Registration ends July 17, so make your reservations today! Visit our official Convention & Expo website for event times, speakers and all the important information. Click here to register!

**June Webinars**

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

- **Just Say “No” to Drugs and “Yes” to Successful Behavior Management**
  Friday, June 26, 2015 – 12:00 p.m. CDT

**IHCA PAC Information**

**Southern Illinois Golf Outing**

Thank you to everyone who participated in last Friday’s golf outing!! It ended up being a perfect day for golf and we had 26 golfers show up to take advantage of the gorgeous weather and a fantastic course!

We would also like to offer one more thank you to ONR, Wipfli and Southern Bus & Mobility for their generous support of this event! We look forward to making this event even bigger and better next year!

**IHCA PAC Associate & Individual Member Monthly Giveaway Promotion**

**May Giveaway – Winner**

Brookly Becke from ONR, Inc. is the winner of the Garden Basket May raffle!!!!! Brookly won the $200 valued gift certificate to Lowes and Garden Basket full of goodies. Thank you to all who participated this month’s drawing and for supporting our PAC. And, another big thank you to Rxperts for your generous sponsorship of the May raffle.

**June Raffle - Four (4) Tickets to a Cubs Game!**

Summer is here and so is baseball season! A couple months ago we gave the Cardinals fans a chance to bid on tickets and now it’s your turn Cub fans. Can you outbid what the Cardinals fans did back in February?! Get out those sunglasses, grab a couple of friends and make your way to a Cubs game for a good time. The raffle opened yesterday, June 2 and ends June 30.

**Here’s how it works:** You pay $35 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. Administrators: print off this flyer and hang it on your employee bulletin board to encourage all to play! Click here to fill out the entry form and return it with your entry fee ($35/chance to win!) or contact Nicole Edwards for a paperless sign up. All proceeds will go to the IHCA PAC.

This month’s raffle was brought to you by AdvaCare. For more than 18 years, AdvaCare Systems has been “Providing Solutions for Your Specialty Needs.” Throughout the Midwest, they have attained a reputation for superior customer service, cost-effective products and immediate response times.

What makes them so successful at AdvaCare Systems is the people they employ. Their corporate culture is based on a shared passion for unity tied directly to commitment, dedication and teamwork. By placing the customer first in their
decision making process, they have effectively created a dynamic environment for providing outstanding patient care. Visit their [website](#) for more information.

**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**

**The Center’s ID/DD Symposium**

Thank you to everyone who attended yesterday’s ID/DD Symposium! With more than 140 attendees present for updates on topics geared specifically toward ID/DD providers, the event was a great success.

We would also like to thank all of our vendors who participated in the expo during yesterday’s symposium.

**We Want to Hear From You!!**

The Fall/Winter 2015 issue of [LTC Today](#) magazine is in the works and we want to hear from you!! Do you have an innovative new program, an extraordinary member story or a facility success to share? We would love to feature you in our next issue! Contact [Ashley Caldwell](#) if you are interested.

We are also always open to member contributions for the magazine. If you would like to contribute an article on an important issue in long term care, contact [Ashley](#) today!

**Upcoming IHCA Education Sessions!!**

We have several exciting sessions planned for the second half of 2015. Check out these great educational offerings:

**I Want My Stars Back!**

- July 1, 2015 – Crowne Plaza, Springfield
- July 2, 2015 – Hilton, Lisle/Naperville

The Five-Star Quality Rating Program has become a part of how nursing facilities are evaluated by residents, families, payers and even financial institutions. In addition, MCOs, ACOs and discharge planners are utilizing this information to determine who they want to align with. This workshop will describe the 2015 changes in the Nursing Home Five-Star system, how payroll data will be submitted and how facilities can respond to those changes. A demonstration of how AHCA’s LTC Trend Tracker can assist you will be included. [Click here](#) to view the session brochure.

**Count Down to ICD-10- Making Sure Your Coders are Ready**

- Tuesday, July 21, 2015—Holiday Inn & Suites, East Peoria
- Wednesday, July 22, 2015—Hyatt, Lisle
- Tuesday, July 28, 2015—Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham, Champaign
- Wednesday, July 29, 2015—Rend Lake Resort, Whittington
- Thursday, July 30, 2015—Northfield Inn & Suites, Springfield

Less than five months until the transition to ICD-10 is here. Is your facility preparing like it is Y2K all over again? Come join us as we expand on the basics and apply the coding conventions and guidelines to real-life scenarios. There will
also be helpful hints on documentation and querying physicians so coders will feel comfortable with their coding abilities, as well as communication with billers and providers. We will also assess where the facility is in the transition process and what steps to take going forward. Click here to view the session brochure.

***Please note: Attendees will need to bring their 2015 ICD-10 CM Coding books to the session.

**Save the date!!**

IHCA 65th Annual Convention and Expo  
Sept. 14 - 17 – Peoria Civic Center  
The Preliminary Program is coming soon! Check the IHCA website Convention page for more information as it becomes available!

AANAC MDS Certification by Becky LaBarge  
Oct. 13 - 15 – Thelma Keller Convention Center, Effingham

Leadership Summit  
Oct. 21 – Thelma Keller Convention Center, Effingham  
Oct. 22 – The Chateau, Bloomington

This session will focus on overall quality issues and will feature several speakers from AHCA.

**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!