Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU!
We at IHCA would like to sincerely thank everyone who made this year’s convention a success. To our speakers, our sponsors and our exhibitors—thank you so much! To the convention staff, the hotel staff, and everyone at IHCA who worked so hard to keep things running smoothly last week—we appreciate all of your efforts! And, last but certainly not least, to all of our attendees, thank you so much for coming! We hope that it was an entertaining, educational and worthwhile experience for everyone involved!

Session Handouts are available online
Handouts/presentation information from the educational sessions at convention are available online (click here). These will be available for a limited time only—through the end of October. If you wish to print them please be sure to do so before they are removed from the site.

Annual IHCA Awards
Congratulations to all of our 2015 IHCA Staff and Volunteer Award and IHCA/LTCNA Nursing Award Nominees and Winners!!

The 2015 IHCA Award Winners are:
Environmental Services Professional of the Year - Brad Zellars, Evergreen Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
Housekeeping Professional of the Year - Janet Clark, The Elms
Food Service/Dietary Professional of the Year - Evelyn Garrett, Liberty Village of Pittsfield
Business Office Professional of the Year - Misty Bruno, Toulon Rehabilitation & Health Care Center
Activity Professional of the Year - Connie Pople, Seminary Manor
Social Service Professional of the Year - Shannon Moon, Sullivan Rehabilitation & Health Care Center
Administrator's Choice Award - Bobbie Woolbright, Evergreen Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
Assisted Living Director of the Year - Jessica Gipson, Shelbyville Manor/Hawthorne Inn
Administrator of the Year - Jennifer Baker, Farmington Country Manor
Associate Member of the Year - Wipfli LLP
Photograph of the Year - Dancing the Night Away, Alpine Fireside Health Center
Publication of the Year - Liberty Village of Danville Magazine, Hawthorne Inn of Danville
Media Event of the Year - 50th Wedding Anniversary Vow Renewal, Liberty Village of Princeton
Community Partnership of the Year - Helia Healthcare of Olney
Innovative Program of the Year - Busy Boxes for Alzheimer's/Dementia Residents, Hawthorne Inn of Danville
Volunteer of the Year - Dicksie Blankenship, Farmer City Rehab & Health Care

The 2015 IHCA/LTCNA Award Winners are:
Direct Support Person of the Year - Debra Sutton, Apostolic Christian Services
Certified Nursing Assistant of the Year - Jim Watton, Shelbyville Manor/Hawthorne Inn of Danville
Nurse of the Year - Tracy Colucci, Roseville Rehabilitation & Health Care Center  
MDS Coordinator of the Year - Julie Hansard, Toulon Rehabilitation & Health Care Center  
Director of Nursing of the Year - Kim Thomas, Farmington Country Manor

IHCA PAC/The Center PAC Golf Outing and 5k  
Thank you to everyone who participated in our annual PAC golf outing! Golf enthusiasts hit the links at WeaverRidge for a sunny and beautiful day of golf. Your participation was incredible and very much appreciated by the PAC. The scores were added up and winners were announced at the post game reception where all received a prize and only one team walked away with the trophy!

This year's golf winners were:  
1st Place: Scott Frigon, Les Jorn and Jason Crowder  
2nd Place: Jack Walker, Ron Wilson, Jack Crock and Tom Steil  
3rd Place: Dave Read, Jim Puccini, Ruben Suazo and Jasa Todorovich  
Longest Female Drive: Tammy Becker  
Longest Female Putt: Pat McDonagh  
Longest Male Putt: Ruben Suazo  
Longest Male Drive: Rich Kortum  
Closest To the Hole: Holgeir Oksnevad

This year several changes were made to the 5K. In response to the grumbles of the hilly course for the race at WeaverRidge, this year the 5K was moved to the riverfront! Additionally, as you may know, this event was named the Holgeir Oksnevad 5K in honor of our past president, Holgeir Oksnevad, who was diagnosed with leukemia during his tenure as the leader of our association. Now, his lovely wife Karen fights her own battle with cancer, and so in order to honor the support that Holgeir and Karen offer to each other through thick and thin, this event will no longer be known as the Holgeir Oksnevad 5K, but simply the Oksnevad 5K.

IHCA PAC is also honored to announce the donation of $1,300 to the Leukemia Research Foundation. The Leukemia Research Foundation is dedicated to conquering all blood cancers by funding research into their causes and cures, and enriching the quality of life of those touched by these diseases.

This year's 5K winners were:  
Overall Winner: Roger Thielman  
Top Female: Brookly Becke  
Top Male: Sam Thompson

The Biathlon award was received by Neville Bilimoria who achieved the top golf score and race time to take home the trophy for another year.

IHCA PAC and The Center PAC would also like to extend a big thank you to all of the sponsors of this year's golf outing/5k who donated for PAC activities. This event could not take place without you!

Congratulations to Our New Board Officers  
Officers for the IHCA Board of Directors were elected and installed at the IHCA Annual Business Meeting (held at convention). The IHCA officers are:

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<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>John Vrba</td>
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<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Rhonda Luther</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Sam Thompson</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Tom Annarella</td>
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My InnerView Reveals the Winners of the 2014-2015 Excellence in Action Awards  
My InnerView by National Research Corporation, IHCA's Preferred Vendor for performance measurement and improvement, recently announced the winners of their 2014-2015 Excellence in Action Awards. These awards recognize long term care and senior living organizations that achieve the highest level of excellence. The winners are determined by
overall resident or employee satisfaction scores that fall within the top 10 percent of the My InnerView product database, the largest in the U.S. For more on how this program works, click here.

For the 2014-2015 year, the program recognized nearly 600 centers across the country who demonstrated excellence in action, including three assisted living centers from the IHCA membership!!! Congratulations to these centers on this outstanding achievement!

2014-2015 Excellence in Action Award Winners:
Arden Courts HCR ManorCare/Hazel Crest
Arden Courts HCR ManorCare/Palos Heights
Imboden Creek Gardens

CDC Has Issued Antibiotic Guidance for Nursing Homes

The CDC released a resource last week stating that "skilled nursing facilities need to improve their relationships with antibiotic experts and find leaders within to lead stewardship efforts." The guide, Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship for Nursing Homes, adapts the CDC Core Elements of Hospital Antibiotic Stewardship into practical ways to initiate or expand antibiotic stewardship activities in nursing homes.

Nursing homes are encouraged to work in a step-wise fashion, implementing one or two activities to start and gradually adding new strategies from each element over time. Any action taken to improve antibiotic use is expected to reduce adverse events, prevent emergence of resistance, and lead to better outcomes for residents in this setting. Click here for more.

September/October Observances

This month is National Cholesterol Education Month: Too much cholesterol in the blood is one of the main risk factors for heart disease and stroke. Learn how to prevent these diseases by understanding how to control your cholesterol levels. Click here for more.

This month is National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month: Ovarian Cancer is one of the most deadly cancers that affect women. Spread awareness of the risk factors, symptoms and treatment options for this awful disease.

This month is National Preparedness Month: This month-long observance was created to educate the public about how to prepare for emergencies—including national disasters, biological and chemical threats, terrorist attacks and more. Spread the word on how to be prepared in case of an emergency in your facilities!!

This month is National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month: Prostate cancer is both the second most commonly diagnosed cancer and the second-leading cause of cancer deaths among men. Help make others aware of the importance of prostate health.

October 5 – 9, 2015 is National Health Information and Technology Week: The 10th Annual National Health Information and Technology Week is happening soon! The adoption of Health Information Technology is an important issue in our profession—so help raise awareness of the health IT community, which helps us deliver top-notch care.

October 5 – 11, 2015 is National Fire Prevention Week: Fire Prevention Week is a great time to focus on policies and procedures in your centers in regards to fire emergencies and fire prevention. Click here for more information.

AHCA/NCAL Information

AHCA/NCAL Announces Customer Satisfaction Questionnaire
AHCA/NCAL has developed a short questionnaire to develop a customer satisfaction quality measure for use as part of its Quality Initiative. The CoreQ—consisting of three to four questions—has been independently tested as a valid and reliable measure of customer satisfaction across long-term care providers. No other measure like this exists.
The Association is working with vendors to add the questions to their existing questionnaires or to only administer it. Later this year, members will be able to enter CoreQ results into LTC Trend Tracker and benchmark themselves against their peers on a common metric.

For more on this new questionnaire, click here.

**Take the 2015 NCAL Performance Measure Survey Now!**

NCAL is committed to measurably improving the quality of care provided in assisted living. To help determine our profession’s progress, NCAL conducts an annual survey on performance measures. The data that NCAL collects supports the assisted living profession’s advocacy efforts on state and national levels. This year, the survey has been shortened to 10 questions and this should take no more than 10 minutes to complete. You can fill the survey out online here. They ask that you please complete the survey by October 31, 2015. To encourage participation, all completed surveys will be entered into a drawing for one of two $100 American Express gift cards for the community.

**NCAL Now Accepting Photos for the Faces of Assisted Living!!**

NCAL is accepting photo submissions for Faces of Assisted Living through October 31. Honor the individuals residing in assisted living communities by sharing those everyday moments or special occasions. When you submit a photo, consider telling us a little more about the resident pictured: something they said that stuck with you, what they did when they were younger, or their favorite things.

Submitted photos with completed image release forms may be featured on AHCA/NCAL’s Facebook page, on Twitter and in future publications. Follow the submissions with the hashtag #FacesofAL.

**Intent to Apply Process is Open**

The Intent to Apply (ITA) process for the 2016 National Quality Awards opened on September 15, 2015. Though submitting an ITA is not mandatory, it can be very beneficial for facilities choosing to participate in the Quality Award process. Members who submit an ITA payment will gain specialized benefits during their application process. A primary benefit is the reduced application cost to members. Click here for more information.

**IHCA Public Policy Update**

**LTC Application Updates**

The Department’s bimonthly LTC Application meetings have been in progress for well over a year now. This month the LTC report shows progress throughout the year. Applications that are pending are down over 25 percent, pending admits are down over 20 percent and all LTC cases and applications have finally been moved to the LTC hubs. Despite the progress shown on the report, many facilities continue to experience delays and frustration with the process. Please read the reminders below and share this information with your admissions staff.

**2536 Screen Document:** There has been an increase in facilities claiming the 2536 forms have been lost, never received or forgotten. This leads to denials in applications and loss of reimbursement for those residents. Please remember that before admitting a resident, a facility **MUST** have the 2536 form from the local CCU according to law. Listed below are the avenues to assure the screening form is received by the facility in a timely manner.

- **In the case of a resident being transferred from a hospital,** the 2536 is required to accompany the patient upon discharge. If the form is not present, the facility should withhold admission while making outreach to the hospital immediately to request the form. If the hospital does not comply, immediately call the local CCU and request the copy. The CCU has 10 days from initial request to send the form. Once received, the 15-day time frame on application submittal will begin. (The Department will soon develop the appropriate way to document the date received in a provider notice. In the meantime please document early and often.)

- When a person is arriving from the community without a 2536, it is the facility’s responsibility to withhold admission, call the local CCU and decipher if a screening has taken place. The CCU has two days to complete the screening if considered an immediate risk and 10 days if not. If a screen has been completed, the CCU should send the form to the facility in order to complete the application process.

- **Post screenings should only take place in three instances:**
  - Loss of caregiver and there was no time for prior screening
  - Resident moved to Illinois from out of state
  - Admission from Hospital emergency room or outpatient service

In the above instances, screenings should take place within 15 days.
Appeals: If a resident passes away during the appeals processes, the facility must work with the authorized representative in order to complete the appeals process. In the absence of an appeal, the facility must file the appeal then needs a written authorization from the clerk of court in order to continue in the appeals process. If a facility is an authorized representative and has trouble acquiring documents from the bank, the appeals officer could provide a subpoena however; this subpoena lacks the power to serve.

Application Backlog: For those facilities utilizing the hubs managers for their backlog cases please keep in mind to prioritize your cases. For instance, please refrain from sending cases that have not met the 90-day time frame. Be sure to send organized spread sheets with a reasonable number of cases (e.g., 15 cases at a time). A uniform form will soon be sent out by HFS soon for facilities to utilize in this process.

IHCA Member Spotlight

IHCA Associate Member of the Year—Wipfli LLP

With more than 1,500 associates, 32 offices in the United States, Wipfli LLP ranks among the top 20 accounting and business consulting firms in the nation. For over 85 years, Wipfli has provided private and publicly held companies with industry-focused assurance, accounting, tax and consulting services to help them overcome their business challenges today and plan for tomorrow. Our clients rely on a consistent, cohesive, and dedicated team of profession-focused experts who draw from a wide range of collective knowledge and experience.

Wipfli’s health care focus is led by a team of industry authorities including over 100 associates dedicated to serving more than 1,800 clients in 46 states, including long term care facilities, community hospitals, critical access and rural hospitals, and physician practices. Our team of CPAs, licensed long term care administrators, RNs, market analysts and billing specialists has deep expertise to provide a comprehensive solution for our clients. These professionals use an outside perspective coupled with insider knowledge to develop practical solutions that deliver sustainable results.

As an active member in the Illinois Health Care Association, Wipfli’s team of health care professionals makes education and the sharing of knowledge a top priority. Each year, Wipfli sponsors conferences on issues that are important to health care providers and lead training and educational sessions to thousands of long term care leaders and professionals on a wide variety of topics. Throughout seven offices in Illinois, Wipfli’s professionals can quickly respond to your needs and draw upon a network of experts in multiple areas of focus.

Below are examples of value-added services available to IHCA members through Wipfli’s comprehensive health care focused experts.

- Audit and Accounting
- Benchmarking
- Clinical and Operational
- Information Technology
- Market Analysis
- Reimbursement
- Risk Advisory

For more information, visit [www.wipfli.com/healthcare](http://www.wipfli.com/healthcare).