IHCA Excellence Awards – Staff & Specialty: And the Winners Are…

Congratulations to all of our 2017 IHCA Staff & Specialty Award Nominees and Winners! Thank you for all that you do each day to care for the residents we serve.

2017 Staff & Specialty Award Winners
Environmental Services Professional of the Year - Maria Superlano, Lakeview Rehabilitation & Nursing Center
Housekeeping Professional of the Year - Mindy Frank, Manor Court of Princeton
Food Service/Dietary Professional of the Year - Billie Doxsie, Helia Healthcare of Benton
Business Office Professional of the Year - Brenda Dively, Helia Healthcare of Champaign
Activity Professional of the Year - Margot Gonzalez, Manor Court of Peru
Social Service Professional of the Year - Brittany Reynolds, Shelbyville Manor
Administrator's Choice Award - Mary Mosby, Jerseyville Manor
Assisted/Supportive Living Director of the Year - Leia Morrison, Hancock County Senior Services
Administrator of the Year - John Law, Manor Court of Maryville
Photograph of the Year - Happy 100th Birthday!, Alpine Fireside Health Center
Media Event of the Year - Generations Collide, Manor Court of Princeton
Community Partnership of the Year - Music and Memory Program, Sunny Hill Nursing Home of Will County
Innovative Program of the Year - Sunny Hill Resident Interview Committee, Sunny Hill Nursing Home of Will County
Volunteer of the Year - Robert & Georgia Owen, Hancock County Senior Services
IHCA LTC Center Award/LTCNA Nursing Award Nominations Due in Just a Few Weeks!

IHCA has revamped our awards program to offer our members more ways to recognize the hard work and dedication going on inside their centers each day. This year, we have introduced the IHCA Excellence Award for Long Term Care Centers so that members can be recognized for the care provided in their centers, the programs and processes put in place and the outcomes accomplished by the entire team, rather than one individual staff member or one particular program like the Staff & Specialty Awards.

Questions on the nomination form focus on qualifiable information about the care provided—census trends, antipsychotic usage, rehospitalization stats and more. Tell us about your facility, programs, staff, residents and more and get the recognition you deserve! Nominate your center today! For more information, click here. Nominations can be submitted online or by filling out the printable forms and sending them to the IHCA office via mail, email or fax. Some of the questions require lengthy answers so you may want to review the forms before filling out your nomination.

Each year, the Long Term Care Nurses Association recognizes the outstanding work done by nursing staff in long term care centers every day by organizing the Annual LTCNA Nursing Awards. The Nursing Awards are presented at Ovations: A Celebration of Long Term Care Nurses at the annual IHCA Convention & Expo. Honor your exceptional CNAs, Nurses, MDS Coordinators and DONs by nominating them for an LTCNA Nursing Award today! Click here for more information. You may submit your nominations online by clicking here or you can access the printable PDF nomination forms here. **Please note that a letter of recommendation and a digital photo of the nominee is required with every nomination. Please be sure you have all of your materials ready before submitting your nominations.

The deadline to submit nominations for both programs is Friday, June 16, 2017.

Save the Date – The Center’s ID/DD Symposium is Just Around the Corner

Each year IHCA and The Center for Developmental Disabilities Advocacy and Community Supports (The Center) present the annual ID/DD Symposium. This one-day symposium provides updates on hot topics for long term care professionals who provide care for the intellectually and developmentally disabled. Illinois nursing home administrators, licensed nurses and social workers will receive continuing education hours for attending. Join us Thursday, June 15, 2017 for the 2017 ID/DD Symposium! Click here for more information.

Additionally, attendees can enjoy a small expo in the afternoon that features select vendors who provide products and services pertinent to this particular provider group. Space is still available for the symposium expo—click here to find out more.

Safety Program Help Cut SNF UTI Rates by More than 50 Percent

According to a study published last week in JAMA, the Comprehensive Unit-based Safety Program (CUSP) has help cut the rate of catheter-associated urinary tract infections by 54 percent for the group of long term care facilities that participated in the project.

The program, which emphasizes leadership, communication, teamwork and a culture of safety in LTC facilities, was rolled out in more than 400 centers in 38 states between 2014 and 2016. CUSP also encourages evidence-based infection prevention practices, like not ordering urine cultures for many residents who don’t have any symptoms.

Researchers from the University of Michigan found that not only did CUSP help reduce catheter-associated UTI rates from 6.4 to 3.3 per 1,000 catheter days over the course of the study, but it also helped reduce orders for urine cul ters by 15 percent. Additionally, 75 percent of the centers that participated showed a reduction of at least 40 percent in the rate of infections.
Amanda Calhoun, RN, assistant director of nurses and CAUTI team leader at one facility that participated in the program, said it “was much more than just learning about urine cultures, antibiotics and catheters.”

“It gave me the confidence to help improve the care of the people in our community,” stated Calhoun.

To find out more, click here to read the full article from McKnight’s.

**4 in 10 People will Suffer Arthritic Hands in Their Lifetime**

A new study led by Jin Qin of the Arthritis Program at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that 40 percent of people will be affected by the pain of arthritis in at least one hand. This rate is, according to Dr. Daniel Polatsch—co-director of the New York Hand & Wrist Center at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City, is only “slightly below the percentage of osteoarthritis seen in knees and is significantly greater than seen in hips.”

For the study, researchers looked at data on more than 2,200 people, ages 45 and older, from 1999 to 2010. Results showed that women were at higher risk, with nearly 50 percent developing hand arthritis while only about 25 percent of men had hand arthritis. Additionally, excess weight was found to be a risk factor as well.

While the link between more women than men dealing with hand arthritis has long been thought to have a genetic and hormonal basis, the obesity link has some researchers intrigued.

“While obesity has always been assumed to be a risk factor for osteoarthritis of weight-bearing joints, such as the knee,” stated Dr. Steven Carsons, chief of rheumatology at NYU Winthrop Hospital, “these data reveal the somewhat surprising association of obesity and lifetime risk of development of hand osteoarthritis.”

Due to the disabling nature of arthritis in the hands, explained Dr. Polatsch, “treatment options and access to hand specialists need to improve in order to minimize the impact of this potentially disabling condition in our aging population.”

To find out more, click here to read the full article from HealthDay News.

**Speedy Treatment of Sepsis Can Save Lives**

According to a new analysis of information from nearly 50,000 patients from 149 hospitals, minutes matter when it comes to the diagnosis and treatment of sepsis. Sepsis occurs when the body’s response to an infection injures its own tissues and organs. It is the number one killer of hospital patients—more than 1 in 5 don’t survive. At least 1.5 million sepsis cases occur in the US each year.

Following the death of a young boy in 2012, New York became the first state to require hospitals to follow a specific protocol to quickly identify and treat the condition. This mandate, known as *Rory’s Regulations*, led to a great deal of controversy, and many were unsure if these requirements could have save the boy’s life, or anyone else’s for that matter.

Now, five years after the tragedy that caused the protocols to be put in place, the findings from this study acts as the first to offer scientific proof that the regulations work, fueling the efforts of other states who are pursuing rapid sepsis care initiatives.

“Some question the benefit of rapid treatment with protocols, saying they can have unintended side effects and be a distraction in busy emergency departments,” stated lead author Christopher W. Seymour, assistant professor of critical care medicine and emergency medicine at the University of Pittsburgh. “After reviewing the data, we can finally say that faster is better when it comes to sepsis care.”

Rory’s Regulations require hospitals to follow protocols to identify and treat sepsis quickly, and then submit data on their compliance and outcomes. Though they can modify the protocols to an extent, they must include a blood culture to test for infection, measurement of blood lactate (a sign of tissue stress) and administration of antibiotics within three hours of diagnosis. These steps are collectively known as the “three-hour bundle.”
According to the study, 83 percent of the hospitals completed the bundle within the required three-hour timeframe. For those who didn’t, the odds of a patient dying increased by 4 percent for each additional hour that it took clinicians to complete the bundle.

“When the patient is newly diagnosed and possibly still in the emergency department is when it is most important to check the boxes of the three-hour bundle,” stated Mitchell Levy, senior author of an international analysis of several clinical trials regarding sepsis treatment. “Minutes matter, and it is critical to perform the correct tests and get the patient antibiotics as fast as possible.”

To find out more about this research, click here to read the full article from Futurity.org.

**May 2017 Observances**

**May 21-27, 2017 is National EMS Week:** Since 1974, National EMS Week has been celebrated to honor EMS practitioners and the important work they do in our communities. As part of the celebration in Illinois, IDPH Director Nirav D. Shah released a statement earlier this week, and announced the recipient of this year’s EMS Hero Award—Todd Zobrist of Pocahontas, IL. Click here to read the press release.

**May is National High Blood Pressure Education Month:** One in three adult Americans has high blood pressure. National High Blood Pressure Education Month marks the “kickoff” of high blood pressure prevention and control activities for the year. The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) launched the first “Month” campaign in May 1974. About 100 national organizations cooperated in the campaign and over 200 organizations coordinated activities in their communities during the month. Click here for more information.

**May is National Stroke Awareness Month:** Since 1989 National Stroke Month has been celebrated to increase awareness of stroke. Stroke can happen to anyone at any age so it’s good to know risk factors and signs of stroke. Visit www.stroke.org for a variety of resources to educate you about stroke and help raise awareness.

**May is National Mental Health Month:** Each May, Mental Health America organizes National Mental Health Month to spread awareness and education the public about mental health and wellness. To find out more, visit www.mentalhealthamerica.net.

**AHCA/NCAL Information**

**AHCA/NCAL 2016 Annual Reports**

NCAL Report – Persistent Progress.

**Registration for the 68th Annual AHCA/NCAL Convention & Expo in Las Vegas is Open**

The excitement surrounding this outstanding event has been building for several months, and the time is now! Register today! Join AHCA/NCAL at the Mandalay Bay, October 15-18, for the event that promises to stack the chips in your favor. They have a great line up of speakers, networking events, plus a two-day Expo! Click here for more information.

If you are interested in attending, IHCA will be providing several AHCA/NCAL Convention scholarships that will help cover the cost of registration, transportation, lodging, etc. of up to $1,500 per scholarship winner. Click here for more information and to download the application.

**AHCA/NCAL Awards Program**

Through the Volunteer of the Year (VOY), ID/DD Hero of the Year, Not for Profit (NFP) Program of the Year and NFP Trustee awards programs, the American Health Care Association and the National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) honor those individuals who are dedicated to improving the quality of lives of residents and their surrounding communities. The deadline for AHCA receipt of all nominations is Friday, June 9, 2017. Click here for information on the AHCA Awards. Click here for information about the NCAL Awards.
National Assisted Living Week
The National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL) revealed yesterday that “Family is Forever” is this year’s theme for National Assisted Living Week®. 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 long term care. For more info about NALW, click here.

IHCA PAC Information

2017 IHCA PAC Events
The IHCA and CDDACCS PAC have several other fundraising events this year to promote our political efforts and raise dollars. Please mark your calendar for the following 2017 IHCA PAC events:

IHCA PAC Annual Baseball Outing - July 21
An event that quickly became a crowd favorite, 2017 marks the 5th annual IHCA PAC baseball outing at Wrigley Field in Chicago. Per tradition, we will be hosting our event at one of the famous Wrigley Rooftops, 3619 Sheffield Ave., for a contest between the World Champion Chicago Cubs and perennial favorite St. Louis Cardinals. Pricing is all inclusive. $250/per person.

Fall Golf Outing - September 11
For the flagship IHCA PAC event, we return once again to beautiful WeaverRidge in Peoria for our fall golf outing. Consistently ranked one of the best courses in the Midwest, this is a round of golf not to be missed. Pricing includes greens fees, golf, lunch and drinks. $150 per person/$575 per foursome.

Oksnevad 5K - September 12
The fastest growing IHCA PAC event, the Oksnevad 5K returns for its fifth year in 2017. For the third time, we will be running on the Peoria Riverwalk. Pricing includes registration, runner's goody bag and a sponsor t-shirt. $30 per person.

Please contact Kristin DiCenso at kdicenso@ihca.com or Matt Hartman mhartman@ihca.com to register or sponsor any of these events.

IHCA Information

Maitland-Warner Nursing Scholarship Applications NOW Available
Do you know a hard working nurse that could use some scholarship dollars to advance their education? The Maitland-Warner Long Term Care Nurses Scholarship fund is now accepting applications for scholarships for nurses. They will award scholarships of up to $1,000 for the 2017-2018 school year.

To qualify, an applicant:

- Must have completed the prerequisites for and be accepted into an RN or LPN program on a full-time or part-time basis.
- Must be working in an assisted living or long term care facility (either full-time or part-time).
- Must provide proof of satisfactory completion of the semester for which the scholarship is awarded.
- Should be willing to work as an RN or LPN in a long term care facility/program.

Click here to submit your application online (all items must be attached before you can submit) or Click here to download the printable application forms.

Have You Reserved Your Booth for the Annual Convention & Expo in September??
Now’s the time to get on board! The 67th Annual IHCA Convention & Expo, September 11-14, 2017, is a great way to connect with long term care owners, managers, administrators, nurses and more!

If you're interested in exhibiting, visit the exhibitor page on our website or click here to view the Convention Expo Prospectus.
LTCNA Simulation Education for Nurses! Now Offering A La Carte Sessions!
LTCNA is now offering a la carte competency training sessions with their simulation mannequin, Geri Manikin! Get your nurses the training they need right in your center! The cost will be dependent on the amount of time spent in the center. Charter Memberships are also still available for centers. The fee for the membership is $2,000 and the center will receive 24 hours (4 6-hour days) of simulation time over the course of the year. For more information contact Debbie Jackson at djackson@ihca.com or 800-252-8988.

IHCA Member Spotlight

IHCA Associate Member – Gentell

Gentell’s Total Wound Care Solution Improves Outcomes, Controls Costs and Saves Nursing Time

Gentell is an industry leader in wound care management whose promise is “we make it better.” Our Total Wound Care Solution is proven to improve outcomes, control costs and reduce nursing time. Most customers who utilize our services see a substantial reduction in wound rates within 90 days.

The four components of our Total Wound Care Solution are: 1) our wound-certified clinicians who visit facilities monthly to make treatment recommendations and provide wound care education, 2) our documentation program including our F413 compliant Fastcare tool that tracks wounds and produces comprehensive reports, 3) our Wound Advisor reference guide with treatment protocols and product information and, 4) our advanced wound care products that treat and heal wounds.

Founded in 1994, we have close to 100 employees in our Bristol, PA headquarters and around the country. Gentell continues its legacy as a manufacturer of advanced wound care, skin and personal care products and partners with our affiliated companies that provide Medicare Part B and other insurance billing.

Founder David Navazio was instrumental in securing Congressional change to the Medicare Coverage Policies to recognize wound care and provide coverage for advanced wound care products. There is now a federal mandate for facilities to treat wounds, resulting in improved quality of life for countless patients.

At Gentell, we make better products and our products heal wounds. This is how we make it better!

For more information, call Betsy Meyers, VP-Midwest Region at 630-219-9213 or email bmeyers@gentell.com.

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.