Calling IHCA Exhibitors—It’s Time to Reserve Your Booth for the 2017 Expo!

IHCA’s 67th Annual IHCA Convention & Expo will be here before you know it! This event, September 11-14, 2017 in Peoria, is a great way to connect with long term care owners, managers, administrators, nurses and more!

With three days of educational sessions, great speakers, a two-day expo and plenty of opportunities to mingle with your colleagues, peers and prospective buyers... you don’t want to miss this year’s convention!

If you’re interested in exhibiting, visit our exhibitor page or click here to view the Convention Expo Prospectus. If you have any questions, please contact Kelli Showalter at kshowatler@ihca.com.

Award Deadlines Extended—All Nominations Due Tomorrow!!

IHCA is seeking nominations for our new award—the IHCA Excellence Award for Long Term Care Centers. This new award was created 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.

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.

The LTCNA Nursing Awards will be 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.

**Deadline to submit your nominations is tomorrow, June 23, 2017!**

**Requirements of Participation—Comments Needed ASAP!**

Your help is needed TODAY! We need you to submit comments to CMS by June 26 in order to provide your thoughts on the updated Long Term Care Facility Requirements of Participation for Medicare and Medicaid. This is our chance to get major portions of the Requirements updated, repealed or delayed. As background, CMS updated the Requirements of Participation in a 185-page rule finalized in 2016. Implementation of the new Requirements began in November of last year and is currently slated to be phased in over the next two years. This update to the Requirements of Participation contains scores of new regulations and would create an enormous financial burden on all of us. Even CMS projected that the cost per building to implement these new rules would be $241,000 over the first five years. We believe it will be much more than that.

Click here to view IHCA’s comments. Submitting comments is not simple, but you can do it and they don’t have to be very long. Please direct the appropriate staff in your organization to:

- Review these instructions for submitting comments.
- Draft comments that discuss the points that have concerned you the most and represent the greatest burden for your operation.
  - Make very specific asks of CMS.
  - You could highlight the impact of an additional regulatory burden by discussing the budgetary impact, using real dollar estimates, on your facility.
  - You could also ask for delay, or total repeal, or anything else that makes sense to you. Here are some high level talking points about the rule that will give you an idea of some of the topics you may want to cover.
  - It is critical that the comments not be copied and pasted from our talking points, but unique to your concerns.
- CMS will only accept comments until June 26.

**Infection Preventionist Specialized Training (IPCO) Now Available!**

IHCA has partnered with AHCA to bring you a new quality improvement resource that will meet the new Infection Preventionist specialized training requirement finalized by CMS in the Requirements of Participation (RoP) for long term care centers. The Infection Preventionist Specialized Training (IPCO) course provides specialized training for healthcare professionals who seek to serve as Infection Preventionists. Through this course, individuals will be specially trained to effectively implement and manage an Infection Prevention and Control Program at their nursing center.

IHCA and AHCA are committed to ensuring nursing centers are fully prepared to meet the rigors of the new RoP requirements. This course is an online, self-study program with 23 hours of training. It includes online lectures, case studies and interactive components taught by an array of experts from around the country. To learn more, see the Infection Preventionist Specialized Training (IPCO) slides. To register, just click here.

**Expert: Getting Rid of Certificate-of-Need Laws Will Improve SNF Access and Quality**

In a recent blog post for the Health Affairs Blog, Henry Grabowski, Ph.D.—professor of economics at Duke University—stated that certificate-of-need laws that restrict bed growth would be “unfathomable” for other industries, like hotels, but are still widely used in long term care based on the belief that they help curb Medicaid spending. He believes these laws should be abandoned in order to improve quality of care and generate innovation within the sector.
“Certificate of need is an oft-used strategy to constrain health care spending,” stated Grabowski. “The logic goes something like this: if a state can hold the total number of nursing home beds down, then it will constrain the number of Medicaid beneficiaries in those beds, which ultimately lowers overall state Medicaid spending on nursing homes.”

“The rationale underlying this regulation has always struck me as somewhat dubious,” he added. “The notion that public nursing home spending would greatly increase in the absence of a bed constraint simply does not make sense.”

Despite research showing that certificate of need laws negatively impact access to and quality of care, while also driving private-pay prices up, 34 states (including Illinois) currently have certificate-of-need laws in place.

According to Grabowski, "certificate-of-need laws discourage innovation in a sector badly in need of modernization." And, though a number of innovative nursing facility models are being piloted around the United States, he added, certificate-of-need laws impede this innovation and “provides existing nursing homes with too much market power at the expense of the very people they care for.”

By repealing these laws, Grabowski posits, states would encourage greater innovation in elder care, which will lead to better access to services and improved quality of care, as well as better price competition in the market for skilled nursing facility services.

For more on this issue, click here to read the full blog post, or here to read the article from McKnight’s.

State Backlog on Unpaid Medicaid Bills Can Lead to Tax Problems

The failure of Illinois to keep up with reimbursements due to health care providers has been a long-standing problem. In fact, there is approximately $2 billion currently owed to health care providers. Not surprisingly, this backlog has put a significant squeeze on providers to meet their current business obligations and keep their doors open. This reimbursement delay inevitably may cause providers to pick and choose who gets paid and how much they get paid.

In some cases, this may lead a provider to fail to keep up with its obligations on payroll taxes. A failure to timely remit payroll taxes to the IRS will likely lead to a visit from the IRS to address the situation. Payroll taxes are considered a special type of tax by the IRS. Then IRS refers to this as a “trust fund tax” because the employer is technically collecting tax on behalf of the government by withholding from employees pay in trust that these amounts will be deposited with the US Treasury.

The IRS can collect these delinquent payroll taxes from the business. However, the IRS can also collect from individuals personally. In pursuing its collection efforts, the IRS will certainly request that the business prepare a detailed financial statement for the business (Form 433-B), along with supporting schedules. If the delinquency is for any significant amount, the IRS is likely to assess personal liability against anyone that it feels was in charge of paying the taxes but chose not to pay the taxes. In making this determination, the IRS may (i) request certain individuals prepare a detailed personal financial statement (Form 433-A) and (ii) conduct a Form 4180 Trust Fund interview to determine responsibility.

The IRS Revenue Officer may be aware of the reimbursement delay by the State and sympathetic to the provider’s situation. The IRS may recognize that, in many cases, it is trying to collect the delinquency from a tax-exempt non-profit provider. However, these factors will not deter the IRS from fully pursuing its collection. Therefore, it is important for the provider to fully evaluate its options and come up with a plan in advance of any meeting with the IRS.

**Article provided by Lawrence I. Davison, Duane Morris LLP

You Don’t Need Hot Water to Wash Your Hands

A recent study by researchers at Rutgers University in New Jersey suggests that water temperature doesn’t actually make a difference when it comes to removing harmful bacteria from your hands.

“People need to feel comfortable when they are washing their hands but as far as effectiveness, this study shows us that the temperature of the water used didn’t matter,” stated Donald Schaffner, professor and extension specialist in food science at Rutgers University-New Brunswick.
The study consisted of researchers putting high levels of harmless bacteria on the hands of more than 20 participants multiple times over a six-month period. Participants were asked to wash their hands in various temperatures of water using different amounts of soap.

While the study showed that there was no difference between the water temperature or the amount of soap used to remove bacteria, explained study coauthor Jim Arbogast, vice president of Hygiene Sciences and Public Health Advances for GOJO, the results also showed that additional work should be done to understand what type of soap and how much is needed to remove harmful microbes from the hands.

“This is important,” said Arbogast, “because the biggest public health need is to increase hand washing or hand sanitizing by food service workers and the public before eating, preparing food, and after using the restroom.”

The issue of water temperature has been under debate for many years, without the science to back-up any recommendation to change FDA policy guidelines (which currently recommend that plumbing systems at food establishments and restaurants deliver water at 100 degrees Fahrenheit for handwashing) or to provide proof that the temperature makes a difference.

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

Centenarians Often Healthier than Younger Seniors—New Study

According to a new study, Americans ages 100 and older have lower rates of chronic illness than younger seniors. Researchers at George Washington University reviewed U.S. Veterans Affairs Administration data to compare centenarians with younger seniors who were in their 80s and 90s. Most of the data was from white men who had fought in World War II. Because of their military backgrounds, many of the individuals in the study had a strong sense of discipline and tended to make healthy decisions, noted study author Dr. Raya Elfadel Kheirbek.

In addition to living through WWII, this generation also lived through the Great Depression. “It is a wonder,” she added, “considering the hardships they had faced, that they have achieved such longevity.”

Centenarians are among the fastest-growing age groups in the United States. Their numbers, according to the U.S. Social Security Administration, are expected to top 1 million by the end of the century.

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

NAHCA—Special Offer for AHCA/NCAL Members

The National Association of Health Care Assistants (NAHCA)—partners with both AHCA/NCAL and IHCA—is offering AHCA/NCAL members, who are not currently members of NAHCA, a special opportunity to register for their 2017 conference. The conference, being held in Washington, D.C. on September 6 & 7, 2017, gives CNAs the opportunity to recognize the invaluable contributions they make in terms of quality of life and health, hear from nationally-recognized presenters and network with their long term care peers. All attendees can earn nine hours of continuing education.

Additionally, this year’s conference will include a new element—the chance to advocate on behalf of those we serve. Select attendee’s will have the opportunity to make office visits on Capitol Hill and everyone is invited to participate in the Rally On The Hill.

For more information on the 2017 NAHCA Conference, click here.

June 2017 Observances

June is National Safety Month: This annual observance, organized by the National Safety Council, was created to educate and influence behaviors around leading causes of preventable injuries and death. Visit www.nsc.org this month
for some great resources for safety awareness. Each week this month they have focused on a different safety topic, including Stand UP to Falls, Recharge to Be in Charge (Focusing on Fatigue), Prepare for active Shooters and Don’t Just Sit There (Focusing on Ergonomics.)

**June is Cataract Awareness Month:** There are currently more than 24 million Americans, ages 40 and older, who have cataract—making it the leading cause of blindness in the nation. For more information about cataract, click here.

### AHCA/NCAL Information

**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.

**National Assisted Living Week – Planning Guide Now Available!**
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. To access the planning guide and product catalog for this year’s NAWL, click here!

### IHCA PAC Information

**2017 IHCA PAC Events**
The IHCA and CDDACS 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 (sold out, but keeping a waiting list)
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

Elections for IHCA Board Officers – Time is Running Out to Nominate!
In accordance with the IHCA Bylaws, every two years (odd-numbered years), IHCA members elect a new President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer as officers of the board. You should already have received your official election notice. If you are interested in running, or know someone you would like to nominate, please review the position descriptions and complete the electronic nomination form by clicking here! The deadline for nominations is Friday, June 30, 2017. If you have any questions, please contact Gina Alex or David Voepel.

IHCA Offering RoP Phase 2 Training
IHCA has put together an interactive workshop that will help you prepare to make the necessary changes to comply with the new RoP Phase 2, which has a deadline of this November. Topics to be covered include an overview of the rule, person-centered care and care planning, discharge planning, infection control as well as tips and tools developed by AHCA to help you successfully implement new policies and procedures that are now required. To view the complete brochure, click here or you may register online by clicking on the links for the various locations listed below. We hope to see you there!

- June 27—Valley Hi Nursing and Rehab, 2406 Hartland Rd., Woodstock Register Online-Woodstock
- July 13—Lexington Corporate Offices, 665 W. North Ave., Lombard Register Online-Lombard
- July 18—Infinity Healthcare Management, 240 Fencl Lane, Hillside Register Online-Hillside
- July 25—Holy Family Villa, 12220 Will Cook Rd., Palos Park Register Online-Palos Park
- August 1—Courtyard Estates, 117 N Western Ave. Peoria Register Online-Peoria
- August 3—Mason Point, 1 Masonic Way, Sullivan Register Online-Sullivan
- August 10—Aviston Countryside Manor, 450 W. 1st St., Aviston Register Online-Aviston
- August 11—Franklin Hospital, 201 Bailey Lane, Benton Register Online-Benton

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 Member Center - Niles Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

Niles Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, in consultancy with Infinity Health Care Management, is located in the Village of Niles in the northern suburbs of Chicago and has been serving the Niles community for more than 40 years. The staff at Niles Nursing and Rehabilitation Center is committed to providing a warm, caring home for their residents, where they can age comfortably and with dignity. Their interdisciplinary approach to care leads to great advances in patient rehabilitation and restorative well-being.

Niles Nursing and Rehabilitation Center offers a number of specialized services, including the largest Korean program in the Midwest. Of the 304 licensed skilled beds in the center, the Korean program takes up fifty percent of them. The center is located in a section of Niles that is surrounded by Korean residents and businesses for the Korean residents’ convenience. With 154 Korean residents at the center, there are various activities and programs planned with their culture in mind.

The specialized team that works with the center's Korean residents includes a Korean Director, Korean Counselor, Korean Guide, Korean Translator and Korean Licensed Nurses. They also have a Korean Chef who prepares healthy Korean food for the residents.
Last month, the Niles Nursing and Rehabilitation Center staff celebrated the lives of 13 residents at a bi-annual centenarian birthday party, where the celebrants’ ages ranged from 100 to 106. The honorees (12 women and one man) were given special attention at the party. They were each dressed in colorful ceremonial clothing and treated to their own individual birthday cake with candle numbers indicating their ages. Family members were invited to step up and light their loved one’s candles during the celebration. The residents were also presented with flowers and gifts to in honor of their big day.

The event was covered on the front page of *The Korea Times* on Friday, May 12, and was also covered by local TV stations. Thank you to *The Korea Times* for providing the photos from the event (see below).

*Photo Credit: The Korea Times*

**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.