Introducing a New Program – ICAL’s Art for the Ages

ICAL’s new Art for the Ages program was established to recognize the unique talents of the seniors residing in our assisted and supportive living centers. Help us celebrate the talented individuals residing in our assisted living communities around the state by submitting your residents’ masterpieces.

Do you have a painter, sculptor, quilter, knitter or other type of artisan in your community? Art for the Ages will recognize your resident artists for their creative accomplishments and will help bring positive attention to your center.

About the Program:

- IHCA/ICAL will host an Art for the Ages Show during the annual IHCA Convention & Expo. Additionally, we will host an online gallery on our website with photos of the submitted pieces.
- Artists must be residents of an assisted/supportive living community that is a member of IHCA/ICAL at the time of submission.
- Entry must have been completed while the artist was residing in the center. Only one entry per artist will be accepted.
- All art submitted must be original, and must be the artist’s original creation and idea. Entries will be accepted in the following categories or mediums: paintings, drawings, photography, wood carving, needlework/knitting, sculpture. Other items may be considered. No heavy/oversized items will be displayed; however, you may enter a photo of the work for display (printed and mounted on some type of rigid backing) if you wish. Furniture, decorative signage and/or nude works will not be allowed.
- A completed entry form, signed release form and photos of the art and the artist must be submitted to be included in the show at convention.

For more information about the program, click here. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ashley Caldwell – acaldwell@ihca.com or 217-528-6455.
Time Is Running Out to Submit Nominations – 2018 Excellence Award for LTC Centers

Just over a week left to submit your nominations for the 2018 IHCA Excellence Award for Long Term Care Centers! Completed forms must be submitted to IHCA by next Friday, June 29, 2018 to be considered.

This award is focused on the quality of care being administered to facility residents, as well as the various processes and procedures that are put in place to ensure our member centers are continuously working on quality improvement and resident-centered care. If your center is committed to providing the best care possible, and can offer information showing steps you have taken to improve care and customer satisfaction, this award is for you!

Award winners will be announced at the 68th Annual IHCA Convention & Expo in Peoria in September. They will receive special recognition in association publications, as well as on our website and social media pages. Additionally, a press release will be sent out announcing the winners. Winners also receive a banner to display at their centers along with the award.

Click here to submit your nomination online.
Click here to download the printable nomination form.

*Please note: If submitting your nomination online, you should be able to close the form and continue it at a later time. However, we suggest having your answers prepared before starting the online form to make the process easier.

If you have any questions, please contact Ashley Caldwell, acaldwell@ihca.com or 800-252-8988.

Submit Your 2018 LTCNA Nursing Award Nominations Today!

Time is running out to submit your Nursing Award nominations. Completed forms must be submitted by June 29, 2018 to be considered.

Each year, the Long Term Care Nursing Association (LTCNA) recognizes the best of the best in the world of long term care nursing. The LTCNA Nursing Awards are presented at Ovations: A Celebration of Long Term Care Nurses at the annual IHCA Convention & Expo. Nominate your outstanding CNAs, RNs, MDS Coordinators and DONs today!

About the Program

- All nominees receive a certificate recognizing their achievement.
- Facilities are welcomed (and encouraged!!) to submit multiple nominations.
- Nominees receive a complimentary ticket to attend Ovations.
- Press releases will be sent to local media outlets announcing the winners!

Click here to submit your nominations online.
Click here to download the printable nomination forms.

IHCA Constituency Committee Elections

Submit your nominations by Friday, July 2, 2018 to be considered.

In accordance with IHCA Bylaws, every two years (even-numbered years), IHCA constituencies must conduct elections in order to fill the constituency representation. Any full member in good standing can be nominated (self-nominations are welcome) for election to the Nursing Facility Constituency Steering Committee, the Assisted Living Constituency Committee and the Associate/Individual/Student/Honorary Member Constituency Committee. Once all of the nominations are received, the constituency will elect representatives.

Assisted Living Constituency Committee: PDF Form | Online Form
Associate/Individual Constituency Committee: PDF Form | Online Form
Nursing Facility Constituency Committee: PDF Form | Online Form
Study: Medication Assistants Can Help Nursing Homes During a Nurse Staffing Crunch

When facing a shortage of licensed nurses, certified nurse aides trained as medication assistants can be a viable alternative, according to a pilot study detailed in the *Annals of Long Term Care*.

Washington state has 5-year-old law allowing certified medication assistants, or MA-Cs, to administer certain medications to nursing home residents under the supervision of a registered nurse.

Previous research found no significant changes in medication error rates when medication techs were use, and this program set out to determine what would happen to staffing costs after using medication assistants who received specialized training through the Geriatric Interest Group of Spokane.

According to the researchers, affiliated with five different nursing homes, the program improved medication error rates, along with staff satisfaction, rehospitalization, call light response and fall rates, all without costing the test home significantly more in salaries.

The model was tested in a 50-bed long term care unit, using nursing assistants who had at least three years experience, limited absences, emotional maturity and positive attitudes. Trainees saw their pay rise to $16 hourly, a midway point between the facility's average rate for CNAs and LPNs. Each received 104 hours of training before being certified for medication administration.

Based on what it calls “encouraging” findings, the Geriatric Interest Group plans to test the pilot at three more nursing homes in 2018.

*This article was taken from McKnight’s Long Term Care News.*

State Chips Away at Backlog of Long Term Care Applications

With a court-ordered deadline of June 28 quickly approaching, the state is making some progress in chipping away at a backlog of pending long term care Medicaid application and admission determinations.

As of June 7, there were 10,106 pending admissions over 45 days old, down nearly 20 percent from last month. There were 2,626 pending applications past the deadline, a 50 percent decrease from May 1.

In March, U.S. District Judge Joan Gottschall ordered the state to start by June 28 paying benefits for anyone deemed eligible for long term care benefits after Feb. 1, 2015, but still waiting longer than 45 days for a final determination.

The state has asked the judge to reconsider, arguing that it would be “impossible” to meet that timeline.

Meanwhile, state lawmakers are also taking a swipe at the issue.

The Legislature passed a proposal in the final days of the session requiring that the state cover people whose applications pend past the required deadline. They approved another bill allowing the state to conduct electronic searches of a person’s finances to see if they meet Medicaid standards and renew them automatically if they do.

In addition, the state budget directs $300 million towards the backlog, according to Matt Werner, a lobbyist for several long term care associations. He estimates the delayed liability for pending admissions is $285.4 million.

“This was just huge news for nursing homes because we had the fear that we're going to win in the court and the court was going to force them to do this and then the state's hands would be tied because they didn't have the money in the budget to make it happen,” Werner said.

*This article was taken from Health News Illinois.*
The Way MRSA ‘Eats’ our Fat Could Be Used Against It

Recent research has taken steps toward using one of MRSA’s strengths against it.

According to an article posted on Futurity.org, antibiotic-resistant infections cause more than 30,000 deaths annually in the U.S. alone. The majority of those are caused by methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, more commonly known as MRSA, which can turn routine medical operations into near-death battles.

“Attacking the cell membrane and inhibiting its ability to produce lipids, or fats, could be an effective treatment protocol,” said Neal Hammer, assistant professor of microbiology and molecular genetics at Michigan State University, and senior author of the new study in the Journal of Bacteriology. “MRSA, though, bypasses the effects of fatty acid inhibitors by absorbing human lipids.”

Antibiotic resistance is a significant challenge in modern medicine. Pathogens encode genes to stay one step ahead, and scientists conduct research that will hopefully stop them, Hammer adds.

Researchers began with the already established fact that MRSA has a genetic hardwired, fat-absorbing pathway. In an evolutionary arms race, MRSA’s ability to absorb human fat and use it as a shield of sorts gives it an advantage. They then asked, “what was the source of the fatty acids in humans?” The answer lay in a simple test that many of us take each year.

Human blood is filled with lipids—good and bad cholesterol—that everyone knew existed but didn’t connect to MRSA. The study suggests that MRSA steals these fatty acids and then integrates the lipids into its own cell membrane. This allows it to resist antimicrobials that target fatty acid synthesis. And since there’s plenty of these fatty acids in the blood and liver, MRSA has a veritable endless buffet on which to feast.

Past research laid the groundwork for this discovery. Many of those studies focused on fatty sources found on human skin. This emphasis was due in part to knowing that as much as 30 percent of the world’s population carry MRSA on their skin—without any detrimental health effects.

Now that Hammer’s team is shining the scientific spotlight on how MRSA consumes fatty acids present in the host, future research can focus on these new targets and preventing MRSA from obtaining host fatty acids. This could be a strategy to improve the efficacy of triclosan, an antibacterial agent used in hospitals and found in many household products, as well as other bacterial fatty acid synthesis inhibitors.

Click here to read the article from Futurity.

It May Be Time for Chief Happiness Officers in Senior Living

A recent article from Senior Housing News discusses how a new position in health care organizations can help improve staff retention.

In addition to chief information officers, chief health officers and other C-suite positions, some companies are now adding Chief Happiness Officers (CHO). In many cases, a Chief Happiness Officer can help improve retention by making employee happiness a priority, according to Jenn Lim, CEO and CHO at culture coaching and consulting firm Delivering Happiness.

Long term care needs to attract 1.2 million more workers by 2025. Meanwhile, providers are struggling to keep their workers on the payroll, with the national assisted living turnover rate hovering at 31 percent, according to the most recent Assisted Living Salary & Benefits Report from the Hospital & Healthcare Compensation Service. Given this situation, providers are anxious to minimize turnover, and creating a CHO position could be a way to drive toward that goal. It’s a move that companies across various other industries have already made.

While some companies have hired a dedicated CHO, in other organizations the CEO or another leader might double up as the chief happiness officer. Lim herself is Delivering Happiness’ CHO and CEO, for instance. Having this dual role colors how she approaches the typical duties of a CEO.
“The main difference, I think, is that I try to do everything with our happiness model and core values in mind,” Lim tells Senior Housing News.

According to the article, having a chief happiness officer can successfully boost a provider’s employee engagement levels.

“It takes a really special individual to do this work, because it means really being in sync with everyone, and what’s going on in their lives,” said Michele Holleran, founder and CEO at senior living research firm Holleran consulting. “If she notices someone seems disengaged or out of sorts, she will quietly try to find the source of the issue and lend support.”

Whatever form they come in—they’ve been called chief satisfaction and compliance officers or chief brand officers at some senior living providers, explained Jennifer Saxman, chief strategy officer at senior living sales and marketing firm Bild & Company—the changes that a CHO can bring to a senior living provider would likely make a positive difference.

“By having someone whose sole focus is on that happiness piece, satisfaction piece and retention piece—it does make an impact,” said Saxman.

For more information, click here to read the full article from Senior Housing News.

June 2018 Observances

**June 24-30 is Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week:** Sponsored by the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults, this observance was created to promote awareness and sensitivity to the needs of Americans who are deaf-blind or vision and hearing impaired. For more information, click here.

**June is National Safety Month:** 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. For more information, visit www.nsc.org.

**June is Cataract Awareness Month:** More than 24 million Americans, ages 40 and over, have cataract. It is the leading cause of blindness in our country. This monthlong observance is an opportunity to learn about cataract treatment and to educate those around you. Click here for more information.

AHCA/NCAL Information

Registration is open for the 69th AHCA/NCAL Convention & Expo

Registration is open for the 69th Annual AHCA/NCAL Convention & Expo. This year’s event will be held in San Diego, October 7-10. Join your colleagues from around the country for unbeatable networking, spectacular speakers, on-target education sessions, and a show-stopping Expo Hall filled with solutions to your toughest challenges. You’ll also find lots of opportunities to soak in the sun and charm of your surroundings.

Register for convention, and bring a colleague! Earn CEUs, discuss the latest challenges, get inspired, and make important new connections in the field. Four full days designed to help you achieve your toughest goals and improve the quality of care you provide in your centers and communities.

Don’t forget to include a ticket to NCAL Day on Sunday, October 7 with your registration package, to complete your assisted living education experience.

Check out this year’s website for online registration and complete event details. The early bird registration discount ends on July 20.
2018 NALW – Capture the Moment – September 9-15

Start preparing for the biggest week of the year for AL with the National Assisted Living Week® (NALW) Planning Guide and Product Catalog. This year’s planning guide contains creative activity ideas and spirited products to highlight this year’s theme, “Capture the Moment.” The theme reminds assisted living residents to seize the day while celebrating the past. And reminds staff to focus on the little, everyday interactions that deliver high quality care in America’s assisted living communities.

Upcoming Webinars
- International Dysphagia Diet Standardization Initiative (IDDSI) | August 22, 2018 | 1:00 p.m. CST

IHCA PAC Information

Dates for the 2018 IHCA PAC events have been announced! IHCA PAC annually puts on a number of fundraising events to promote our political efforts. We are now looking for sponsors (and participants!) for this year’s outings. Please mark your calendar for the following 2018 IHCA PAC events:

**IHCA PAC Annual Baseball Outing - July 20**
An event that quickly became a crowd favorite, 2018 marks the 6th 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 2016 World Champion Chicago Cubs and perennial favorite St. Louis Cardinals. Pricing is all inclusive. [Click here](#) for the sign up form. **$250 per person**

**IHCA PAC/The Center-PAC Golf Outing - September 10**
For the flagship IHCA PAC event, we plan to return once again to beautiful WeaverRidge Golf Club 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 11**
The fastest growing IHCA PAC event, the Oksnevad 5K returns for its sixth iteration. We will once again be racing on the Peoria Riverwalk. Pricing includes registration, goody bag and a sponsor t-shirt. **$35 per person**

Sponsorships are now available for both convention events, and can be seen [here](#). Official registration for both events opens soon! Questions regarding sponsorship and registration can be directed to [Ashley Snavely](#) and [Kristin DiCenso](#).

**IHCA Information**

**Latest IHCA VCast**
This week’s [episode](#) featured Ashley Snavely discussion ICAL’s new Art for the Ages Program. Thank you to this week’s VCast Sponsor—Forum Pharmacy! **VCast Online:** Past issues of the weekly VCast emails, with all of the appropriate links, are now available in the IHCA Resource Center. To access the resource center, simply log in to the member portal and click on Resources.

**IHCA’s CE Central is Now Available Online**
Starting with the 2017 IHCA Convention and our 2018 educational sessions, IHCA will now offer the ability to access their continuing education certificates online! To access CE Central, go to [www.ihca.com/education](http://www.ihca.com/education) and click on the CE Central link. Once there, simply enter your first and last name into the system to retrieve your information.

**Infection Preventionist Specialized Training (IPCO)**

The most frequently cited F-Tag in standard nursing facility health inspection surveys under the new survey process is F880 – Infection Prevention & Control. AHCA has designed an important educational tool to support infection prevention and control programs. Their [Infection Preventionist Specialized Training (IPCO)](http://www.ihca.com/education) program was created to prepare individuals to effectively implement and manage an Infection Prevention & Control program in skilled nursing centers.
The training course registration fee is $450 for IHCA. There are no refunds and no transfers. Payment and registration must be made online in ahcancaLED. Group discounts are available for purchases of 25 or more IPCO registrations. The IPCO course can be accessed here.

**LTCNA Offering Core Competency 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**

**Eden Village Retirement Community Hires New Executive Director**

Eden Village Retirement Community in Glen Carbon, Illinois recently announced they had welcomed their new Executive Director—Sara McMahan. McMahan has over 15 years’ experience in senior living administration from her former position as chief administrator of Rosewood Care Center of Edwardsville. During her tenure there she worked as assistant director of nursing and director of nursing before being promoted to administrator.

McMahan said that though her career initially led her into cardiac care, she quickly realized her passion was in caring for seniors. “I love the fact that I’m able to make a difference in the everyday lives of seniors, particularly those who don’t have family nearby,” she said. “My background includes nursing in a physician’s office environment. Rather than seeing patients once every so often for their appointments, I now have the privilege of interacting with seniors on a regular basis and growing those relationships. I’m excited to be a part of Eden Village.”

McMahan earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and is licensed as an RN in Illinois with expertise in long term care and skilled nursing.

Eden Village is a not-for-profit retirement community located in Glen Carbon. The property includes a 128-bed skilled care center, 40 stylish one and two bedroom Garden Homes and 82 one and two bedroom apartment units for senior living, as well as 74 one and two bedroom apartment units for assisted living. The community also boasts an onsite Therapy and Wellness Center, as well as other important services long term care residents need.

For more information about Eden Village, visit www.edenvillage.org.

**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.

Confidentiality Notice: This electronic mail transmission is privileged and confidential and is intended only for the review of the party to whom it is addressed. If you have received this transmission in error, please immediately return it to the sender. Unintended transmission shall not constitute waiver of this or any other privilege.

© Copyright 2018.