



Communicator

Assisted Living Association of Alabama

February 3, 2004

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ALAA BOARD MEETING

The February Board Meeting will not be held as scheduled but moved to the evening of February 28th at the Embassy Suites Hotel. Check with Amy for details.

SPRING CONFERENCE!!

March 1 & 2 at the Embassy Suites
Montgomery

Do not miss this year's spring conference. The entire two days is devoted to the new "Traffic Light" survey system, an analysis of surveys completed, and how you can best prepare for a "deficiency-free survey"!

You should have received a registration kit by now, but if you have not call AMY to get registered today. This year the CEUs total 14.75 hours including 8.75 dementia specific hours.

This outstanding educational opportunity will definitely save you heartburn during your survey experience. With the new system in place you can be sure that you will be surveyed in the next sixteen months even if it has been years since your last survey.

Several of the ADPH Provider Services survey team will be on hand this year. Mia Sadler, a name many of you will recognize for her long-term service in the Department is now in charge of the ALF/SCALF surveyors, Eddie May remains Supervisor, and Guy Nevins (another name from years ago) is replacing Dena Donovan.

See you at the Embassy Suites March 1 & 2!

Flu Shots

ALAA distributed more than 9,500 individual doses of the flu vaccine in December. In order to secure the shipment we were able to obtain a bank line of credit in the amount of \$90,000. This is a major accomplishment for your association and indicates a sound financial basis.

There are still a handful of you who have not sent your payment in to the Association office. You must get the full payment into ALAA by February 15 to avoid finance and collection charges.



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Southern Senior EXPO!

The very first Southern Senior Retirement Expo was held at the Eastdale Mall in Montgomery on Saturday January 15. More than twenty exhibitors and as many as 1,000 seniors attended the event.

Teepa Snow presented an Alzheimer's awareness program and the Montgomery Recreators Big Band entertained with swing throughout the day.

Big thanks to the exhibitors, the sponsors (AARP and Blue Cross Blue Shield Long Term Care), and Eastdale Mall for a wonderful event. Plans are to bring this program to every market in Alabama over the next two years. Let us know if you are interested in hosting the next regional event.

As a part of the Expo, ALAA distributed more than 500 state directories of ALF providers. Copies of this book will be available at the Spring Conference and are being used in responding to enquiries to ALAA regarding the location of a facility in their area.

Legislative and Regulatory Report

Don't miss the session on legislative and regulatory activities at the spring conference. Several new items are on the agenda.

1. the ADPH and ALAA have been in detailed negotiation about how information gained by the
2. Department but deemed "privileged" by the provider can be protected from general distribution,
2. working with the Nursing Home Association and Richard Brockman, Attorney, the Association is supporting two bills in this legislative session to increase penalties for operating or referring to an
3. unlicensed facility; in addition, county district attorneys are being asked to bring action against
4. unlicensed facilities in their jurisdictions.

You will not want to miss the detailed discussion of these issues at the conference. Remember, too that this is the beginning of an election cycle. In 2006 we will elect a governor, several state legislators, and an attorney general.

The last two or three years have seen our Medicaid waiver disappear along with \$5 million dollars that had been set aside for that purpose, we have seen wide-spread change in our regulations without legislative input, and we have had to vigorously defend provider rights.

So, it should be clear to all that "politics" is an important factor in assisted living. ALAA must be even more involved in state politics...and as the old adage goes "all politics is local". We will need you more than ever to help us make political friends at the local level...where you live.



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Christy's Corner

Resident's Rights

Make sure the new Resident's Rights is posted:

- post in your building
- have a copy in the resident record
- have a copy in the employee record
-

Train the Trainer Program

The first Train the Trainer program will be held in late April. I will announce the dates at the Spring Conference.

This program is offered to any licensed assisted living administrator who would like to help train future assisted living administrators. Please contact the ALAA office at 800-826-9410 if you are interested in becoming a trainer.

2005 Education Programs

The theme for this year's Education Program is "Back to the Basics". Upcoming seminars will include:

- Plans of Care
- Report of Incidents
- etc.

Education Committee Meeting

There is an Education Committee meeting scheduled for:

Wednesday, February 9, 2005 at Mount Royal Towers beginning at 10:00am.
