

LeadingAge Wyoming Newsletter

“LIGHTEN UP, DON'T TIGHTEN UP!”



Attendees of the LeadingAge Wyoming Spring Meeting were given this sage advice as they listened to cancer survivor and motivational speaker Matt Jones during the two day meeting held at The Inn at Lander. Matt closed out the first day of the meeting by relating his story of being diagnosed with cancer, having it spread to his brain while awaiting a bone marrow donor, slipping in to a coma and then awaking from that coma having received the transplant but needing to not only learn how to tie his shoes again but how to walk. He told of how he took the challenge and learned to walk again, one step at a time. Matt not only learned to walk but within two years he completed the first of three marathons after recovering from his battle with cancer. Matt's inspirational story along with sharing solutions others could use to overcome challenges and achieve greater victory seemed to be just what the audience needed. He gave everyone in attendance a signed copy of his book "Life's a

Marathon-26.2 Ways to Fire Up, Pump Up and Inspire Yourself."

The keynote session featured Larry Friis, a principal of High-touch Leadership and host of a weekday morning radio political talk show: The Larry Friis

Show-Freedom's Voice. Larry has been a nursing home administrator and with his experience along with 14 years of engaging audiences, he brought some new and innovative ideas to the conference. Mr. Friis presented ideas on recruiting the right members of a team and then ways of engaging them and retaining them. He also talked about effective leadership strategies and empowering team members to improve moral and to deliver better care.

Laura Hudspeth, Pat Davis and Julia Van Dyke from Wyoming Department of Health License and Survey spent time with attendees sharing information about the new survey process and listening to comments and concerns. Time was spent talking about changing state rules and fixing the problem nursing homes have been experiencing with water temperatures. Attendees were given time to talk about changes they have noticed with the new survey process and discussion was had regarding areas of focus that are being noticed. There is concern that

trends being seen in surrounding states with higher level tags and more deficiencies is not what Wyoming nursing homes are experiencing and there is worry that things will change in the future as surveyors become more accustomed to the new process. Laura Hudspeth expressed her confidence in the survey teams and she feels the fears are unwarranted. The interchange was excellent.

For the first time ever, the meeting concluded with a LeadingAge Town Hall meeting. A member of the LeadingAge National Board of Director, Terri Cunliffe, attended as did Janine Finck-Boyle, LeadingAge Vice President of Regulatory Affairs. The town hall was facilitated by LAW Board Chair Nancy Bunot and LAW Board Past Chair JoAnn Farnsworth served as convener. Those in attendance were given the opportunity to discuss the challenges and issues they face as providers of long term care in the state of Wyoming. Issues with being very rural and being geographically separated by long distances were shared. Work force issues, recruiting and retaining, onerous rules and regulations that do nothing to improve resident care were other topics discussed. The town hall provided a great opportunity for LAW members to let their voices be heard in DC and to allow those representing LeadingAge national to get a personal view of Wyoming and the members they represent.

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Pat Fritz, representing Mountain-Pacific Quality Health took time to talk about the nursing home quality awards and discuss the criteria for each. She also talked about upcoming open door forums and solicited ideas for future topics. LeadingAge Wyoming is grateful for their partnership with Mountain-Pacific and for the work they do collaboratively to help improve the care delivered.

Plans are already underway for the fall meeting to be held at the Rochelle Center in Laramie at the University of Wyoming on September 5-6, 2018. As Matt Jones instructed attendees, "lighten up, don't tighten up" and remember the incredible things you are doing in your communities to provide care and protect those that need you the most.

All the information from the spring meeting is available at the LAW website at www.leadingagewyoming.org.



Welcome to new Administrators Around the State

The following are new Nursing Home Administrators in Wyoming. Please give them a warm welcome.

Chris Szymanski—Wyoming Life Resource Center

Saza Lee—Shepherd of the Valley

Brian Huso, West Park Long Term Care



Bruce Allison—Wyoming Retirement Center



LeadingAge Wyoming Revenue Collection Form

In a continuous effort to have the most accurate membership data on file, LeadingAge Wyoming and LeadingAge is requesting your assistance so that we can better serve your organization. As part of our annual data collection process, we are asking members to provide us with Program Service Revenue as reported on IRS Form 990, line 9 of the most recently completed fiscal year (2016 or 2017). This revenue numbers is used to calculate national annual dues.

Please do not hesitate to us if you have any questions. We request the return of this information to Barry Burkart at LeadingAge Wyoming on or before June 1, 2018.

Thank you in advance for helping us maintain the most current membership records.