

LeadingAge Wyoming Newsletter



Another year has come to an end and what a year it has been. With the new Rules of Participation (RoP) and the new survey process beginning, it has been a challenging year. Facing new and potential facility shutting civil monetary penalties to potentially losing our ability to train CNAs, the challenges and difficulties are tremendous.

I have continued to fight for you as members and for the long term care industry. We have hosted several calls with our congressional delegates to tell them of the challenges we face. You have had opportunities to let your voices be heard on those calls.

I just returned from my first visit to DC this year and I again stressed the importance of getting regulatory relief and protecting our ability to train CNAs in our communities and in our facilities.

President's Report

The shortage of CNAs and other healthcare workers is real and we can't afford to lose our ability to train new staff members. Through our work and the work of our national partner LeadingAge, we have managed to push back a little and have seen a reprieve from the civil monetary penalties, at least for the next year.

We have provided training modules with sample policies and procedures to help each of your facilities to prepare for the new RoPs. We have also provided you with tools and a program to monitor and improve your 5 Star Rating program within each of your facilities and there will be additional webinars held this year.

I have continued to advocate on a state wide level and it looks like we are not in jeopardy of any provider cuts to our long term care facilities as we enter the budget session of the state legislature. We have been working closely with the Wyoming State Board of Nursing to find ways to help with the nurse and CNA shortage and have found ways to expedite CNA licensure and to get temporary licenses out quicker.

The Board of Nursing has been very willing to work with us in addressing concerns and finding solutions for the problems we are facing. We are exploring a CNA apprenticeship program to perhaps find another solution for enticing young folks in to the healthcare industry.

Plans are underway for our spring meeting. We have secured some great presenters including Larry Friis that comes highly recommended from all over the country. We will also have LeadingAge national joining us and conducting a town hall listening session to get feedback from you as members.

We have invited our friends from the DOH License and Survey as well as our Ombudsman. We will be receiving training on advanced directives plus a whole lot more. The meeting will be May 15-16 in Lander.

The WHA is helping sponsor a legislative reception at Little America the evening of February 22 and you are all invited to come and speak face to face with legislators from all over the state. This is in conjunction with the legislative session that begins on February 12 and will run for 20 days ending on March 9th.

I encourage all of you to make the trip and join us as we discuss healthcare.

I am honored to represent each of you and am truly grateful for the confidence you have in LeadingAge Wyoming. We will continue to advocate and educate in your behalf.



Center for Workforce Solutions Website

Check out the Center for Workforce Solutions Website - Your One Stop Shop

The LeadingAge Center for Workforce Solutions was launched 6 months ago and has had a lot of visitors— we hope that you were one of them!

If you haven't had the chance to check it out, the website is a dynamic one-stop-shop for all things workforce. Our shelves are stocked with:

- Briefs on promising recruitment-and-retention practices devised by LeadingAge communities.
- User-friendly one-page explainers on the workforce crisis (perfect for meetings with state legislators and prospective partners).
- HR tools to help calculate your spending on turnover or recruit high-schoolers with an engaging presentation.
- Plus many other resources to address your challenges!

Take a look! And let us know what else you'd find helpful. We encourage you to share your favorite resources on your social media platforms and tag @LeadingAge.

Contact Susan Hildebrandt, VP, Workforce Initiatives for questions or comments.

<http://www.leadingage.org/workforce>

PEAK Leadership Summit

The PEAK Leadership Summit will be held March 18-21 in Washington, DC.

The PEAK Leadership Summit gives you the unique opportunity to focus on the issues important to your organization and the best practices to address the changing needs of America's aging population.

In four productive days of interaction and idea exchange, you'll focus on pivotal topics shaping the aging services landscape— strengthening

the workforce, planning for strategic expansion, implementing new technology, engaging your current audience, reaching new consumers and more.

This year, the PEAK General Session focuses on building a culture of open communication and collaboration, strengthening your relationships with your staff and ultimately improving the effectiveness of your organization to

make positive changes in your community.

For more information, visit leadingage.org



Nurse For The Day

The Wyoming Legislative Budget Session begins on February 12 and runs through March 9th. WHA is once again sponsoring the Nurse for the Day Program at the Legislative Session.

For more than 30 years, the Nurse-For-A-Day program has provided basic medical care – such as taking blood pressures and treating complaints of cold and flu, headaches, and upset stomachs – to Wyoming's lawmakers at the State Capitol.

In addition to delivering that care, the program has enhanced the image of hospitals and caregivers, and it has provided a terrific opportunity for nurses to spend time with legislators from their home counties.

Nurses who would like to volunteer can simply email rose@wyohospitals.com, or call 307-632-9344.

LAW Calendar:

LAW Spring Meeting Lander, WY	5/15-5/16
LAW Annual Meeting Laramie, WY	9/5-9/6