

Of Interest

Inside

5 Minutes With...	3
Adult Day News	4
Assisted Living/ALFA News	8
CAHSA Calendar	10
CAHSA Next	7
Did You Know?	9
Executive Update	2
Get Out There!	3
Housing News	6
Of Interest	1
Insights on Leadership	6
Nursing Home News	7
People & Places	8
QF Corner	4
Resources	5

2006 Legislative Session Update

One of the most important issues for the 65th General Assembly will be keeping faith with voters' support of Referendum C. The legislature will be appropriating Referendum C dollars as the issue was explained to voters during the campaign; one-third health care, one-third higher education, and one-third for K-12 education.

After voters approved Referendum C last November, CAHSA has been working hard to educate the Joint Budget Committee and the legislature about the need to increase the reimbursement rate for home- and community-based providers as was recommended by the 50a Task Force. Both the Joint Budget Committee and the legislative leadership seem to be responsive to our message.



**Fofi Mendez and Pat Steadman
Mendez, Steadman & Assoc.**

Colorado needs a long-term care delivery system that addresses the needs of clients, provides maximum service delivery and makes efficient use of available public funds. It needs a system with better access, consumer choice and economy. The system should be efficient in the purchase of services and effective in its delivery across the continuum of care and client needs. Under the current system, care coordination and the delivery of vital home health, and home- and community-based services are under-funded.

In 2000 the 50a Task Force (a task force directed to evaluate the rate disparity in Medicaid funding between Nursing Homes and Home Health, and Home- and Community-based services) recommended the state work toward the elimination of rate disparities. The recommendation was to increase the reimbursement rate for assisted living residences, home health services and personal care and homemaker services. In FY 01-02 the JBC followed the recommendations of the 50a Task Force and committed dollars to increase these services. The recommendation was to continue these increases for an additional two years. After the initial year, the state faced a budget crisis and the following two years of increases never occurred.

In the 2005 legislative session SB05-173, sponsored by Senator Dave Owen and Representative Dale Hall, was passed unanimously by both chambers and signed by the Governor. It directed the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing to pull together a Long Term Care Advisory Committee to recommend legislative and regulatory changes to rebalance the financing of the long-term care system.

CAHSA has been reminding legislators that the recommendations of the 50a Task Force still have merit. They have been told that implementing the recommendations will lead to parity in reimbursement increases with nursing homes and position home health agencies and home and community-based providers to be prepared to accommodate changes that will be suggested by the SB05-173 Long Term Care Advisory Committee in July.

The Joint Budget Committee will be making final figure setting recommendations for fiscal years 05-06 and 06-07 throughout the month of March. Keep your fingers crossed. Let's hope the legislators will honor the 50a Task Force recommendations, bring home- and community-based providers' rates to parity, and prepare the state for a better long term care system. Bottom line—these increases will provide older adults the choice and flexibility they seek in accessing home and community based services and will support their independence and ability to live in the least restrictive environment. CAHSA is urging the legislature that there is no better way to spend Referendum C dollars!!

Caregiver Support Grant Available

The Johnson & Johnson/Rosalynn Carter Institute Caregivers Program announced grant funding for communities to initiate, expand, or replicate collaborative community-based programs that address one or more of these top needs of family caregivers: respite care, skill development, information/education, and caregiver health and well-being. Applications are being accepted from organizations in Colorado, Georgia, New Jersey, Tennessee and Texas only. Organizations will receive a \$40,000 one-year grant and will also receive both on-site and off-site technical assistance provided by J&J/RCI Caregivers Program staff. **Applications for the 2006 funding cycle are being accepted until 5 p.m. EST on March 31.** Please visit www.RosalynnCarter.org for additional information or contact Tegrin Averett, program liaison, at 229-931-2758.

Continued on page 5

CAHSA is the Colorado affiliate of



American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging



Assisted Living Federation of America

We had our first 2006 board meeting in late February. I always prepare a memo for the Board to update them on our strategic areas of focus, and to inform them of any additional activities underway. While writing my memo for the February meeting, it struck me how busy we've been since the last board meeting. I decided to use this month's column to give you the "Cliff Notes" version of my update to the Board.

CAHSA Next. About 40 members attended the January program at Golden West Senior Residence. There was great interest in having CAHSA create a mentor program for the CAHSA Nexters. I am researching the best way to do that now. For those of you who signed up for CAHSA Next, we now have a listserv. Elsewhere in this issue you will find details on the "Next" event planned for March. And finally, we scheduled a Leadership pre-conference program in Vail targeted to CAHSA Nexters. Plan to join us!

30 hour Assisted Living Owner/Operating Training. We submitted our 30-hour online program to the Department of Health for their review in early December. Carole Hull, our AL Consultant who developed much of the programming, is in the midst of addressing necessary edits to obtain final approval. We are excited about the new online format and look forward to launching it this Spring. We plan to have a demonstration of the program at the Annual Convention in May.

Medicare Part D Grant. CAHSA was one of ten state associations to receive funds from the National Adult Day Services Association (NADSA) and AAHSA to provide education and enrollment opportunities to consumers for the Medicare Part D Benefit. In partnership with our members, we held ten events along the Front Range during late 2005/early 2006. These events offered members a wonderful opportunity to bring seniors into their organizations who might otherwise never visit and learn about these programs.

Focus groups with Rocky Mountain Alzheimer's Association. Linda Mitchell, president and CEO of the Alzheimer's Association, contacted me late last year to meet and share the National Alzheimer's Association "Dementia Care Practice Recommendations for Assisted Living Residences and Nursing Homes." Both AAHSA and ALFA endorse these recommendations. Linda and I met with Ellen Mangione, head of the Health Facilities Division at the Department of Health, to share the recommendations with her, primarily in respect to ALRs. The Department is interested in provider feedback on the recommendations and asked us to facilitate provider meetings for that purpose. The Alzheimer's Association hosted three focus groups in Colorado Springs, Denver, and Fort Collins in late February and CAHSA provided the facilitator. Reports on these focus groups are forthcoming, and we will meet with the Department to talk about next steps.

CAHSA Transformations E-newsletter. On February 15th we launched a new CAHSA member benefit. *Transformations* is designed to be a quarterly e-newsletter sent to all provider members. The articles are philosophical and examine aspects of the "transformation" that is occurring in long term care and aging services. We are enclosing another copy with this issue.

CAHSA Brochure. We designed a new member brochure which will debut at the Legislative Luncheon this month. It is based on a template from AAHSA and suitable for both recruitment and as an informational piece. A copy is enclosed with this issue.

The Colorado Trust Summit on Aging in Colorado. In January, I participated in a one-day summit sponsored by The Colorado Trust. They are developing an initiative to promote healthy aging. The purpose of the Summit was to gather input and ideas from national and local experts to help them shape their strategy.

Time to Bloom Campaign. We have added a page to our web site with all of the information for the campaign and copies of each email blast sent during February. Member kits will be mailed and/or delivered at the Legislative Luncheon. Good luck to everyone and we hope you sell "gardens full" of flowers for your residents and clients.

CAHSA Annual Convention. The registration brochure is attached to this issue. It's never too early to make your hotel reservations. We have a great schedule of programs and Total Longterm Care promises another outstanding fun event!

I hope you found this update informative. As always, if you have questions about our programs and services, please call.

Laura Landwirth

Laura Landwirth, Executive Director

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For information on membership, advertising rates and deadlines, please contact CAHSA at 303-837-8834 or visit our website at www.cahsa.org. One subscription to *Connecting* is included in membership dues. Additional mailed subscriptions are available for \$75, and are for member organizations only.

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CAHSA

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A Business Partner

How long have you been a member of CAHSA?

New LifeStyles has been a member of CAHSA since May 2005.

Why did you become a member?

It's New LifeStyles' goal to be very involved in the local communities that we serve. By joining CAHSA, we are able to better understand the environment and needs of the Colorado senior housing network.

What goods or services does your organization provide and what would you like members to know about this service/product?

New LifeStyles publishes free guides to senior housing and care to help seniors and their families make informed decisions at an important time. Like our guides, our web site (www.NewLifeStyles.com) offers a comprehensive search engine for senior housing and care, plus a wealth of resources to help with the decision.

We offer a range of advertising options, combining print and online tools, to meet the needs of local senior living and care providers.

How is your organization different or unique from others who provide a similar service/product?

Our main focus is distribution. Through an extensive network, the guides reach those who need the resource. New LifeStyles offers an easy to use/easy to read format. We have color-coded sections which correspond to our color-coded definitions. We also make use of an advertiser map which helps prospects locate facilities in their area.

How did you get into this business?

New LifeStyles was founded in 1987 when our founder was searching for senior housing options for his mother. He discovered there was not one single source where he could find all the information necessary to make an informed decision. Hence, the idea for New LifeStyles was born.

How can people learn more about your service/product?

Visit us online at www.NewLifeStyles.com or contact me at 800-204-7221 or Jenall@newlifestyles.com.



Get out there!

Tips for Gaining Exposure

Generating News

Throughout this column, we've highlighted different ways to publicize activities occurring in your communities. While we understand that more of these events that are open to the public occur in assisted living communities, that doesn't mean skilled nursing communities can't get coverage locally too, even if the events and activities are not open to visitors regularly. Over the years, we've seen great examples of how CAHSA's nursing home members have gotten coverage in creative ways—from promoting staff's extracurricular activities and community achievements to announcing monetary contributions made to local charities.

Another great way to promote newsworthy ideas and get media coverage is to get involved in community service projects and events like CAHSA's "Time to Bloom" campaign. This spring flower bulb sale officially takes root this month and provides members the opportunity to help raise awareness of CAHSA's work and the benefits that CAHSA provides seniors through advocacy and legislative efforts, and to directly honor and brighten the room, day, and future of your senior residents.

To aid your efforts to sell pre-potted flowering bulbs to family, friends, board members and members of the local community, consider the following tips:

- * Display a Point of Purchase poster in a visible position on your community's registration desk.

- * Display a large "Time to Bloom" poster in a visible, high traffic area to remind staff, residents and visitors about the campaign.
- * Send postcards to your mailing list, including referral sources, board members and residents' family members with a personalized letter of solicitation.
- * Approach your vendors, volunteers and staff members to purchase blooms for your residents.
- * Include an announcement in your internal newsletter.
- * Attend local community clubs (Rotary, Chambers of Commerce, etc.) and talk about the campaign and why it's important.
- * Solicit a corporate sponsor in your community to purchase blooms.
- * Distribute a press release or media advisory to generate media interest and let your local community know about the campaign and any events you have planned. To assist your media outreach efforts, CAHSA has posted a press release template announcing the "Time to Bloom" Campaign on the web site (www.cahsa.org/Bloom.asp) that can be easily adapted to your individual community's needs. Visit the CAHSA Time to Bloom page to learn more or download a copy.



Russ DenBraber
Chair, Quality First

Each month Russ DenBraber, chair of CAHSA's Quality First Task Force and Chief Executive Officer of Christian Living Communities, highlights examples of quality within CAHSA's membership. This month Shalom Park's concierge service is highlighted.

One of the most valuable components of Quality First is a commitment by aging service providers to help older adults and their loved ones to live their lives to the fullest. Several of the principles supporting Quality First involve a commitment to continuous improvement, openness and leadership, with the goal of supporting seniors with services they want and need.

Shalom Park Senior Residences provides a unique service for its residents – concierge service to handle the everyday contingencies that residents encounter. This one-touch service embraces the goals and principles that are the foundation of Quality First for *Leading-Edge Care and Services*.



SHALOM PARK

Bev Essex, who has managed the Shalom Park concierge service for the last three years, says most importantly the concierge service provides residents "peace of mind" that they can get questions answered on a wide range of topics throughout the day. "This can be very important for residents, especially residents who are new to the community and may not necessarily have family nearby," she said.

The concierge service concept is gaining notoriety nationwide currently, as service providers are offering this service to seniors living at home for a monthly fee to get support with a variety of contingencies, from walking the dog or grocery shopping to rides to medical appointments. The Shalom Park concierge service has been in place since 1996 and is offered as a complimentary resident service as a back-up to their regular case management plan.

"When a resident moves in, a team of social workers, nurse managers, family and the resident walk through 101 billing codes to match needs to different services. We believe residents should only pay for what they use," said Dan Stenersen, CAHSA board member and Shalom Park President and CEO. "The concierge service handles everything that is not routinely scheduled in the resident's individual service plan."

Essex says residents become very familiar with the concierge service desk phone number and use it liberally to get support for needs, ranging from the critical such as medical appointment coordination, to the immediate such as a clogged sink, to the nice-to-knows such as a good local florist or eatery. She routinely fields more than 100 calls a day and has become an expert in all facets of the Shalom Park business, including housekeeping, maintenance, medical appointment coordination, food service, events and activities, psychological and social services and much more.

"One resident was involved in an off-campus car accident. The number he called from the scene was the concierge desk. We made sure the right people were notified and arranged for a driver to transport him from the hospital to his residence when he was released."

The concierge desk works closely with the case management team to ensure resident needs are being efficiently managed. A service that may be requested through the concierge may eventually be referred to the case management team to be incorporated into the routine care plan.

The all-encompassing concierge service concept is a leading-edge service that allows residents to be confident that they can get answers to routine or arcane questions. "We are a reliable, single source for their questions," says Essex. So what is the most common request she handles day in and day out? "Light bulbs that need to be replaced," she says.

Adult Day News

2006 Public Policy Institute

April 3-5 Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C.

For the spring Public Policy Institute, NADSA has developed a comprehensive education program around the latest policy issues with opportunities to visit with key legislators and policymakers!

Some of the events include:

- *Opening General Session*—hear photographer Steve Uzzell offer an examination of the creative process while using his own amazing photographs as illustrations of possibility and creativity.
- *Education Sessions*—learn about current national, state and local policies affecting NADSA members and the ADS field.
- *State Caucus Breakfast*—discuss with fellow ADS advocates the critical issues facing your state and how to carry those messages to your legislators.
- *Capitol Hill Visits*—meet with key legislators and encourage congressional action.
- *Networking Receptions*—join your colleagues at these unique social events and learn from each other's experiences, ideas and programs.
- *Exposition*—visit exhibitors showcasing innovative products and services available for aging services providers.

NADSA's Public Policy Institute will be held in conjunction with the AAHSA Future of Aging Services Conference. For additional education programming information, visit the conference web site at www.aaahsa.org/future06 or visit the NADSA web site at www.nadsa.org or contact info@nadsa.org.

Resources

Model Community Involvement Fact Sheet Available on AAHSA Quality First Web Site

When an organization gets involved in community-at-large, it enhances the quality of life of individuals it serves, in addition to its reputation in the local community. Many member organizations struggle with finding effective ways to convey their value and contribution to their communities at large, including but not limited to the positive economic impact they have on their surrounding area. AAHSA has developed a model that organizations in your state can use to develop a fact sheet that highlights these activities and will help them move forward on their journey to earn public trust. See the fact-sheet at www.aahsa.org/qualityfirst/resources/public_trust/earn/documents/model_eco_ft_sht.doc. Contact Bruce Rosenthal, brosenthal@aahsa.org, 202-508-9499 for more information.

From Fashion to Function

Traveling retailers of clothing and items that make everyday tasks easier for seniors will stop by Eastern Star-Masonic Retirement Community and orchestrate a fashion experience—From Fashion to Function—on Wednesday, March 8, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Vendors will arrive on site and set up a temporary retail shop at Eastern Star to display a full inventory of clothing and accessories, including jewelry. Merchandise will be available for purchase. As part of Eastern Star's programming for its residents, this fashion festivity is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served and an RSVP is requested. Please call Barbara Borkan at 303-756-9489 for more information and to register.

On Friday, March 24, federal, state and local leaders will present a conference on "Colorado's Pandemic Planning and Emergency Planning" at the Colorado Convention Center.

Fall Prevention on Tap for Senior Health Discussion

Join Eastern Star-Masonic Retirement Community for "I've Fallen and I Can't Get Up: Fall Prevention and the Elderly," an educational presentation on Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 1 p.m. at Eastern Star, 2445 S. Quebec St., in Denver. Falls are the second leading cause of accidental death in the United States, and 75% of these falls occur among older adults. Even if the fall does not result in hospitalization or injury, the fear of falling can lead to inactivity and a loss of confidence. The presentation will discuss ways seniors can maximize their independence and mobility, including daily activities and regular exercise. Additionally, speakers will point out ways to minimize the risk of falling. As part of Eastern Star's programming for its residents, this educational lecture is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served and an RSVP is requested. Please call Barbara Borkan at 303-756-9489 for more information and to register.

AAHSA Rural Member Project

AAHSA will be conducting an extensive study of the needs of rural members to better understand their uniqueness and respond with value-based services and programs. John Grace, under contract with Aging Research Institute, will be leading this effort. The goal is to identify ways in which AAHSA can help rural members lead in providing valuable and effective service to the elders of their community. The definition of rural for purposes of this study is, "AAHSA facilities that have less than 60 beds or units and are in communities of less than 2,500 population." Beginning this month, John will be telephoning members and utilizing an online survey to collect information. A report of the findings, along with preliminary analysis and recommendations for service and program improvement will be provided to AAHSA by June 15. Gatherings of members interested in rural issues will be held in April in conjunction with the AAHSA meeting in Washington and at the AAHSA Annual meeting in San Francisco. For further information, please contact John Grace at jgrace@aahsa.org or 785-554 5628.

Of Interest, Continued from page 1

Developing a Better Long-Term Care Policy

The National Academy of Social Insurance, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization made up of the nation's leading experts on social insurance, has released a report focused on two issues: developing a vision of a better, more responsive long-term care system with the right policies to promote it, and developing a strategy to put long-term care on the national policy agenda. The report is the final product of the study panel on long-term care. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation provided the primary financial support for the project. To read the 58-page document, visit http://www.nasi.org/usr_doc/Developing_a_Better_Long-Term_Care_Policy.pdf.

Certification Classes Offered

The Retirement Housing Professional (RHP) program has certified more than 1,570 graduates, with 130 persons currently enrolled in the program. A joint program of the University of North Texas and the American Association of Homes & Services for the Aging, the program is designed for regional and facility-based staff to enhance their understanding of non-profit housing governance and operations. Certification requires the completion of three core courses, which may be completed in one of three formats: on-site course attendance, self-study, or a combination of the two. The self-study program, which is offered by mail, may be completed at the candidate's own pace. For additional information and registration materials, call the RHP program office at 940-565-2733 or visit the web site at <http://www.unt.edu/aging/rhp/>.

Mary Beth Bieker, owner and executive director at Generations at Lowry, a continuum of care retirement community, knows how leadership can impact a career. Bieker launched her own health care management company, and eventually became the Executive Director of Generations at Lowry after leasing the newly remodeled property. Four and a half years later, Generations enjoys a solid reputation as a provider of quality senior living.

We caught up with Bieker to learn how leadership has impacted her career. Here's what she had to say...



How has leadership influenced how you came to work with senior services?

The desire to make a difference in the lives of seniors is something that has pushed me into positions of leadership. From a young age, I enjoyed interacting with seniors, and I felt that there were so many opportunities to have a positive influence on someone.

To be a great leader, one must possess various qualities/characteristics that will attract followers. What are some of the qualities that are vital for effective leadership?

Great leaders have integrity and are honest with themselves, their teams, their residents and their families. The most successful leaders are involved and committed.

How would you describe your personal leadership style and how has it evolved over the years?

I am definitely a leader by example. I consider it very important to be open and connected to my team, and I am involved with them on a daily basis. I think I come across as real and relatable, and we have fun together!

How does leadership style influence quality of care?

I set high expectations and hold my team accountable to those expectations. If your team knows what you expect, you are essentially creating other leaders who will perform well. Admitting mistakes and being honest breeds understanding. All of these components add up to a high level of service and care.

What's the most important lesson you've learned as a leader and how has it helped you become a better leader?

I've learned that you can't be afraid to ask for help. Good leaders delegate duties by giving others the knowledge and tools they need to get the job done well. It's important to remember that greatness is a work in progress.

Leaders must be willing to be highly visible during times of crisis. What leadership techniques keep you on track during challenging times?

It's important to remain unified during difficult times. As a leader, you must be accountable and keep lines of communication open. Let everyone know that you will get through the crisis together as a team.

How do you foster leadership development in your organization?

Don't be a micro-manager. People do much better when you educate and train them, then provide them with the tools, support and trust they need to succeed on their own.

How do remain a well-balanced leader both personally and professionally?

By fostering leadership, you can leave the building at 5 p.m. knowing that you have left it in good hands and that everything will be fine until you return. Being confident in the capabilities of my staff means I can devote quality time to myself and family.

Housing News

HUD Begins Use of New Management Review and Civil Right Compliance Forms

AAHSA housing staff have developed a new fact sheet explaining some of the highlights and key issues of concern for members. It is posted at http://www.aahsa.org/advocacy/housing/operations/fact_sheets/default.asp. For more information, contact Colleen Bloom at cbloom@aaahsa.org or 202-508-9483.

Final Rule Issued on Consolidated Plan Revisions and Updates

This rule makes streamlining and clarifying changes to the consolidated plan regulations of state and local governments so that the plans are more results-oriented and useful to communities in assessing their own progress toward addressing the problems of low-income areas. The rule also eliminates obsolete and redundant provisions and makes other changes that conform these regulations to HUD's public housing regulations that govern the Public Housing Agency (PHA) Plan. A consolidated plan is a document that jurisdictions submit to HUD if they receive funding under any of HUD's Community Planning and Development formula grant programs. The effective date of the rule is March 13, 2006. For more information, contact Salvatore Sclafani, Office of Community Planning and Development, Department of Housing and Urban Development, at 202-708-1817. The complete rule can be found at http://www.hudclips.org/sub_nonhud/cgi/pdf/1182.pdf. Find out about your current local consolidated plan at <http://www.huduser.org/datasets/cp.html>.

-Source: HUD

CAHSA Next Listserv

In our continuing effort to expand benefits to our members, CAHSA has created a new listserv for people who have expressed an interest in or attended a CAHSA Next function. The listserv provides an opportunity to exchange information and resources. Members can get a variety of perspectives and answers to their important questions. CAHSA will also periodically send out job postings and upcoming event announcements.

If you would like to send a message to the CAHSA Next group (an invitation to an event, a job posting, a question, etc.), simply send an email to cahsanext@cahsa.org and it will automatically be sent to everyone signed up for the listserv. If you would like to reply to a message, unless your response applies to the whole group, please send an email only to the person who sent the original message. If at any time you would like to be taken off the listserv or would like to have someone added to it, please send an email to karen@cahsa.org. If you're having trouble posting or need more information about any of CAHSA's listservs, please call Karen at 303-837-8834.

CAHSA Next March Meeting

Following John Torres' January presentation on mentoring, the CAHSA Next Planning Committee met to discuss interest in developing a mentoring program and begin planning events for 2006. CAHSA is in the process of researching ways to best approach offering this type of program. Be sure to stop by the CAHSA Next booth at the annual convention, May 10-12 in Vail, to learn more about becoming a mentor/mentee. If you have ideas or suggestions, please contact Laura Landwirth at laura@cahsa.org or 303-837-8834.

Other ideas from the Planning Committee that need your feedback and/or support:

- * The next CAHSA Next event takes place Thursday, March 23, from 3-5 p.m. at Eaton Terrace Assisted Living, 333 S. Eaton Street, Lakewood. Dean Painter, CEO of Eaton Senior Programs, has kindly offered to give a presentation on getting involved in the legislative process and share his experiences donating time to CAHSA's advocacy efforts. Contact CAHSA Next Committee Member Lisa Kucera at 303-937-3000 or lkucera@eatonterrace.org for directions or more information.
- * Please come early and join CAHSA Nexters at the annual CAHSA Convention starting May 10 for a leadership pre-conference event. CAHSA Next will host a wine and cheese reception following the event. This is a great opportunity to meet your industry peers and learn more about CAHSA Next.
- * During its recent meeting, the Planning Committee discussed starting a leadership Book Club. Books discussed as possible good reads: *"First, Break all the Rules: What the World's Greatest Managers Do Differently"* by Marcus Buckingham, *"Now Discover Your Strengths"* by Marcus Buckingham, Donald O. Clifton, and *"The Servant Leader"* by James A. Autry. Nominate books or share your thoughts on starting a Book Club by sending a note to the new CAHSA Next listserv at cahsanext@cahsa.org.

Thank you to all the supervisors who continue to encourage their staff to attend CAHSA Next events. We look forward to seeing more of you at our upcoming events.

Nursing Home News

RAI User's Manual Updates Now Available

The January 2006 updates to the RAI User's Manual MDS Version 2.0 are now available. To view the updates, access http://www.cms.hhs.gov/nursinghomequalityinits/20_nhqimds20.asp.

GAO Files New Nursing Home Report

In December 2005, the General Accounting Office (GAO) completed a detailed report on nursing homes titled, *"Nursing Homes: Despite Increased Oversight, Challenges Remain in Ensuring High-Quality Care and Resident Safety."* GAO was asked to assess the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) progress since 1998 in addressing weaknesses in the nursing facility oversight system. The study was requested by Senators Charles E. Grassley (R-IA) and Herb Kohl (D-WI). To view the entire report visit <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d06117.pdf>.

Nursing Homes Required to Have Smoke Detectors in Resident Rooms, Common Areas

Nursing homes that do not have sprinklers installed throughout their communities must have smoke detection systems in resident rooms and other common areas by May 24, 2006, according to a recent reminder issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Failure to comply with the federal requirement will be cited by the State Fire Marshal as part of a life safety code survey.

Medicaid Recipients Right to Nursing Home Care Upheld in 9th Circuit Court of Appeals

A court decision has upheld the right of eligible Medicaid recipients to nursing home services. Medicaid recipients who are denied nursing home care benefits because of state budget cuts have a right to sue their state under a provision of the Medicaid Act that requires state governments to provide minimum services to all financially eligible individuals, a federal court of appeals declared on February 8. The case is listed under the following: *Watson v. Weeks*, 9th Circuit, No. 04-35704. The case reaffirms that states must provide nursing home services to eligible individuals.

National Nursing Home Week Around the Corner

It's not too early to think about how your facility can celebrate National Nursing Home Week, which will take place this year May 14-20. This special week, which begins on Mother's Day, recognizes seniors, caregivers, and the quality of life within nursing homes. Facilities are encouraged to celebrate with residents, families, and staff.

People & Places

Submit Content to CAHSA Connecting

Send press releases, administrative changes, awards and event announcements to cahsanews@comcast.net or fax to 303-474-3025 ATTN: CAHSA Newsletter. Please include photographs (label) when possible. CAHSA reserves the right to edit all submissions for length and content.

Elmer Janz has joined the office of **Lantz-Boggio Architects** as Director of Business Development.



St. Andrew's Village, a continuing care campus offering independent and assisted living, skilled-nursing, and Alzheimer/dementia care, invites CAHSA members to attend a special Open House Preview of the Assisted Living and Health Care Center Friday, March 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, March 11, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, March 12, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. St. Andrew's Village is located at the corner of South Abilene and East Yale across from the Heather Gardens community in Aurora. For more information please call 303-695-8100. Stay tuned for the Independent Living Grand Opening in July 2006.

Christian Living Communities is pleased to announce that their new **Holly Creek** community has been chosen as a host site for the 9Health Fair to be held Tuesday, April 25, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Since 1980, the 9Health Fair has helped save hundreds of thousands of lives thanks to free and low-cost early detection and prevention health screening and educational services. If your family or friends could benefit from the screenings and health education opportunities, and you'd like to visit Holly Creek, please plan to attend. Holly Creek is located at 5500 E. Peakview Avenue in Centennial, Colorado (near East Arapahoe Road and South Holly Street). For more information about the screenings being offered, please visit the 9Health web site at www.9healthfair.com or call Christian Living Communities at 720-974-3555.



Assisted Living/ALFA News

Register Before March 20 and Save

ALFA members save up to 50% on registration for the ALFA 2006 Conference & Expo, going on May 3-5, 2006, if they register by March 20, 2006. Learn more at ALFA's web site <http://www.alfaconferenceandexpo.com/registration.htm>.

Nominations Due for ALFA Award

Do you know of someone in senior living who has shown extraordinary courage and leadership? Someone who has risen far above their every day duties improve the quality of life for residents? Then nominate them for the 2006 Hero Award from ALFA. Award recipients will be honored during ALFA's 2006 Conference & Expo, May 3-5 in San Diego, Calif., where they will receive a complimentary conference registration, food and lodging, a plaque of recognition, and a \$250 cash prize! Act quickly, **nominations are due March 17**. For more information contact Patti Kipp at 703-894-1805 ext. 221, or for a nomination form visit <http://www.alfa.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3483>.

DON Salary Report Available

Hospital & Healthcare Compensation Service (HCS) has released a study of Director of Nurses salaries for assisted living facilities. The national median salary of Director of Nurses (DON) at an Assisted Living facility is \$47,507 according to the eighth annual Assisted Living Salary & Benefits Report. This represents a 9.76% increase over last year's figures. Data are reported according to for-profit and not-for-profit status, revenue size, unit-size, geographic region and state. Also covered are 22 fringe benefits, turnover rates by department, and projected salary increases for 2006. Data are effective as of October 2005. HCS published the report in cooperation with the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging. The Report is supported by both the National Center for Assisted Living and the Assisted Living Federation of America. The report price for AAHSA, NCAL, and ALFA members is \$225.00. The price for non-members is \$295.00. For more information, visit the HCS web site at <http://www.hcsinc.com/index.php>.

Thank You to these renewing members...

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Christian Living Communities - Living Center
Christian Living Communities - University Hills
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Eaton Senior Programs
Barry Epstein, Attorney at Law
EverCare Colorado
Financial & Accounting Support Specialists
Health Dimensions Group
Lantz-Boggio Architects

Life at the Bluffs - Goodwill Industries
Maltese Cross Manor
Marycrest Assisted Living
Newman & Associates
Nightingale Suites at Springwood
Parkplace
Schryver Medical Sales & Marketing
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The Village at St. Catherine

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Did You Know?

Medicare Part D Gets a 30-day Extension

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) has extended the transition period until March 31, 2006. CMS has also issued a request for all drug plans to extend the billing period from the current 30 days to 90 days. This would ensure that claims do not get rejected just because they missed the 30-day billing window. To view a summary of CMS updates through February 13, visit the National Conference of State Legislatures web site at <http://www.ncsl.org/programs/health/cmsupdates.htm>.

Health Care Costs to Keep Rising

According to an *Associated Press* article dated February 22, 2006 within a decade, an aging America will spend one of every five dollars on health care, according to government analysts who see no end to increases in the cost of going to the doctor and taking medicine. The nation's total health care bill by 2015 is projected to be more than \$4 trillion. Consumers will foot about half the bill, the government the rest.

Number of Americans Over 85 Expected to Triple

According to the U.S. Administration on Aging, the number of Americans over the age of 85 is expected to triple by the year 2030. Those people 85 or older comprise the largest percentage of residents at long-term care facilities. Those demographic trends indicate that demand for long-term care will increase well into the middle of this century as the elderly population grows significantly.

The CAHSA Calendar

Mar. 2 **CAHSA Legislative Luncheon**
12:00 - 1:15 p.m.
Maggiano's Restaurant, Denver



Get more information on these events from our website - www.cahsa.org

Mar. 14 **"Pilot" Meeting**
12:00 - 2:00 p.m.
CAHSA's 2nd Floor Conference Room, Denver

Mar. 15 **Adult Day Coalition Meeting**
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
HealthONE Alliance Johnson Adult Day Program, Englewood

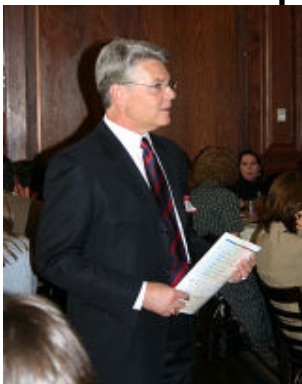
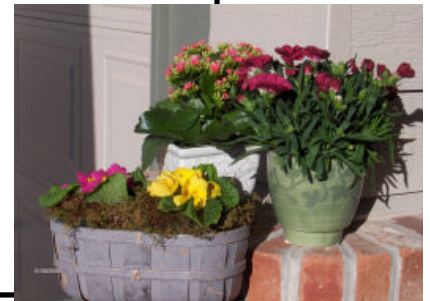
Mar. 23 **CAHSA Next Event**
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Eaton Senior Programs, Lakewood



There's still time!

The deadline for the "Time to Bloom" commitment forms has been extended to Wednesday, March 8.

Print the information off our website, www.cahsa.org/Bloom.asp or call 303-837-8834 to request a form!



CAHSA's 2006 Legislative Luncheon