

MONDAY

ONLINE

MAILING

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Top Stories

Rate Notices Not Finished by Statutory Deadline

According to DHS, rate notices were not finished by the statutory deadline of Aug. 15. DHS reported the work on the notices for the year beginning Oct.1, is taking longer than anticipated and they hope to complete the rate notices in the near future.

When the notices are done they will be posted in the nursing facility portal on the DHS web site, where each facility can download a copy of their notice. The rate notices for Oct. 1 will include the first adjustment for the rebasing of rates. The calculation of the rebasing portion of the rates has contributed to the delay in completing the notices. In part, this is because the rebasing adjustment is based on costs, and DHS has been working to verify the accuracy of the 2007 cost reports submitted by facilities. Once the cost data is complete, a floor and ceiling will be calculated for the rebasing adjustment, and then two 1 percent COLAs will be added to the operating rate after rebasing.

Seventy-five percent of both of the COLA increases are subject to encumbrance to compensation. The requirements differ between the two COLAs because one of the COLAs applies for only one year and as a result it is subject to encumbrance to bonuses rather than permanent wage increases. Nursing facilities will have to prepare a compensation plan in order to receive the compensation portions of the COLAs, and some facilities will also have an encumbrance requirement on a small portion of their rebasing adjustment. The rate notice will show the amount that is encumbered to compensation, but that amount will not be added into the total rate. Instructions for preparing a compensation plan are in DHS Bulletin #08-69-02, which can be downloaded from the DHS web site at

http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/publications/documents/pub/dhs16_141749.pdf.

The bulletin said a calculator will be preloaded with rate notice and cost report information to allow nursing facilities to calculate the total amount they need to spend, as well as the amount that needs to be committed to the various encumbrance requirements including permanent salary increases and bonuses. The link to that tool in the bulletin is not working yet, but the tool should be available shortly after rate notices are available.

Other than the compensation portions of the increase, the rate notices will show the final Oct. 1 rate for most facilities. Those facilities who are receiving a Performance Incentive Grant effective Oct.1 will have that amount reflected on their rate notice if they have signed a contract. Grant recipients that have not yet signed contracts will receive another rate notice after their contract is final.

Facilities are required by law to provide notice to their private pay residents of the increase effective Oct. 1. The law requires 30 days notice, which is reduced by one day for every day the rate notice arrives after Aug.15. Member nursing homes are encouraged to provide notice shortly after receiving their rate notice to give residents as much notice as possible of the Oct. 1 increase.

Nursing homes are allowed to notify residents of the full increase, including the compensation portions of the increase, and to begin collecting the full increase effective Oct.1 even though the compensation portions will not be added into the official MA rate until a compensation plan is approved. Assuming their compensation plan is ultimately approved, facilities will not have to refund any overpayments, because the exact amount of compensation portion of the increase is shown on the rate notice.

For Further Information: Contact Jeff Bostic at jbostic@mhha.com.

\$6.2 Million in Community Service/Service Development Grants Awarded

Ten MHHA members were among the recipients of grants announced by the Minnesota Department of Human Services last week.

DHS awarded 42 Community Service/Community Services Development and Caregiver Respite grants totaling \$6.2 million to help aging Minnesotans live independently and to help caregivers.

The grant program provides venture capital to help rebalance Minnesota's long-term care service delivery system and increase its ability to help persons age 65 and over stay in their own homes and communities. The program's goals include improving chronic disease management, expanding long-term care capacity by linking formal and informal long-term care services, and providing support to caregivers and promoting independence for seniors.

"It is exciting to see how projects respond to needs and help families, friends and other caregivers support older adults to live independently." said Loren Colman, DHS assistant commissioner for Continuing Care. "Our grantees this year certainly embraced innovation by introducing products, services and processes that fill unmet needs and attempt to develop sustainable services."

The Community Service and Community Services Development grant programs have funded 280 projects throughout Minnesota since 2001. The projects that have received grants have helped to increase the supply of home and community-based services, such as chronic disease management, transportation, help with chores and home repairs and caregiver education and support. They also have provided support for moving home care services into existing housing and helped to build or renovate hundreds of units of affordable senior housing. More than 144,000 Minnesotans age 65 and over have benefited from improvements made as the result of the grants.

Organizations selected to receive grants and the counties where services will be provided are:

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency-Aitkin, Carlton, Itasca, Lake, St. Louis

Autumn Hills of Bemidji, Inc.-Beltrami

Barnes Care Incorporated-Carlton

Bethesda Health and Housing-Kandiyohi

Cerenity Senior Care - Residence on Humboldt-Ramsey

Central Health Care of LeCenter-Le Sueur

Central Minnesota Council on Aging-Chisago

Cook County Public Health and Human Services-Cook, Lake

Country View Senior Living Community-Redwood

DARTS-Dakota

Elder Services Network-St. Louis

Elderberry Institute-Ramsey

ElderCare of Minnesota-Crow Wing

Emmanuel Community-Becker

Fairview Red Wing Health Services-Goodhue

First Plan of Minnesota-Lake, St. Louis

Graceville Area Health Services-Big Stone

Harbor Centers, Inc.-St. Louis

Isanti County Commission on Aging-Isanti

Jewish Family and Children Service of Minneapolis-Hennepin

KASKA Properties, LLC-Red Lake

Kerk Investment, LLC-Chippewa, Kandiyohi, Swift

LaCrescent Area Healthy Community Partnership-Houston

Memory Disorders Clinic, Inc.-Benton, Sherburne, Stearns, Wright

Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging, Inc.-Hennepin, Ramsey

Midway Care Center-Polk

Minnesota Home Care Association-Hennepin, Redwood

Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging-Blue Earth, Chippewa, Redwood, Waseca

Mora HRA-Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Pine

Neighborhood Involvement Program-Hennepin

Northwoods Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers-Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard

Pelican Rapids Organizing Acts of Kindness-Otter Tail

Presbyterian Homes and Services, Inc.-Ramsey

Regents of the University of Minnesota-Carlton

RSVP of Southwest Minnesota-Nobles, Redwood

Sholom Home Health Care-Hennepin, Ramsey

Spectrum Health Companies-Lake

Spectrum Health Companies-St. Louis

Store to Door-Anoka, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington

Tri-County Hospital-Otter Tail, Todd, Wadena

Volunteer Services of Carlton County-Carlton, St. Louis

Volunteers of America of Minnesota-Anoka, Hennepin

MHHA would like to congratulate our members (listed in bold) on their success.

For Further Information: Contact Lori Meyer at lmeyer@mhha.com.

News Briefs

Medicare Hospice Payments to Increase in 2009

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced that hospices will see a net 2.5 percent increase in their payments in 2009. For hospices, the 3.6 percent increase in market basket costs will be offset by a 1.1 percent cut resulting from the end of an adjustment hospices have received for the last 10 years during the transition to the present wage index.

According to CMS, phasing out this special adjustment will save Medicare \$2.18 billion over five years. It is estimated that payments to hospices would decrease by approximately 1.1 percent for FY 2009, the first year of the three-year phase-out of

the adjustment.

CMS reports the number of Medicare-certified hospices has increased by 69.9 percent since 1997. Hospice expenditures are estimated to be about \$10.2 billion for 2007. The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) reports that through 2015, hospice expenditures are projected to grow at a rate that outpaces those projected for hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, physician services and home health care.

A summary with more details about this rule is found at <http://tinyurl.com/5toxn5>. A link to the final rule and accompanying documents will be available at:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Hospice/RegsNotices/list.asp#TopOfPage>.

For Further Information: Contact Peter Notarstefano, AAHSA, at pnotarstefano@aahsa.org or 202-508-9406.

DHS Issues Bulletin on Long-Term Care Insurance Partnership Policies

DHS recently issued bulletin #08-21-08, "DHS Introduces Long-Term Care Partnership."

Members can download the bulletin from the DHS web site at

http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/publications/documents/pub/dhs16_142131.pdf.

The partnership program was authorized by DHS in 2006. It allows people with qualifying long-term care insurance policies to protect more of their assets when they apply for MA long-term care coverage.

The primary audience for the bulletin is counties, who will be implementing changes in MA eligibility related to the partnership policies. Providers may also be interested in the details on implementation of this program, and how it will impact eligibility for some residents applying for MA. In addition, the bulletin includes background information on the partnership program, which may be of interest to housing residents and other community members who are considering the purchase of long-term care insurance.

For Further Information: Contact Jeff Bostic at jbostic@mhha.com.

Care Centers of the Future - Phase 2 Begins with September 9 Kick Off Event

The Minnesota Health and Housing Alliance, the Department of Human Services, the Minnesota Department of Health and Care Providers of Minnesota have joined together to develop a vision for the future role of Minnesota care centers in the continuum of care.

The sponsors have worked together for the past several months developing a charter for this project. The group is now seeking volunteers to serve on various workgroups.

The group will begin work on phase two of the plan at a kick-off event Tuesday, Sept. 9, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center. The event will focus on key questions centered on the three domains (click on the links for specific information about each work group):

Physical/Architectural Design and Location - <http://tinyurl.com/6bky5b>

Care and Services Provided - <http://tinyurl.com/5abczu>

New and Innovative Approaches for Staffing - <http://tinyurl.com/5vxdt8>

Registration for this kick-off is due by Aug. 28. Please submit your contact information to DHS.FutureCareCenters@state.mn.us. If you are interested in participating in a workgroup, but are unavailable to meet on Sept. 9, please send your name and contact information to the email address.

The care center community has been changing over the past several years and faces further dramatic changes over the next couple of decades. These changes are being driven by the demographics; the workforce; consumer needs, expectations and demands; changes in health care and long-term care systems; and competing priorities for limited resources.

For more information about the Care Center of the Future, you can visit the Care Center of the Future Website at http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/dhs16_140916.

For Further Information: Contact Kari Thurlow at kthurlow@mhha.com.

Nebraskans Come to Minnesota to Talk Long Term Care Financing Reform

Representatives from Nebraska were in St. Paul last week to talk about Nebraska's efforts to promote personal savings for aging services.

The event called *Drowning or Surfing in the Silver Tsunami - It's Up To Us* was sponsored by **Ecumen**, Citizens League, 2020 Conference (a bi-partisan group of 60 legislators), and the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce. The presentation helped to continue the conversation about what Minnesota can do with respect to reforming long term care financing. For example, the information was recently shared with the Health Policy Committee of the Chamber of Commerce.

As a result of the presentation, the chamber will be putting together a sub-committee on Long Term Care Financing issues. Obviously, this is good news for aging services, as we seek to increase our base of support for reforming long term care financing.

According to Nebraska State Treasurer Shane Osborn and Trent Fellers, Director of the Nebraska State Long-Term Care Savings Plan, Nebraska is the only state in the nation to offer a tax-advantaged plan aimed exclusively at assisting people in saving for aging services.

The plan is modeled after education savings plans, or 529 plans. Plan participants can receive a deduction on their Nebraska state income taxes for up to \$1,000 for an individual or up to \$2,000 for couples filing jointly. Plan participants can withdraw the funds at any age for any expenses related to long-term care or can withdraw funds to pay for long term care insurance after age 50.

Examples of long-term care expenses that can be covered by the funds include in-home assistance; basic therapeutic care; qualified home modifications; assistive technology; adult day care; respite and hospice care; or expenses related to nursing facility and housing with services.

For Further Information: Contact Kari Thurlow at kthurlow@mhha.com.

New Managed Care Information Available on MHHA.com

MHHA has recently posted a couple of new documents on its web site in the managed care section. Members can access them by going to <http://www.mhha.com>, log in and choose "managed care" from the list of featured topics in the right side bar.

One of the documents is a list of DHS contract managers who work with each health plan. Members who have problems with a health plan, and are not able to resolve them directly with the plan, should contact the DHS contract manager as a next step toward solving the problem.

The other document is from a recent DHS video conference on managed care. It addresses the appeal process for all Minnesota managed care programs, including MSHO. Members might want to use this document to advise their residents about options for appeals when a resident is negatively impacted by a health plan decision.

For Further Information: Contact Jeff Bostic at jbostic@mhha.com.

AAHSA Survey and Certification Task Force: "The system is broken and can't be fixed"

An independent, broad-based national expert panel should be convened to re-examine the oversight process for nursing homes, a task force from the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA) concluded in its final report, "Broken and Beyond Repair: Recommendations to Reform the Survey and Certification System."

The report's 31 recommendations address short-term and long-term solutions, including improved communication to surveyors and providers about new requirements and changes to the survey process, standardized job descriptions for surveyors, more efficient use of survey resources, and flexibility to adapt to culture change.

Larry Minnix, AAHSA's president and CEO, said the task force captured the demoralization of providers who feel caught in a vicious circle. "We have to break the cycle of fear that paralyzes us all: consumers fear nursing homes, nursing homes fear the state, states fear the federal government, the federal government fears Congress and Congress fears voters," Minnix said. "This system is angry, broken and can't be fixed. A system based on consistency, fairness and accuracy will help us move toward the day when there are two types of nursing homes: the excellent and the non-existent."

The task force's overarching recommendation is that an independent commission, such as the Institute of Medicine, reexamine the survey and certification process to "create a common vision for how our nation should care for its frailest citizens and to recommend a new oversight model for ensuring that this vision becomes reality in every nursing home today."

Copies of the report can be viewed at <http://www.aahsa.org>.

Minnix, VOA President Named to Top 50 List

The Non-Profit Times has placed Larry Minnix, AAHSA's president and CEO on its 11th annual NPT Power & Influence Top 50 list. The top 50 executives were selected for the impact they have now and for the innovative plans they are putting in place to evolve the charitable sector.

In its profile of Minnix, the list said he is "Always seeking the "big idea," and making sure the "silent generation," the growing population in long-term care, has a voice in policy-making. It's quite the voting bloc as the November elections get closer. He's making their voices be heard by the candidates."

Also named to the list was **Charles Gould**, the president of **Volunteers of America**. Gould was praised for his passion toward VOA's mission.

Congressman Frank Thanks AAHSA for its Advocacy on Housing

Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA), Chair, House Committee on Financial Services, recently sent the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA) a letter regarding passage of the omnibus housing bill.

In his letter thanking AAHSA for its advocacy work on this important legislation, Rep. Frank said: "Your letters to and meetings with Congressional leadership and the Administration were critical to moving this historic housing package, which will help hard-working families remain in their homes, stabilize communities ravaged by foreclosures, restore confidence in

our financial institutions, and build much needed affordable housing around the country through the Housing Trust Fund. Your feedback and suggestions for improving the bill were invaluable, as was your advocacy."

AAHSA provides a great service to housing providers across the country through technical expertise and the diligence of its staff on both legislation and operational issues. MHHA members benefit greatly from the hard work of the AAHSA staff on these and other older adult services issues.

Foreclosure Bill Includes Important Changes for Low-Income HUD Housing

On July 30, President Bush signed The Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, H.R. 3221, which Congress worked hard to pass in the face of the foreclosure crisis. In addition to measures designed to prevent foreclosures on owner-occupied homes and to increase home sales, the bill also made some important changes to HUD housing programs.

Following is a summary of these changes provided by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and forwarded to MHHA by the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging:

Increased Funding for Affordable Rental Housing -- The bill increases funding available to states and localities for affordable rental housing through five different funding streams. Some of these increases could be used to preserve public and other assisted housing, as well as to increase the affordable housing supply.

- **Grants to States and Localities to Redevelop Foreclosed Properties** -- By November 2008, states and localities should receive their share of the \$3.92 billion provided by the bill to stabilize neighborhoods hard-hit by foreclosures. Funds may be used to purchase, manage and resell foreclosed and abandoned properties. These funds can only be used to assist individuals and families with incomes at or below 120 percent of area median income and 25 percent of the funds must be used for households with incomes at or below 50 percent of area median. Estimates of each state's share of funds are at http://www.saveamericasneighborhoods.org/fact_sheets.asp. States and localities have a great deal of discretion in how to use the funds, but they must act fast. Funds must be committed within 18 months, so it is important for communities to work quickly to develop their plans. At the discretion of state and local grantees, public housing agencies (PHAs) are eligible to use funds provided by the bill to purchase properties, which they could continue to operate as affordable rental housing. (PHAs could use vouchers to make rents affordable to the lowest income families.)
- The bill establishes a permanent **Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF)** administered by HUD. Beginning in 2010, funds based on a share of new business conducted by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac will be available for affordable housing activities. About \$300 million per year will be available when the assessment is fully effective in 2012. In the future, Congress may designate other sources for the Trust Fund. After reservation of funds for administrative costs (which may not exceed 10 percent of annual grants), states must use at least 90 percent of remaining funds for production, preservation, rehabilitation and operation of rental housing (with 10 percent available for first-time homebuyers), and 75 percent of rental funds must benefit extremely low-income households (with incomes at or below 30 percent of area median income or the federal poverty line). Remaining funds may be used for households with incomes up to 50 percent of area median. Funds will go to states based on a formula largely specified in the bill. AHTF funds may be used for preservation of public and assisted housing. For more information, see the website of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, which spearheaded the campaign to establish the fund, at <http://www.nlihc.org>.
- **Capital Magnet Fund** -- The bill also requires Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to set aside funds for a Capital Magnet Fund administered by the Treasury Department. This fund will receive half the amount allocated to the AHTF. Treasury will award funds through a national competition to Community Development Financial Institutions or non-profits that develop or manage affordable housing. Funds may be used for affordable housing and economic development/community revitalization activities. It appears that such funds could be an important component of the type of activities funded by the HOPE VI public housing revitalization program.
- **Increase in Low Income Housing Tax Credits** -- The bill increases the amount of tax credits allocated to states in 2008 and 2009. For states that receive per capita allocations, the allocations would go up by \$0.20 per capita. This amounts to an increase of 10 percent in 2008, and just under 10 percent in 2009. The bill also increases the minimum allocations provided to small states by 10 percent in both years.
- **Increase in Housing Bond Authority** -- The bill provides an additional \$11 billion nationally in 2008 authority for states to issue tax-exempt bonds to support rental housing or homeownership. The added authority can be carried forward through 2010.

LIHTC Data Collection -- The bill creates a new requirement that state agencies administering LIHTCs submit data annually to HUD on the characteristics (including race, ethnicity, family composition, age, disability status, receipt of vouchers, income, and rent payments) of tenants living in each LIHTC development. The bill also requires HUD to establish standards for data collection, provide technical assistance to states, and make data publicly available each year.

Other LIHTC and Multifamily Housing Bond provisions -- The bill also contains a number of changes to the rules governing low-income housing tax credits and multifamily housing bonds. Importantly for projects seeking to make rents affordable for the lowest-income tenants, several of these increase the amount of tax credit that can be provided per unit or allow credits to be used more easily with other forms of federal housing assistance. One such provision allows states to provide "basis boosts" increasing credit amounts by 30 percent for projects (excluding bond financed projects receiving 4 percent credits) outside the limited areas -- "Qualified Census Tracts" and "Difficult Development Areas" -- where the boosts are now permitted. The bill also provides that the full range of federal rent and operating subsidies can be combined with tax

credits without reducing the credit amount, and eliminates a prohibition on using tax credits in projects receiving Section 8 Mod Rehab assistance. For a full summary of the bill's LIHTC and multifamily bond provisions, see http://www.nixonpeabody.com/publications_detail1.asp?ID=2368.

Eligibility and Rents for disabled veterans -- The bill excludes from the definition of income for purposes of eligibility and rent determinations lump sum payments of veterans disability benefits. This provision treats such payments like Social Security disability lump sum payments.

Public Housing -- The bill eliminates a provision of the U.S. Housing Act that FEMA had used as justification for not assisting public housing agencies whose buildings were destroyed or damaged by the 2005 hurricanes in the same way as FEMA provides assistance when other government-owned buildings are damaged by declared natural disasters. While this change won't help Gulf Coast agencies affected by Katrina and Rita, it will help prospectively. In addition, about 3,000 small PHAs with no more than 550 vouchers or public housing units will no longer be required to submit an annual plan to HUD as long as they are not classified as "troubled."

The bill also makes a number of changes to project-based housing vouchers and tenant-based housing vouchers. Under new provisions, it will now be easier for tenants with tenant-based vouchers to use these vouchers in units that have received funds under the LIHTC or HOME programs, and the bill protects tenants against extra out-of-pocket costs for such rentals.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities notes that a 25 page summary of all the provisions of this nearly 700 page bill is available on the website of the Massachusetts Citizens Housing and Planning Association, <http://www.chapa.org>.

For Further Information: Contact Alayna Waldrum, AAHSA, at awaldrum@aahsa.org.

AAHSA Urges Providers to Support The Empowered at Home Act

The Empowered at Home Act, S. 3327, would increase the number of older adults and people with disabilities who are eligible for Medicaid coverage for adult day services and home care.

Just introduced by Sens. Charles Grassley (R-IA) and John Kerry (D-MA), the bill now needs more co-sponsors to move it forward. The American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA) urges providers to ask their senators to sign on as co-sponsors.

The legislation strengthens the Medicaid home and community-based state plan option under Section 1915(i) waivers by making income eligibility standards the same for Medicaid coverage of home- and community-based services and institutional care (300 percent of SSI).

Limitations on the scope of services allowable under 1915(i) waivers would disappear, and states would no longer be able to limit the number of individuals eligible for home and community-based services. A new 1915(k) waiver would concentrate services and funding for individuals who are high risk of institutionalization. State grants also would be available for consumer-directed care. AAHSA is especially pleased that the bill promotes and protects community living with spousal impoverishment protections for home- and community-based services recipients.

To contact Senators Norm Coleman and Amy Klobuchar in support of this bill, visit http://www.mhha.com/index/Become_Active.

For Further Information: Contact Peter Notarstefano, AAHSA, at pnotarstefano@aahsa.org.

Silver Alert Bill Heads to the U.S. House Floor

Last week the House Judiciary Committee approved The Silver Alert Act (HR 6064), authored by Congressman Lloyd Doggett (D-TX) and supported by the Assisted Living Federation of America (ALFA). This legislation is designed to help law enforcement find missing seniors suffering from dementia. The bill will be considered by the full House in September.

The National Silver Alert Act will create within the U.S. Department of Justice the position of Silver Alert Coordinator. The system would use a range of media, including radio, television, and highways signs, to broadcast information about missing seniors.

A silver alert system, similar to the Amber Alert system now in place for missing children, is one of many topics being considered by the Vulnerable Adult Act stakeholder group. The VAA stakeholder group hopes to have legislative proposals ready for the 2009 Minnesota legislative session.

For further information: Contact Mary Youle at myoule@mhha.com.

Legislators to Attend State Fair

More than 40 state representatives will be available to answer questions and meet with the public at the House of Representatives booth during the Minnesota State Fair.

It has been a long-standing House tradition that members make themselves available at the Great Minnesota Get-Together, which this year will be held Thursday, Aug. 21, through Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 1.

Besides visiting with lawmakers, fairgoers can let their opinion be known on a number of state issues by voting in the annual State Fair Poll. The booth will also be stocked with information on state government and resources on the legislative process.

The House of Representatives booth is located in the northeast corner of the Education Building on Cosgrove Street just north of Dan Patch Avenue.

Elected officials of all types will be as abundant at the State Fair as food-on-a-stick. Members attending the State Fair are encouraged to share their thoughts on long-term care with legislators and other candidates for elected office.

The following is a listing of the representatives, as of Aug. 12, who plan to attend.

Thursday, Aug. 21

10 a.m. to noon: Rep. Mindy Greiling (54A), Rep. Kate Knuth (50B), Rep. Karla Bigham (57A)

Noon to 2 p.m.: Rep. Rick Hansen (39A), Rep. Phyllis Kahn (59B)

2 p.m. to 4 p.m.: Rep. Joe Atkins (39B), Rep. Loren Solberg (3B)

4 p.m. to 6 p.m.: House Minority Leader Marty Seifert (21A), Rep. Sandy Wollschlager (28A)

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.: Rep. Lynn Wardlow (38B)

Friday, Aug. 22

10 a.m. to noon: Rep. Lyndon Carlson (45B), Rep. Joe Hoppe (34B), Rep. Sandra Peterson (45A)

Noon to 2 p.m.: Rep. Karla Bigham (57A), Rep. Bruce Anderson (19A)

2 p.m. to 4 p.m.: Rep. A. Willie Dominguez (58B), Rep. Terry Morrow (23A)

Sunday, Aug. 24

Noon to 2 p.m.: Rep. Denny McNamara (57B)

4 p.m. to 6 p.m.: Rep. Brita Sailer (2B)

Monday, Aug. 25

10 a.m. to noon: Rep. Erin Murphy (64A)

Noon to 2 p.m.: Rep. Erin Murphy (64A), Rep. Carol McFarlane (53B)

2 p.m. to 4 p.m.: Rep. Carol McFarlane (53B)

Tuesday, Aug. 26

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Rep. Erin Murphy (64A)

Noon to 4 p.m.: Rep. Shelley Madore (37A)

Wednesday, Aug. 27

10 a.m. to noon: Rep. Tim Faust (8B), Rep. Leon Lillie (55A)

4 p.m. to 6 p.m.: Rep. Bev Scalze (54B)

Thursday, Aug. 28

10 a.m. to noon: Rep. Kim Norton (29B), Rep. Dennis Ozment (37B)

Noon to 2 p.m.: Rep. Pat Garofalo (36B), Rep. A. Willie Dominguez (58B), Rep. Al Doty (12B)

Friday, Aug. 29

10 a.m. to noon: Rep. Neva Walker (61B)

4 p.m. to 6 p.m.: Rep. Mark Buesgens (35B)

Saturday, Aug. 30

10 a.m. to noon: House Speaker Margaret Anderson Kelliher (60A), Rep. Joe Hoppe (34B)

Noon to 2 p.m.: Rep. Jeanne Poppe (27B), Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr. (31A)

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.: Rep. Steve Drazkowski (28B), Rep. John Benson (43B)

Monday, Sept. 1

Noon to 2 p.m.: Rep. Maria Ruud (42A), Rep. Denise Dittrich (47A)

For Further Information: Contact Lori Meyer at lmeyer@mhha.com.

Member News

Member News

In this week's Member News, http://www.mhha.com/index/Member_News read about Volunteers of America partnered fitness event at the State Fair. Send your news to Bill Floyd at bfloyd@mhha.com.

Association News

MHHA Seeking Member-at-Large for Next Year's Nominating Committee

At the Sept. 17 MHHA Annual Business Meeting, all MHHA voting members will vote to elect a Member-at-Large to the 2009 Nominating Committee.

Any MHHA voting member interested in standing for election to next year's Nominating Committee should contact Nancy Garrett no later than Friday, Aug. 29. Pursuant to MHHA's by-laws, members of the Nominating Committee are not eligible for nomination to an office on the MHHA Board of Directors.

Each year the Nominating Committee prepares a slate of candidates for open board positions, meeting two to three times June - September. The Member-at-Large elected at last year's Annual Business Meeting to serve in 2008 was **Greg Carlson**,

CEO of **Grandview Christian Ministries**, Cambridge. Other members of the 2008 Nominating Committee are: **Daniel Lindh**, Chair, president/CEO, **Presbyterian Homes and Services**, Roseville; **David Carlson**, administrator/CEO, **Galeon**, Osakis; **Mick Finn**, vice president/chief of operations, **Ecumen**, Shoreview; Carli Lindemann, administrator, **Oak Hills Living Center**, New Ulm; and Kim Webster, director of senior living services, **Stuart Management Corporation**, St. Paul.

For Further Information: Contact Nancy Garrett at ngarrett@mhha.com.

District G Announces Nursing Scholarship Recipients

Last week, following a meeting of the MHHA District G officers, awards for eight recipients of the MHHA District G 2008 Nursing Scholarships were announced.

"We are pleased to be able to continue to support this scholarship program through our district dues and the proceeds of our annual golf tournament, writes District G chair **Traci Beach**. "Thank you to each of the members for encouraging your staff who are pursuing an education in nursing to apply for these scholarships and congratulations to this years recipients."

The following will each receive \$750 towards their ongoing nursing education:

Chijindu "Lucky" Nwachukwu, **Mount Olivet Careview Home**, Minneapolis

Jessica Gomez, **Trinity Care Center**, Farmington

Bao Vu, **Presbyterian Homes of Arden Hills**

Marsha Nelson, **Sholom Community Alliance**, St. Louis Park

Kristin Erickson, **Lighthouse at Waconia**

Debra Pettipiece, **Ebenezer Ridges Care Center**, Burnsville

Becky Jean McConnell, **The Lutheran Home**, Belle Plaine

Jamie Lynn Maaninga, **Walker Methodist Health Center**, Minneapolis

For Further Information: Contact District G Chair Traci Beach at tbeach@preshomes.org.

Registration Deadline Fast Approaching for MHHA's Web-Based Seminar

Members interested in building upon their basic knowledge about the IRS new Form 990 will want to participate in MHHA's live web-based training scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 26 from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

The program will explore in-depth those areas on which you should focus your compliance efforts and the policies and procedures that will help you accomplish it. In addition to presentation materials, participants will receive as a takeaway, a records document which helps with compliance and has other operational benefits.

The registration deadline for this program is Wednesday, Aug. 21, and the fee is \$95 per person for a member and \$135 per person for a prospective member. Registration is available through MHHA's web site under 'events.'

For Further Information: Contact Beth Gabrysiak at bgabrysiak@mhha.com.

Education Solutions At-A-Glance

Click for more information or to register. <http://tinyurl.com/2egar8>.

Preparing the New LTC DON for a Successful Future, Aug. 26-28

<http://tinyurl.com/5nwumw>

*Sponsored by Alliance Purchasing and MSC

Nurse Managers in Home Care Settings Certificate Program, Aug. 13-14, Sept. 9-10 (St. Paul)

<http://tinyurl.com/5mezjk>

NEW TRAINING FORMAT - INTRODUCING THE MHHA WEBINAR!

The New IRS Form 990: What Not-for-Profit Aging Services Providers NEED to Know

Tuesday, August 26, 9:30 - 11 a.m.

<http://tinyurl.com/5ek5xq>

MHHA Annual Meeting & Leadership Forum: Beyond Expectations, Sept. 16-19 (Brainerd)

<http://tinyurl.com/6haxje>

Marketing & Sales for Senior Living Communities Certificate Program, October 13, 14, 15 (St. Paul)

*Sponsored by Welsh Construction and Genesis Architecture

Assisted Living Home Care Conference, Oct. 22 (St. Paul)

Co-Sponsored with the Minnesota HomeCare Association

Culture Change Coalition Program

October 24 (Blaine)

Financial Management for Home Care Providers, Fall date to be announced (Twin Cities)

Co-Sponsored with Minnesota HomeCare Association

2009 Institute for Older Adult Services, Feb. 11-13, 2009 (Minneapolis)

MHHA Education On Demand

Any time, any place! Download these Video Casts from the 2008 Institute.

Click to Order: <http://eseries.mhha.com/source/Orders/index.cfm>

Making Dreams Come True (session 120)

Culture Change: Do More Than Look At Me - Involve Me (session 105)

Motorized Assistive Devices: Balancing Individual Rights and Safety (session 133)

Creating Relationship-Centered Environments For Living (session 206)

Ethical Dilemmas in Refusal of Cares: The Challenge and Solution (session 222)

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