Len Russ Elected Chair of the American Health Care Association

We are pleased to announce that NYSFA member Leonard Russ has been elected to the position of Chair of the American Health Care Association (AHCA). Mr. Russ was honored with this profound vote of confidence at AHCA’s Annual Meeting on October 9.

Leonard Russ is the principal partner of Bayberry Health Care, a New York based partnership specializing in skilled nursing, sub-acute and in-patient short-term rehabilitative care. He is also co-owner of Aaron Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation in Rochester, New York.

Widely recognized as a leading expert and spokesman in the field of long term care, geriatric health policy and quality rehabilitation services, Len has delivered expert testimony before committees of the US Congress and the New York State Legislature. In addition, Len is a frequent lecturer and guest speaker on behalf of the provider community at public policy forums, news, talk, and public affairs broadcasts.

Len was born in New York City in 1954. He attended the Bronx High School of Science, received a Bachelor’s Degree from Vassar College and a Master of Science from Columbia University. Len earned his Certificate of Nursing Home Administration from the Institute for Continuing Biomedical Education in New York.

Before beginning his career in health care, Len spent a number of years as a journalist at a variety of major media organizations, working as an editor and writer at the Associated Press, and serving as a producer and writer at CBS News and ABC News. Before leaving the broadcasting field for health care, he was as an editorial consultant to CNN.

Under Len’s stewardship, his skilled nursing and rehabilitation facilities have been widely recognized for excellence and quality resident-centered care, including repeated “five-star” ratings by CMS and rankings among the Best Nursing Homes in America by U.S. News & World Report.

Len was previously Vice-Chair of the American Health Care Association and has served on AHCA’s Board of Governors for the past seven years. He is a past Chair of the New York State Health Facilities Association and is Vice-Chair of the Foundation for Quality Care.

Richard Herrick, President and CEO of NYSFA, stated, “We are pleased and proud that our colleagues across the country have recognized and affirmed our long held belief that Len Russ is a talented leader, whose facility represents the highest quality standards in our profession.” Mr. Herrick went on to add, “Please join me in congratulating Len and thank him for taking on this major commitment to actively lead and advocate for our members and most importantly the patients we serve.”
A Message from the President

We all know that life has its highs and lows, the accomplishments and the shortcomings. It should be no surprise to all that life at NYSHFA is no different than life in general. It is hard to resist the excitement of good news knowing full well that experience has taught me that it is usually followed with less than good news. Such is the roller coaster ride that we have experienced in the past month.

Having just returned from the American Health Care Association (AHCA) Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, we were able to witness up close the election of our own Len Russ to the chairmanship of the American Health Care Association’s Board of Governors. For the first time in approximately 30 years, we will have a New Yorker in the top leadership position of the largest long term care association in the country. The scope and importance of the American Health Care Association to nursing homes and assisted living communities is much more than representing the 12,000 facilities in the country with affiliates in all of the states and is a singular voice that represents all of our interests in Washington, D.C. What my counterparts from across the country acknowledged in this election process is something that we have known for many years. Len Russ is an outstanding leader who has served the interests of NYSHFA and its members so well for many years. He made a commitment eight years ago to begin the leadership succession process from Board member, to Secretary/Treasurer, to Vice Chair and now to Chairman of the Board of Governors. In those earlier days, Len witnessed firsthand the need to reorganize AHCA. He committed himself, with other national leaders, to participate in an organizational turn-around to the point where today, the membership growth, the professional credibility, and their ability to influence governmental policy is the envy of all associations.

On the downside, we have been notified that two significant legal activities which we had taken related to appeals and withdrawal of equity have had unfavorable outcomes. Our continuing hope is that fairness will prevail as we do our best to provide the highest quality care through our members’ efforts, knowing full well they are significantly underfunded and apparently underappreciated. As discouraging as these events can be, I can assure you we will not quit. We will engage our various committees, (i.e., Legal, Legislative) and together with our Executive Committee and Board, will decide what the best direction is to pursue in response to these negative results and will move forward in the best path or paths that serve the best interests of our members.

Len Russ has set the example for all of us on how effective strong leadership can be and we will use all of the resources available to us to continue to do what is in the best interests of our members. I assure you this is a commitment that we will not stray from.

Thank you for your continued support.
November 13 – 14
NYSCAL Assisted Living Education Conference
Hilton Garden Inn & Conference Center
Troy, NY

Join us for the third annual NYSCAL Fall Conference! Hear from industry leaders and experts about the latest developments affecting adult care/assisted living providers. Ten and a half (10.5) CEUs have been applied for from the NAB. New this year is Assisted Living Nurses Day! Sponsored by the American Assisted Living Nurses Association, this new, one-day seminar will focus solely on issues affecting the assisted living nurse in his/her daily operations. To register, go to the NYSCAL website’s Events page, http://www.nyscal.org/events-calendar/ or contact NYSHFA/NYSCAL’s Education Department.

November 13 – 14
NYSHFA/Foundation for Quality Care Fall Education Conference
Hilton Garden Inn & Conference Center
Troy, NY

This conference will provide the information that you need today: information that will change your future. The industry is changing at a rapid pace. Don’t be left behind! This conference is recommended for Owners, Owner/Operators, Administrators, Nursing Administrators, Human Resource Directors, Financial Directors and other members of the interdisciplinary team. Ten and 1/2 (10.5) hours of Continuing Education Credits (CEUs) have been applied for from the National Association of Boards of Examiners of Long Term Care Administrators. Ten and 1/2 (10.5) hours of Continuing Education Credits are approved for Licensed Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) by the New York State Education Department. To register visit http://www.nyshfa.org and click on Education or contact NYSHFA/NYSCAL’s Education Department.

December 13
Deadline for 2014 Innovative Practice Awards

The Clinical and Quality Services Committee is pleased to announce the call for nominations for the 2014 Innovative Practice Awards Program. This award program demonstrates our commitment to showcasing the high quality services our members are providing to their residents. The award recipients will present their Innovative Practices to the membership at an educational session during the convention. Recipients of the Innovative Practice Awards will be honored at the NYSHFA/NYSCAL Convention in June 2014. We encourage you to take this opportunity to showcase the innovative programs in your facility and recognize your staff for their dedication. Member facilities are asked to submit their Innovative Practices to the Committee for consideration by December 13, 2013. See the NYSHFA Member Mailings for the nomination form and instructions.

A SENIOR ADVANTAGE INC.

QMB MEDICAID BILLING SPECIALIST

WE ARE SUCCESSFULLY SUBMITTING QMB CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT

WE HAVE MAXIMIZED COLLECTIONS FOR OUR CLIENTS WITH OVER 26 YEARS EXPERIENCE

631-786-7390
631-776-2296
New Smoking Regulations This Fall

New York State recently enacted a law restricting smoking at nursing homes and hospitals (Chapter 179 of the Laws of 2013.) The new law does not alter existing laws permitting smoking by residents in separate enclosed indoor areas of nursing homes, however, it does apply to smoking in outdoor areas.

The new law, which becomes effective October 29, 2013 includes the following: 1) prohibits smoking on the outdoor grounds of nursing homes and hospitals; 2) prohibits smoking within 15 feet outdoors of a nursing home or hospital building entrance or exit; and 3) prohibits smoking within 15 feet outdoors of the entrance or exit to the grounds of a nursing home or a hospital. Included within this new law is a provision that allows nursing homes to designate a smoking area outdoors on its property. Specifically, this provision allows for a designated smoking area to be established 30 feet from a nursing home building structure including any “overhang, canopy, awning, entrance, exit, window, intake or exhaust.” This designated smoking area is for use by patients, visitors or guests of patients only. This exemption provision does not include employees.

It is anticipated that the Department of Health will issue further guidance on this new law prior to its October 29, 2013 effective date.

Emergency Preparedness…

As we enter hurricane season once more, we are reminded just how important our disaster planning is and all the “lessons we have learned” from our past experiences with Mother Nature. Whatever part of the state you are in, extremes in the weather can play a disastrous role in your ability to maintain the functioning of your facility. Whether it’s super storms downstate, massive flooding in central New York or crippling snow and ice storms in the Western and Northern areas of the state, the reality of having to evacuate residents is very real and can be a daunting task.

To that end, DOH has introduced the NYS Evacuation of Facilities in Disasters (eFINDS) system. eFINDS is a multi-agency patient/resident tracking system developed to be used in conjunction with the NYS DOH Health Commerce System (HCS.) The eFINDS electronic tracking system was first designed and used by the Federal government to track wounded soldiers as they transition to health care facilities across the world. The Health Commerce System is a secured internet based repository of information used by the state to communicate with health care providers and vice versa. The eFINDS system would be used during large multi-facility evacuations to track patient/resident movements from their facility of origin to destination facilities and eventually back to their original facility.

By using the eFINDS system via the HCS, all providers authorized to access the HCS system will have the ability to enter data and track patients/residents whereabouts across time. Health care facilities in New York have been issued the eFINDS electronic wristbands and scanners, free of charge. Education regarding use of the system has been made available via webinars on the NYS Learning System.

For more information about Clinical, Quality and Operational Services, contact: Nancy Leveille at nleveille@nyshfa.org or Karen Morris at kmorris@nyshfa.org.
Advancing Excellence Announces It’s Nine New Goals

The National Nursing Home Advancing Excellence Campaign has announced its completion of nine new quality goals and toolkits and featured them on a free, informational webinar on September 10, 2013. The Campaign’s objective is to engage and challenge nursing homes to provide valuable data as well as make quality improvements. It envisions every nursing home resident in America experiencing person-centered quality of life as a result of a stable and empowered workforce, dedicated to improving clinical and organizational outcomes, and engaging in open communication and transparency.

“We are very excited to announce our nine quality goals and free toolkits,” said Dr. David Gifford, MD, MPH, SVP, Quality & Regulatory Affairs, AHCA and Co-Chair, Advancing Excellence Campaign. “This effort demonstrates the Campaign’s ongoing commitment to make nursing homes better places to live, work, and visit.”

More than 60% of the nation’s nursing homes have joined the Campaign. They participate by committing to work on at least one process and one clinical goal. The Campaign aspires to establish national standards and best practices in line with the new CMS Quality Assurance Performance Improvement requirements.

The Advancing Excellence Campaign is supported by 52 Local Area Networks of Excellence (LANEs). These state-level coalitions promote the Campaign and engage nursing homes in performance improvement. The LANEs disseminate Campaign information and resources and organize statewide projects to improve nursing home performance related to Campaign goals.

The nine new quality goals are:

**Process Goals**
- Improving staff stability;
- Increasing use of consistent assignment;
- Increasing person-centered care planning and decision making;
- Safely reducing hospitalizations;

**Clinical Goals**
- Using medications appropriately;
- Increasing resident mobility;
- Preventing and managing infections safely;
- Reducing the prevalence of pressure ulcers; and
- Decreasing symptoms of pain.

“These nine new quality goals, along with their toolkits, were developed by many of the most esteemed experts in their fields,” commented Cheryl Phillips, MD, SVP, Advocacy, LeadingAge and Co-Chair, Advancing Excellence Campaign. “The unprecedented collaboration behind Advancing Excellence is what makes such impressive, meaningful impact possible.”

Free resources, including implementation tools correlating to each goal, are available at www.nhqualitycampaign.org.
Over 240 Hospital, Nursing Home and Home Care professional staff came together on Tuesday September 17, 2013, for a full day of education and networking on the statewide Gold STAMP program to prevent, treat and reduce pressure ulcers. This event featured the experiences of the Gold STAMP collaboratives and their coaches from across New York State. Lessons learned from both our NYS Health Foundation and the NYSDOH Medicaid Redesign Team grant funded projects were shared along with the resources and strategies these cross-setting teams have implemented to achieve their pressure ulcer improvement goals. The coach-based model used in this project was highlighted as a consistent strength that helped develop the teams, identify their goals and objectives and guide their action plans. The teams then shined as they demonstrated their unity by the development of communications systems across the health continuum; creation of innovative practices such as physician engagement and creating and piloting an ER assessment tool; and sharing of resources, protocols and expertise within and among the statewide collaboratives.

Dr. Nirav Shah, MD, MPH NYS Commissioner of Health, NYS Department of Health, welcomed the participants via a video presentation and acknowledged the positive work of the collaboratives and their successful reduction of pressure ulcers in NYS over the last couple years.

Alice Bonner, PhD, RN former Deputy Regional Administrator, Northeast Division of Quality Improvement and Survey and Certification, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services was the keynote speaker. She set the stage with her focus on how leadership and collaboration are the keys to success in providing excellence in care to individuals who transition across the health continuum.

The Gold STAMP Conference was presented in partnership with NYS Department of Health, NYS Health Foundation, the Foundation for Quality Care, Continuing Care Leadership Coalition (CCLC), Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS), LeadingAge New York, New York State Health Facilities Association (NYSHFA), Krasnoff Quality Management Institute of North Shore LIJ, Island Peer Review Organization (IPRO), UAlbany School of Public Health and Greater New York Hospital Association.

The Gold STAMP program continues to recruit new groups of professionals who are interested in becoming a collaborative. For more information on the Gold STAMP program, contact Nancy Leveille, RN, MS, Sr. Director Member Operational Support, NYSHFA and Gold STAMP Project Director for the NYS Health Foundation sponsored grant at nleveille@nyshfa.org.
Shown are Nancy Leveille (L), Jackie Pappalardi, NYSDOH (R) and Alice Bonner, Key Note Presenter (C)

Gayle Farman and Brian Byrd, Project Office, NYS Health Foundation

Collaborative Panel

A Poster Session was held at the conference

The Coach Panel, shown (L-R): Mary Gracey White, Deb LeBarron, Barbara Bates and Kathryn Santos

Jackie Pappalardi, Morris Tenenbaum, FQC Board President and Nancy Leveille
DISTRICT 8 MEETS ON THE “HIGH SEAS”

Well, maybe not exactly the “high seas”, but District 8 members did hold their latest meeting on August 30 on beautiful Cayuga Lake aboard the M/V Columbia. District 8 President Denise Johnson came up with the idea of a lunch cruise to encourage district members to “meet and greet” stating, “There have been many changes of Administrators in our district and I hoped this would be an opportunity to come together and get to know one another.” Several important issues were discussed during the meeting including assignments to many committees. District 8 members have always been very active committee members and there was much interest by new members regarding joining committees. Ms. Johnson also expressed how important the district structure is to NYSHFA and her participation on the Board of Directors.

NYSHFA staff, and District 8 liaison, Karen Morris attended the meeting and gave the group an update on all the new initiatives that are currently taking place, such as the DOH electronic patient tracking system (efINDS); the DOH electronic plan of correction system (ePOC); new smoking regulations that will take effect in October; ISTOP (the system for tracking over prescribing of controlled substances) which went into effect on Aug 27th; and the Flu Mask Regulation will that go into effect this flu season requiring unvaccinated employees to wear masks. The group brainstormed some ideas on how to increase their employee immunization rates.

All District 8 members are encouraged to attend district meetings and contact Denise Johnson or Karen Morris with any questions or concerns regarding their district.

Shown left to right are: Ramona Gonzales, Kate Conant, Karen Morris (NYSHFA District 8 liaison), Denise Johnson (District 8 President), The Captain, Tammy Henning, Danielle Zastawny (District 8 Secretary), and John Alvarez.

CONGRESSMAN GIBSON VISITS WINGATE AT ULSTER

Congressman Chris Gibson, 19th District joined members of the American Legion, VFW and Leatherhead Veterans groups in raising a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol Building in honor of the veterans who live and work at Wingate At Ulster. The flag raising on the newly installed flag pole was attended by Dick Herrick, President and CEO, NYSHFA/NYSCAL; Wingate Healthcare Director of Operations Ed Blake, and family and friends of the 15 veterans honored during the ceremony on August 27th at Wingate At Ulster in Highland, NY.
The Capital Living Nursing and Rehabilitation Centre thanks the following residents for their participation in the ribbon cutting: Paula Capullo, Eunice Hulick, Irene Reichel, and Walter Melanson.

The Capital Living and Rehabilitation Centres held a ribbon cutting ceremony on August 22, 2013 at the grand opening of their new facility, The Capital Living Nursing and Rehabilitation Centre in Schenectady, NY. This new facility replaces The Avenue and The Dutch Manor. The event was attended by many local officials, including Charles Steiner, CCE, President and CEO of The Chamber of Schenectady County; Courtney Burke, Deputy Secretary for Health, NYS; Honorable Gary McCarthy, Mayor, City of Schenectady; and Ray Gillen, Commissioner of Economic Development, Schenectady County.

Patrick Martone, CFO of Capital Living and Rehabilitation Centres, stated “The Capital Living and Rehabilitation Centres family truly appreciate you sharing this exciting milestone with us. We are so grateful to our community, our team, our residents, our families and our friends for the support shown to us during the planning and construction of our new facility. We are tremendously proud and honored to serve the communities where our facilities are located and will continue to uphold our tradition of excellence. As we celebrate our tenth anniversary as a company, we thank you for attending this event and look forward to more wonderful things to come.”

As part of the facility’s ongoing efforts to be prepared for emergencies, Terrace Healthcare Center in the Bronx held an Internal Disaster Drill, simulating the need for a vertical evacuation of non-ambulatory residents with no working elevators. MED SLED representative Chis Moore instructed facility staff who responded to a STAT call on the use of the MED SLED. Mary Jane Blaney, RN, Director of Resident Care Services at the facility, volunteered to be safely transported down multiple levels of the stairwell by other facility staff in the training exercise. The facility staff who participated were hands on during this event and realize the importance of the ability to be able to safely evacuate residents without having to rely on outside assistance, if it was not readily available. Staff and residents at Terrace were enthusiastic and appreciative of the training and the facility’s preparedness initiatives.
Leadership Institute Graduates
Two Nurse Educator Classes

This year the Foundation for Quality Care Leadership Institute graduated two Nurse Educator classes. Through funding from the New York State Departments of Health and Labor - Health Workforce Retraining Initiative, NYSHPA staff conducted the classes at SUNY Institute of Technology Utica. The four day course includes researching literature using SUNY's extensive library resources, classroom lecture on the principles of adult learning and curriculum design and a practicum in which the students design a learning module and present it to their fellow classmates. This Nurse Educator course is a credit bearing college course through SUNY IT and is approved by the NYSDOH to meet the requirements for the “Train the Trainer” to qualify staff to teach the Nurse Aide Certification course in their facilities. We are proud to present our 2013 graduates:

**Graduated in June 2013:**

- Quinta Borys, Homestead at Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hospital SNF
- Bobbi Jo Clark, Autumn View Health Care Facility
- Dorette Cummings, Warburg Nursing Home
- Alex DiTaranto, The Capital Living Nursing & Rehabilitation Centre
- Theresa Elwood, St. Johnsville Rehab & Nursing Ctr Inc.
- Teresa Goettel, James Square Health & Rehab Centre
- Peggy Hull, The Crossings Nursing and Rehab Centre
- Terry Jaster, Absolut Ctr for Nursing & Rehab at Orchard Park
- Tracy Miconi, Lakeside Health Systems
- Michele Niedziela, Harris Hill Nursing Facility
- Cheryl Pickert, Cortland Park Rehab & Nursing Ctr
- Jean Ploutz, Vestal Park Rehab & Nursing Ctr
- Judi Tuttle, Highlands Living Center
- Amber VanEtten, Robinson Terrace
- Sandra Young, St. John’s Health Care Corp.

**Graduated in August 2013:**

- Edna Agrinsoni, Bronx Center for Rehab. and Healthcare
- Surinder Arora, San Simeon By The Sound Inc.
- Donna Bolante, Northern Riverview Health Care Center Inc.
- Lennox Carroll, Bushwick Center for Rehab and Health Care
- Eileen Davis, Beacon Rehab.
- Elena Green, Fulton County RHCF
- Sandra Greiner, Clifton Springs Hosp, Nursing Home & Clinic Ext. Care
- Gayathri Haas, New York State Veterans’ Home at Montrose
- Christine Marquez-Gomez, Rego Park Health Care
- Carole Morgan, Coney Island Hospital
- Suleika Nunez, Bronx Center for Rehab. and Healthcare
- June Paley, Ozanam Hall Of Queens Nursing Home Inc.
- Lee Pomeroy, Cayuga Ridge Extended Care
- Theresa Shalley-Russo, Ozanam Hall Of Queens Nursing Home Inc.
- Valicity Spaulding, Palatine Nursing Home
- Kathleen Stephenson-Cobb, Schuyler Ridge RHCF
- Eva White, Capstone Center for Rehab & Nursing
- Loretta Yeamans, Carillon Nursing and Rehab. Center

May-June 2013 Participants

July-August 2013 Participants
Get Ready to Recognize Your Employees and Volunteers!

NYSFA/NYSICAL invites our members to submit nominations for the 2014 awards programs. To help you plan, we are providing the following timeline for when the Association will be soliciting nominations. Further information with the eligibility criteria, exact deadlines and the nomination forms will be sent in the member mailings and posted on the NYSFA website. In addition, hard copies of the nomination forms will be mailed to every member facility. To see highlights of the 2013 winners, go to http://www.nysfa.org and click on Awards.

October 2013

Innovative Practice Awards
The Innovative Practice Awards Program honors exemplary innovative practices in NYSFA/NYSICAL member skilled nursing and assisted living facilities. The recipients of the Innovative Practice Awards will be honored at the Association’s Annual Convention in June and receive a plaque for their facility. The Innovative Practices will also be presented at a panel discussion during the convention. In an effort to share as many innovative practices with our members as possible, all entries will be summarized and published in a member mailing.

November 2013

Employee Recognition Program
The Employee Recognition Awards Program honors individuals for their outstanding contributions to NYSFA member skilled nursing facilities. Awards will be given in the following categories: Registered Nurse of the Year, Licensed Practical Nurse of the Year, Certified Nursing Assistant of the Year, and Heart and Hands Award (Non-nursing/Non-managerial Staff). Winners will be honored at the Association’s Annual Convention in June and will receive a trophy and check for $250.

Ruth E. Stafford and James D. Durante Nurse Scholarship Awards
The Ruth E. Stafford and James D. Durante Nursing Scholarships assist staff currently working in skilled nursing facilities in pursuing education to become an LPN, RN; pursuing an advanced degree as an RN; and RNs pursuing certification as a geriatric nurse or wound management nurse. The Foundation for Quality Care administers this program. Recipients will be presented with their awards at the Annual Nurse Leadership Conference. The number of Scholarships and amounts to be announced in the near future.

December 2013

NYSFA Volunteer of the Year Awards
The annual Volunteer of the Year awards program recognizes outstanding volunteers serving in NYSFA member skilled nursing facilities. Awards will be given in the following five categories: Young Adult, Adult, Senior Adult, Group, and Spiritual Guidance. Each state winner will receive an engraved obelisk and will be honored at the Association’s Annual Convention in June.

January 2014

NYSICAL Awards Programs
NYSICAL will be offering the following Awards Programs for Assisted Living members: Administrator of the Year, Assisted Living Nurse of the Year, National Assisted Living Week Programming Award, Noble Caregiver in Assisted Living, NYSICAL Scholarship Award and Assisted Living Volunteer of the Year. The winners will be honored at the Association’s Annual Convention in June and will be our nominees for the National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL) awards.

NYSFA Scholarship Awards
NYSFA sponsors a Scholarship program, in collaboration with the NYSFA districts, to provide financial help to employees of NYSFA member skilled nursing facilities. Recipients receive a $750 Scholarship. Educational programs must be strictly related to the applicant’s health care career. The deadline for districts to submit their scholarships to NYSFA is September 30.

Ellen Bagley Marks 20 Years With NYSFA

Ellen Bagley, NYSFA’s Director of Information Technology, was recognized for her 20 year anniversary with NYSFA at the Board of Directors meeting in Cooperstown, NY on September 11. She is congratulated by Greg Chambery (left), NYSFA Chair and Dick Herrick (right), NYSFA President and CEO.
Medical Malpractice Case

Medical Malpractice Verdict

Issued in Erie County

$2.7 million malpractice verdict highlights mistakes

January 14, 2011

$1.4 Million Malpractice Award

$2.7 million malpractice verdict highlights mistakes

Having a Bad Day?

Look to PRI, your valued partner for medical professional liability in New York State

Physicians’ Reciprocal Insurers

1800 Northern Boulevard • Roslyn, NY 11576
1200C Scottsville Road • Suite 195
Rochester, NY 14624
1-800-632-6040 • www.pri.com

Jeanne H. Braun
Executive Vice President
Department of Hospitals and Special Programs
Email: j.braun@medmal.com
Phone: 516-277-4003