



Chapter Newsletter

Florida Chapter of American College of Health Care
Administrators

September 2011

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National Events

18th Annual Winter Marketplace
December 9 -11, 2011
Bally's Las Vegas

46th Annual Convocation and
Exposition
May 4 - 8, 2012
Nashville, TN

Chapter Officers

President: D. Bruce Jones

Vice President: John Lyncheski

Secretary: Kathy Hawk Gutch

Treasurer: Beth Wood

Contact

info@flachca.org

www.flachca.org

Message from the Chapter President

Welcome to the first newsletter of the newly revitalized Florida Chapter of ACHCA. The officers of the chapter are excited to serve you and bring even more value to your membership in the College.

The mission of the College reads, "The American College of Health Care Administrators (ACHCA) aspires to be a leading force in promoting excellence in leadership among long-term care administrators." The Florida Chapter seeks to align activities with the mission of the College.

In the coming year, the Florida Chapter will provide activities and information that help you **connect** with other professionals, **learn** about your profession, **advance** to Fellow status, **actualize** your commitment to the profession through certification and **lead** as someone who wants to provide the best in care and services.



Learn: Consider attending the Best Care Practices conference October 20-23 at Disney's Grand Floridian in Orlando! Click the icon above for more information.

Upon completion of the conference, participants should be able to:

1. Discuss the professional challenges facing medical directors, attending physicians, administrators, nurse practitioners, and consultant pharmacists practicing in the continuum.
2. Describe the advances in theoretical and clinical knowledge impacting individuals affected by medical issues in the long-term care continuum.
3. Discuss the current and emerging national issues and public policy efforts of AMDA, AGS, and GAPNA.
4. Describe examples of evidence-based practice and multidisciplinary approaches to enhance outcomes in various health care settings.
5. Review the facts and current strategies which are successful in reducing avoidable hospital readmissions from skilled nursing facilities.
6. Describe examples of evidence-based practice as it pertains to long-term care medicine.

Get Involved

Lead: Are you interested in getting involved with the Florida Chapter of the American College of Health Care Administrators? We are looking for members who would like to help with hosting events, writing articles, mentoring and leadership as an officer of the chapter. If you would be interested in increasing your involvement, please contact us at info@flachca.org.

Are you on Facebook?

Connect: The Florida Chapter of ACHCA is on Facebook and would like you to join the group! It is currently only open to members of the College and Florida licensed administrators. We would like to use the page to start dialogue, provide resources and network, so join in and get the conversation going! Search Florida Chapter, American College of Health Care Administrators and request to be admitted to the group.

Useful Links

Provide quick access to websites that are important to your members. Just use a hyperlink to direct them to the right places.

[Florida Chapter Website](#)

[ACHCA National Website](#)

[Register for Winter Marketplace](#)

[Follow ACHCA on Twitter](#)

Chapter News

At the Annual Meeting of the chapter last month, a vote was taken on the slate of officers and approved by motion. While the officers themselves did not change, the offices of President and Treasurer switched places. The officers are:

President:	D. Bruce Jones, Director of Health Services, Vicar's Landing, Ponte Vedra Beach
Vice President:	John Lyncheski, Director, Cohen & Grigsby, Bonita Springs
Secretary:	Katherine Hawk Gutch, NHA, Homosassa
Treasurer:	Elizabeth Wood, NHA (retired), Brooksville
Director:	Brian Robare, Executive Director, Estates at Carpenters, Lakeland
Director:	Ian Cordes, Executive Director, Florida Medical Director's Association, West Palm Beach
Director:	Matthew Thompson, Administrator, The Manor and Villa at Carpenters, Lakeland

Positivity

Positive thinking is an action. It is a decision. It can lead to a decrease in stress and anxiety. It can change your health and your relationships. It can also change the person you are into who you want to be. The outcomes in your life are a direct result of the decisions you make, so why not make great, positive decisions? Do you want something else in life? Try the exercise below for a month and see what happens. The exercise comes from www.positive-thinking-principles.com.

"Go straight to being who you want to be. Do this by first contemplating what you would be like if you had what you so badly desire. Then be it now! Fake it till you make it. This is the process of creation and will help you manifest your desires much more quickly. In other words, make up your mind to do something or act a certain way and just do it. Tell your desire to a few other people and have them agree to hold you accountable."

There may be challenges along the way, but as Winston Churchill said, "The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."

Actualize: Certification

Professional Certification verifies to the public that administrators are highly skilled and possess the knowledge needed to strive toward excellence in organizational leadership. When compared to non-certified administrators, ACHCA certified administrators oversee facilities with: **Higher Quality of Care, Fewer Deficiencies, Higher Medicare & Private Pay Mix, Residents with Greater Functional Dependency**

What is Certification?

Professional certification is the formal process by which a certifying agency, such as the American College of Health Care Administrators (ACHCA) validates an administrative leader's knowledge, skills, and abilities in a specialty area of practice such as nursing home (CNHA) or assisted living administration (CALA). Both of ACHCA's certification exams include two levels of testing: generalist LTC and specialty practice exams. Both the CNHA and CALA have unique eligibility requirements (to read the requirements, visit www.achca.org and click on certifications to access the

handbook).

The Value of Certification

Professional certification validates specialized knowledge, indicates professional growth, and enhances professional credibility as well as providing intrinsic rewards of personal satisfaction and accomplishment. Certified administrators have reported in the ACHCA member satisfaction survey an increased access to job-related authority and better professional opportunities in their workplace. Furthermore, the recognition of administrators' knowledge and expertise is associated with feelings of empowerment.

Finally, in some LTC settings, professional certification may result in higher salaries and benefits.

Marianna Grachek, President and CEO of the American College of Health Care Administrators, states: *"Professional Certification provides administrators with a strong foundation to practice administration in LTC. This knowledge base allows administrators to provide valuable comprehensive input into every aspect of organizational management. Professionally certified administrators are valuable resource to everyone on the LTC team."*

News from National

ACHCA membership rates are changing October 1st! Individuals who are interested in joining ACHCA, and current ACHCA members who are due for renewal should submit their applications and payments right away to avoid any membership dues increases or administrative fees. If you have not received your membership renewal notice and think you are due to renew, or have other membership questions, you may contact us at membership@achca.org.

ACHCA is in search of great administrator stories! As part of our golden anniversary celebration in 2012, ACHCA would like to collect your "favorite day in the life of an administrator" story. Collecting our stories in a compilation will give administrators the opportunity to share their joys, challenges and inspirations so that others may be inspired and motivated in their journey of providing leadership excellence in long term care.

Advance: Fellowship in ACHCA

Advancement to Fellow represents the highest level of membership in ACHCA. It is the recognition of professional achievement and continuous adherence to the ethical and professional standards of ACHCA. Fellowship requires a record of active participation in fulfilling the professional and educational requirements of ACHCA, suitable formal education, professional, civic and community activities, and at least two years of voting membership.

Taking this important step in your career development will move you toward a major professional achievement - one that will bring the recognition of colleagues, peers, and leaders in the field as well as residents and their families.

Please contact the national office, at **(202) 536-5120** or email education@achca.org if you have any questions about advancement to ACHCA Fellow.