2008 Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant to be Held Tuesday, August 5th
Preliminary Judges Choose Top Ten Finalists for 2008 Ms. Alabama Nursing Home
This week preliminary judges reviewed all of the information of the 70 contestants and announced the top ten contestants in this year’s pageant:

Ms. Canterbury Health Care  Ms. Crowne Health Care of Eufaula  Ms. Glenwood Rehab & Convalescent Center  Ms. Hanceville Nursing & Rehab  Ms. Henry County Health & Rehab  Ms. Roanoke Healthcare Center  Ms. SunBridge Care & Rehab for Gardendale  Ms. Talladega Healthcare Center Rehab Select  Ms. Thomasville Nursing Home  Ms. Woodland Village Nursing Home

Lisa Strickland  Nora Wiggins  Luddie Harcrow  Oma Ruth Reese  Frances Elizabeth Culpepper White  Trina Ward  Miriam Sampson  Estelle Gurley  Sue Mouring  Marie Bullock

Congratulations to all 70 contestants in this year’s pageant. All contestants will receive a flower corsage, a bag full of goodies and an engraved silver frame noting their participation in this special event. All of our contestants are encouraged to attend the pageant. We are planning a slide show highlighting all of the contestants in this year’s pageant. We look forward to seeing all 70 ladies. The 2008 Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant will be held on Tuesday, August 5, 2008, at the Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham, Alabama. The pageant will begin at 2:00 p.m. This is a wonderful event and we encourage everyone to attend.

Alabama Facilities Receive AHCA Step I Quality Awards
Eight Alabama nursing homes have received the AHCA/NCAL Step I Quality Award! This prestigious award is given to facilities that demonstrate excellence and commitment to quality. To receive the award, a facility must demonstrate that it understands the core values and concepts of quality, and that it can see the relationship between their organization’s characteristics, key challenges, and performance measurements, and the ability to achieve performance improvement. Step I award recipients have not received survey deficiencies at the Substandard Quality of Care or Immediate Jeopardy level for the three years prior to receiving the award.
Alabama’s seven award recipients are:
Capitol Hill Healthcare Center & Rehab First
Golden LivingCenter Hueytown
Golden LivingCenter Meadowood
Golden LivingCenter Oneonta
Hartford Health Care
Lynwood Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center
Mitchell-Hollingsworth Nursing & Rehab Center
Windsor House

Step I Award recipients will be recognized, celebrated and congratulated at the AHCA/NCAL convention in Nashville, Tennessee, October 5-8. Congratulations to the staff of each of these nursing homes for this outstanding achievement!

Three Great Reasons to Attend the 2008 Best Practices Conference
1. Over 100 CNAs will be recognized for their contributions to long-term care
2. Eight nursing homes will present their Best Practice live on stage
3. Several facilities will have display exhibits with information on their Best Practice

Don’t miss out on this exciting and educational event! Registration is now open for the 2008 Best Practices Presentation and Awards Conference to be held on August 14, 2008, at the Cahaba Grand Conference Center in Birmingham. Registration forms must be postmarked by today, August 1, 2008. Six (6) hours of continuing education credit will be offered for nursing home administrators, assisted living facility administrators, social workers, activity professionals and certified risk managers. Nurses will be offered 7.2 contact hours (Provider #ABNP0151 Expires 3/12/09). Please see the attached/enclosed registration form for more details regarding this event.

ANHA 2008 Annual Convention & Trade Show Exposition
Join ANHA as we present the ANHA 2008 Annual Convention and Trade Show Exposition on September 22nd – 25th, 2008, at The Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham. This year’s convention is packed with great educational offerings for all nursing home personnel. During the convention, we will hold our Annual General Business Session and officers will be elected for 2009. Continuing education will be offered for nursing home administrators, assisted living facility administrators, nurses, social workers and certified risk managers. An added feature is a silent and live auction to help raise money for the ANHA Education Foundation. Please watch for more details to come in the coming weeks.

Woodland Village Health Care Center Receives Deficiency Free Survey!
Woodland Village Health Care Center recently received a deficiency free health survey. Cindy Lewis is the Administrator, and Cathy James is the Director of Nursing. Ms. Lewis serves as ANHA Region I Director. The facility is located in Cullman and is owned by the USA Healthcare. Congratulations to the staff of Woodland Village Health Care Center on this outstanding accomplishment!
**REGULATORY NEWS**

**Revised Quality Assurance Policy**
The Alabama Department of Public Health has made some revisions to their Quality Assurance Process. *Please see the enclosed document for a copy of the new policy.*

**FY 2009 SNF Medicare Final Payment Rule Released - Administration Rescinds $770 Million Cut!**
On July 31st, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released its Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) Prospective Payment System (PPS) Final Rule for Fiscal Year 2009. We are pleased to report that CMS pulled back its originally proposed 3.3% reduction in SNF payment rates. This reversal in Administration policy ensures that SNFs will not lose the estimated $770 million in Medicare funding that CMS proposed with its so-called "forecast error adjustment" in May. The final payment rule also includes a market basket increase of 3.4% for next year - estimated to equal $780 million in increase payments for SNF Medicare services. The net fiscal impact of the rule is estimated to equal a payment increase of approximately $11 per patient per day.

As was the case in the proposed rule, the final rule does not address case-mix index changes resulting from the Staff Time and Resource Intensity Verification (STRIVE) Project. The new payment rates will take effect on October 1, 2008.

This significant decision to rescind the forecast error adjustment comes after two months of intense work and effort from the American Health Care Association (AHCA) and its members. Through extensive research, grassroots, lobbying, and public relations efforts, significant support was built in Congress that convinced the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and CMS to re-think the proposed cut. Congressional champions Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Senate Majority Whip Jon Kyl (R-AZ) as well as Senators Kent Conrad (D-ND), Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) and Norm Coleman (R-MN) and Representatives Shelley Berkley (D-NV), Earl Pomeroy (D-ND), and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) - rallied the support with nearly half of the U.S. Senate and over 110 Members of the House of Representatives, urging CMS to "stop the cut" — and the Administration listened. This exceptional coordinated effort demonstrates how together, we can affect considerable change in our nation's capital.

**EDUCATION NEWS**

**Revised Surveyor Guidance for Nutrition and Sanitary Conditions in Nursing Homes – August 18th**
Join ANHA as we present “Revised Surveyor Guidelines for Nutrition and Sanitary Conditions in Nursing Homes.” The seminar will be held on August 18th at The Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham and will be a joint training session for nursing home staff and state surveyors.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has revised the guidance and survey protocol for nutrition and sanitary conditions (F325 and F371). This is the most significant
change in nutrition and sanitation requirements since OBRA was introduced in 1990, and it will have a profound impact on the way dietary services are surveyed in the future.

By the end of this seminar, participants will be able to:

1. Become familiar with the revised guidance for the nutrition and sanitary requirements.
2. Gain an understanding of the investigative protocol and the survey agency’s responsibility in determining compliance with the nutrition and sanitary requirements.
3. Gain an understanding of the assessment, care planning and interventions related to nutrition and sanitary conditions for nursing home residents.
4. Gain an understanding of the deficiency categorization for the determination of the correct level of severity of outcome to residents from deficiencies found at F325 and F371.

Mrs. Carol Bush and Mr. Chris Bowers will be the speakers. This program has been approved for 3 hours of CEU credits by the Alabama Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators and the Alabama Board of Social Work Examiners (Provider #0012). It has also been approved for 3.6 contact hours of continuing education by the Alabama Board of Nursing (ABNP0151 expires 3/12/2009). This seminar has been submitted to the Certifying Board for Dietary Managers and the Commission on Dietetic Registration for 3 hours. Please see the enclosed brochure for more details regarding this event.

OTHER NEWS

Nurse Aide Abuse Registry
Please note that the following individuals have been placed on the Alabama Nurse Aide Abuse and/or Sanction Registry effective 7/29/2008. These individuals are prohibited from working in any long-term care facility. To check nurse aides, you can use the nurse aide web site at www.adph.org (Click on Contents A-Z - located in the dark blue at the top of the screen - then Click on Nurse Aide Registry - then Click in the white box and type in the Social Security Number of the person you are trying to find. Be sure and include the dashes in the SSN.)

Name
Bradshaw, Cleve  Gifford, Gwendolyn
Holcombe, Gail    Hollis, Yvette
Wills, Margaret

My InnerView Satisfaction Survey Process
ANHA is again going to pay for your facility’s participation in the My Interview satisfaction survey process, and we encourage you to participate. The survey will take place in September except for Alliance members that were surveyed in the spring. The timeline is a little different than in the past, and here are things you can be doing now:

• Complete/update your entire facility profile by going to www.myinnerview.com, click on Log In and enter the user name/password. On the Home page, click on Organization Editor and then review the information to ensure the facility information is accurate. If changes need to be made, click on the Edit button in the lower right of the screen and make changes. Click on Submit to save the changes. Capitalize and spell information exactly as you want it.
on surveys. The employee count should include full-time and part-time employees. Please provide an accurate count.

- Submit mailing addresses for all family members and/or capable residents. You know your residents best. Use your insight to determine which residents are able to complete a survey or choose a family member/appropriate person to provide feedback for those who cannot complete the survey. It is critical to provide accurate names and complete mailing addresses for family members/others. Go to www.myinnerview.com, click on Log In and enter your user name/password. On the home page go to "Pre-Survey Toolkit" and click OPEN. Scroll down to Submitting Customer Addresses. Use the appropriate Address Collection Sheet. Review the instructions on how to complete the spreadsheet. Email the address collection as an attachment to surveys@myinnerview.com.

We will keep you apprised of steps along the way as we prepare for surveying in September. If you have questions, contact John Matson at ANHA at (334) 271-6214 or jmatson@anha.org.

**My InnerView Offering Webinars on Enhanced Reporting System**

My InnerView is offering Webinars in August to demonstrate recent enhancements to the online satisfaction reporting system. The Webinar session will include new report views and how to generate reports, enhanced benchmarking options and how to view comments. Pre-registration is not required, but you will need to use the access information below.

**My InnerView Webinar Schedule:**

- Thursday, August 7 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
- Thursday, August 14 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
- Thursday, August 21 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
- Thursday, August 28 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

**Prior to the Webinar:**

It is important that all participants be prepared to access ReadyTalk prior to the start of the Webinar. Go to www.readytalk.com. Below “Join a Meeting,” click on “Browser Check.” You should see two green lights. If you do not, click on Help and see “How to Prepare Computer.” Your computer must also be FLASH enabled.

**For Webinar Access:**

1. Go to www.readytalk.com using your Internet Explorer Web browser
2. In the “Join a Meeting” field, enter access code 8482031 and click “join”
3. Complete participant information and click “submit”
4. Dial 1-888-296-6500 for the telephone conference line and enter access code 808494

For questions or technical assistance prior to the Webinar, contact My InnerView at (715) 848-2713.

**AHCA/NCAL 59th Annual Convention & Expo**

The AHCA/NCAL 59th Annual Convention and Expo will be held October 5-8, 2008, at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, TN. This year’s convention and expo presents a comprehensive package of educational offerings, inspirational speakers, numerous networking opportunities, an extensive expo hall and a great deal of fun, all under one roof. By attending, long term care professionals will receive valuable tools to re-energize and strengthen their commitment to quality care while earning continuing education units.
There are three ways to register:

- **Online:** [www.ahcaconvention.org](http://www.ahcaconvention.org) – online registration and download forms
- **Fax:** Download and complete your registration and housing forms. Fax with your credit card information to (415) 979–2276.
- **Mail:** Download and complete your registration and housing forms. Mail the completed forms with your credit card information to: AHCA/NCAL Registration, c/o Convention Management Resources, 33 New Montgomery, Suite 1420, San Francisco, CA  94105.

*Early room reservations are encouraged.*

---

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 5th</td>
<td>Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant</td>
<td>Wynfrey Hotel</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 7th</td>
<td>ANHA Region VIII Election &amp; Customer Service Seminar</td>
<td>Enterprise Health &amp; Rehab</td>
<td>2:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RSVP by August 1st: Sal.Lee Sasser: (334) 222-2133</td>
<td>Enterprise</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 7th</td>
<td>ANHA Region I Meeting</td>
<td>Ricatoni’s Italian Grill</td>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RSVP: Cindy Lewis (256) 739-1430</td>
<td>107 N. Court Street</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Guest Speaker: ANHA Assoc. Exec.</td>
<td>Florence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried</td>
<td>Topic: ANHA Projects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 14th</td>
<td>2008 Alabama Best Practices Presentations &amp; Awards Conference</td>
<td>Cahaba Grand Conf. Center</td>
<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 18th</td>
<td>ANHA Seminar “Revised Surveyor Guidance for Nutrition and Sanitary Conditions in Nursing Homes”</td>
<td>Wynfrey Hotel – Ballrooms</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 18th</td>
<td>ANHA Facility Standards Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Wynfrey Hotel – Ballrooms</td>
<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 21st</td>
<td>ANHA Executive Board Meeting</td>
<td>ANHA Office</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Alabama Nursing Home Association**

4156 Carmichael Road ◆ Montgomery, AL 36106◆ PH: (334) 271-6214◆ FAX: (334) 244-6509

**WEB SITES:**

Alabama Nursing Home Association [http://www.anha.org](http://www.anha.org)
AL Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators [http://www.alboenha.state.al.us](http://www.alboenha.state.al.us)
AL Dept. of Public Health [http://www.adph.org](http://www.adph.org)