



Boards being installed
at the 2008 Annual
Meeting at King's
Bridge Retirement
Center



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Aging Services of Georgia is the statewide association of over 150 key not-for-profit and other mission-focused organizations dedicated to providing quality housing, health care, community based and other related services for older Georgians. The mission of Aging Services of Georgia is to represent and promote the common interests of its members through leadership, advocacy, education and other services in order to enhance each member's ability to serve older Georgians

Inside Aging Services of Georgia News from the Staff

Happy Holidays



The Board of Directors of Aging Services of Georgia and the Georgia Institute on Aging, along with staff, wish each of you a joyful and peaceful holiday season –

2009 is around the corner! Watch for –

- Upcoming events the first quarter of 2009!

- Dues invoices for 2009 will be sent to you in December. (Please note they are due January 31st as that is when our first payments are due to AAHSA)

-In the January Coffey-Break, there will be a list of opportunities to participate in the Association – we hope you will see a way you can be involved!

Record attendance at Annual Business Meeting

The new officers and board member class of 2011 were installed at the meeting.

Vacancy Report

Career Opportunities

AAHSA Information

Website Notes,
Computer Tips and
ListSers



GIA Partners



Ziegler Capital
Markets Group



Occupied
Renovations



Cornerstone
Senior Living



Moore Stephens
Lovelace, P.A.



GIA Supporters



Mauldin & Jenkins



Aging Services of Georgia officers:

Joyce O. Wilson, Debra Furtado, Regina Harris, Terry Davis, Tom Rockenbach

Aging Services of Georgia Board Member Class of 2011:

Debra Furtado, Terry Davis, Sherri Godwin, Alan Jordan, David Sprowl, Terri Monroe (2010), Rich Kisner (2009)

Georgia Institute on Aging officers:

Antoinette Sturm, Tom Downs, Jeff Fucito, Barbara Woodhouse, Jeff Bird

Georgia Institute on Aging Board Member Class of 2011:

Tom Downs, Kimberly McGinnis, Jeff Smythe, Moe Miller, Michael Nischan, Greg Capers, John Murphy (2010)

Joyce O. Wilson, The Hellenic Tower in Sandy Springs and **Antoinette Strum**, St. Annes Terrance in Atlanta were installed by **Tom Rockenbach**, Presbyterian Homes of Georgia (Nominating Committee Chair) as the new Chairs of Aging Services of Georgia and Georgia Institute on Aging Boards respectively. (see photo below)



Leadership awards were presented to **Regina Harris** and **Cliff Pepper** for



their service on the Aging Services of Georgia board and **Jean Wright** and **Mickey Solomon** for their service on the Georgia Institute on Aging board. **Jeff Bird**, outgoing chair of the Institute board was presented with the Allison Cuba Champion Award in honor of his exceptional service through the work of the association that ultimately benefits the good of all Aging Services of Georgia members. (see photo below)

LW Consulting, Inc.



GIA Friends

The Law Offices of
Williams & Edelstein

Dixon Hughes

Pfizer



GIA Contributors

HVAC Services

Kings Bridge
Retirement Center

Seth Strongin

Sponsors of the Institute were acknowledged. Sponsors who attended the meeting were **De De Nichols**, Moore Stephens Lovelace and **Mike Harris**, Cornerstone Senior Living (Institute Partners) -- (see photo below)



Antoinette Sturm presenting to **Jeff Fucito**, Mauldin & Jenkins, **Jacque Thornton** presenting to **Sharon Allred**, LW Consulting (Supporters) --(see photo below)

AAHSA
<http://www.aahsa.org>

Keep Up with the Quality
First Program



Terry Davis and **David Sprowl** presented a report as 2 of our 5 representatives to the aahsa house of delegates. The other 3 representatives from Georgia are **Tom Rockenbach**, **Debra Furtado** and

Joyce O. Wilson. Terry announced to association members that **David Sprowl** was elected to serve on the aahsa nominations and awards committee. (see photo below)



GahsaNEXT 2008 grads were presented certificates and gifts from the Institute and LW Consulting. The 2008 gahsaNEXT participants were recognized at the Aging Services of Georgia annual business meeting December 4th. A 2008 Grad shares that:

the program was a very transformative program and encouraged me to examine my strengths as an individual, so I can lead from a position of conscious awareness, instead of coming from my old reactive patterns. By gaining more knowledge about strength-based leadership and developing personal action plans, I am able to turn obstacles into solutions, with less difficulty and feel more comfortable about managing conflicts. One thing I learned that left a great impression on me was that a leader is not just a boss. A leader is defined more by his character that he brings to work, which develops more leaders instead of more followers. Thank you gahsaNEXT for providing a program that helps develop true leaders."



Congratulation to gahsaNEXT 2008 grads!

Belinda Asumda, Philips Tower; **Stacy Bannworth**, Philips Tower; **Ansley Braxton**, Presbyterian Village Athens/Oconee; **Betsy Caldwell**, Lutheran Towers; **Jim Carrier**, Lanier Village Estates; **Ellen Dunn**, Campbell-Stone Apartments, Inc.; **Rodney Fisher**, Canterbury Court; **Tamica Freeman**

Meals on Wheels of Macon/Bibb County; **Belinda Goodman**, Senior Connections; **Lynda Hurd**, Decatur Christian Towers; **Renee Kirlin**, Decatur Christian Towers; **Javonna Latimore**, Meals on Wheels of Macon/Bibb County; **Cheryl League**, Presbyterian Village; **Mimi McGinley**, Good Shepherd Place; **Tonya Richards**, Calvin Court, Inc.; **Patricia Smith**, Senior Connections; **Larry Tatz**, Senior Connections; **Sylvia Washington**, Christian City Sparks Inn; **Karon Winston**, Asbury Harris Epwork Towers

"gahsaNEXT" becomes "AgingServicesNEXT" for 2009



– deadline to participate is January 9th

Aging Services NEXT is designed to provide tools to help develop emerging leaders in our field. Many members have deserving staff that could benefit greatly from participating in this program. Participants in this program can be staff working at any level in the organization. We are planning to have 5 full-day events for this group in 2009. The kick-off event will be Wednesday, February 11, 2009 in Atlanta. We will use principles from Emotional Intelligence as well as other materials/training presented by LW Consulting, to make this experience as meaningful as possible. Each event will include conversations with national experts. For example, we will have a conference call with Michelle Holleran, who is the chair of the new Leadership AAHSA initiative and is one of the leading experts providing individuals with cutting-edge information and tools to become successful leaders. For your convenience, the application and overview are [available here](#).

General Notes of Interest

Community Activities Reduce Rates of Chronic Disease in Older Population

Community-based physical activity programs cost effectively reduce instances of heart disease, stroke and other chronic diseases among residents of those communities, according to a recent report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

With support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, CDC researchers assessed the cost effectiveness of community-based physical activities programs. A reduction in the development of new chronic diseases among the population more than made up for money spent on exercise education and group activities, according to the research.

The most significant benefits were in the reduction of Type 2 diabetes and heart disease. Community activities reduced the rate of new cases by 59-207 cases per 100,000 for diabetes, and 140-476 cases per 100,000 for heart disease, according to the report. [Click here](#) to read the full study that appears online in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine.

Source: McKnights.com Daily Update

Baby Boomers Nix Nursing Homes in Favor of Multi-Generational Housing

Baby Boomers are turning away from nursing homes as an option for their aging parents, as a financial crunch and a flashback to their 60s style has them moving their parents back home to live with them. "I do think boomers have this sense of, 'I'm going to do this better, I'm going to do this different, and even more importantly, I'm going to do this on my own terms,'" said Eleanor Ginzler of the AARP. "A nursing home, which is essentially a medical institution, is the least favorable setting for them. They liked living in communes, for goodness sake, so a multi-generational household is a little bit related to a commune in some respects," she said. "They like the social aspect of it."

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the number of households with three or more generations under one roof increased by 38 percent between 1990 and 2000. Grandparents often come to help raise their young grandchildren, but as the household ages, the younger generations begin caring for the oldest members of the family.

Experts say those years together help build a bond that's much tougher to forge when family members live thousands of miles apart. "There's also that desire, that understanding that families are stronger, generations are stronger if they are closer together, and the benefits, the mutual interdependence and benefits that they all receive when they come under one roof," said Donna Butts, Executive Director of Generations United. Butts says many seniors are also motivated by the current economic climate, as retirement plans become less stable and advances in health care mean they're living longer. "You have an older population that is starting to outlive some of their savings, some of their retirement, some of their really excellent planning," Butts told FOX News.

Builders and developers are also tapping into the trend by catering to families that may not necessarily want to live in the same house, but like the concept of sharing a community. In Arizona, the Verrado community was built with this plan in mind. A number of different housing options are available and a common community center anchors different generations together by providing activities for young and old alike.

Source: Fox News.Com, November 17, 2008, by Shannon Bream

IRS Announces 2009 Standard Mileage Rates

The Internal Revenue Service issued the 2009 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for

business, charitable, medical or moving purposes. Beginning on Jan. 1, 2009, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups, or panel trucks) will be:

- 55 cents per mile for business miles driven
- 24 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations

The new rates for business, medical and moving purposes are slightly lower than rates for the second half of 2008 that were raised by a special adjustment mid-year in response to a spike in gasoline prices. The rate for charitable purposes is set by law and is unchanged from 2008.

The business mileage rate was 50.5 cents in the first half of 2008 and 58.5 cents in the second half. The medical and moving rate was 19 cents in the first half and 27 cents in the second half.

The mileage rates for 2009 reflect generally higher transportation costs compared to a year ago, but the rates also factor in the recent reversal of rising gasoline prices. While gasoline is a significant factor in the mileage rate, other fixed and variable costs, such as depreciation, enter the calculation.

Social Security Administration Announces 5.8 Percent Benefit Increase for 2009

Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for more than 55 million Americans will increase 5.8 percent in 2009, the Social Security Administration announced recently. The 5.8 percent increase is the largest since 1982.

Social Security and SSI benefits increase automatically each year based on the rise in the Bureau of Labor Statistics' *Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers* (CPI-W), from the third quarter of the prior year to the corresponding period of the current year. This year's increase in the CPI-W was 5.8 percent.

The 5.8 percent Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits that over 50 million Social Security beneficiaries receive in January 2009. Increased payments to more than 7 million SSI beneficiaries will begin on December 31.

Some other changes that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$106,800 from \$102,000. Of the estimated 164 million workers who will pay Social Security taxes in 2009, about 11 million will pay higher taxes as a result of the increase in the taxable maximum. [Click here](#) for information about Medicare changes for 2009..

IFAS Releases Four New Tools and Resources for Building a Quality Direct Care Workforce

The Institute for the Future of Aging Services (IFAS) recently developed and sent out four new tools and resources from Better Jobs Better Care (BJBC), the research and demonstration grant program built on the premise that quality in long-term care cannot be achieved without a quality direct care workforce. These resources, also available online, capture BJBC's four years of research findings and lessons learned and are designed to help

providers take on their workforce challenges. BJBC was managed by AAHSA's IFAS and funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Atlantic Philanthropies. Visit the website at www.bjbc.org.

Part D Marketing Materials Fail to Meet Government Guidelines

Eighty-five percent of marketing materials for stand-alone Medicare Part D prescription drug plans fail to meet at least one element of government guidelines, according to [a new report from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Office of Inspector General](#) (OIG).

As part of the Part D program, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) developed Medicare Marketing Guidelines that all plans must meet in developing marketing materials that promote a plan; provide enrollment information; or explain benefits, rules and covered services. Marketing materials include advertisements, comprehensive formularies, enrollment forms, pharmacy directories and summaries of benefits. ([more](#))

Alzheimer's Association Offers New Resources for Caregivers

This November, during National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month and National Family Caregivers Month, the Alzheimer's Association has introduced a new resource for caregivers - the Caregiver Stress Check. Caregiver Stress Check is an interactive quiz that helps caregivers identify their symptoms of stress and provides them with a tailored list of helpful referrals and resources. The caregiver quiz and resources are found at www.alz.org.

AHIMA Provides ROI Guidelines

The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) released an article aimed at helping healthcare providers meet state and federal (e.g., HIPAA) requirements regulating the release of information (ROI), according to a November 12th press release. ([full story](#))

AHIMA Provides ROI Guidelines

The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) released an article aimed at helping healthcare providers meet state and federal (e.g., HIPAA) requirements regulating the release of information (ROI), according to a November 12 press release.

Included in the article, "Management Practices for the Release of Information," published in the November/December issue of Journal of AHIMA are eight ways for covered entities to help stay compliant with ROI rules:

1. Have comprehensive facility-specific procedures that are documented, current and easily accessible to staff members.
2. Provide access to appropriate state and federal regulation references.
3. Hold training programs for new staff members.
4. Continually educate current staff members.
5. Regularly review work ensures staff members meet standards.
6. Compile performance statistics.
7. Provide routine feedback to individual ROI staff members regarding performance criteria.
8. Solicit feedback from requestors.

CDC Releases New Disinfection and Sterilization Guideline

Infection Control Professionals (ICPs) will want to take a look at the CDC's newly released guideline containing recommendations on preferred methods for cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization of patient-care medical devices and for cleaning and disinfecting the healthcare environment.

On November 13th, the CDC published its long-promised *Guideline for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare Facilities, 2008*. This guideline supersedes the relevant sections contained in the 1985 *Guideline for Handwashing and Environmental Control and includes how to best effectively clean instruments before disinfecting them, which disinfectants are appropriate for patient care, and proper steaming techniques*. According to the guideline's executive summary, new topics include:

- Disinfection of patient-care equipment used in ambulatory settings and home care
- Inactivation of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, bioterrorist agents, emerging pathogens, and bloodborne pathogens
- Toxicologic, environmental, and occupational concerns associated with disinfection and sterilization practices
- New sterilization processes, such as hydrogen peroxide gas plasma and liquid peracetic acid
- Disinfection of complex medical instruments (e.g., endoscopes).

[Click here](#) to view the guidelines, which are currently available in PDF format.

Public Policy Updates

Aging Services of Georgia 2008 Public Policy Accomplishments

- Continued to contract with Tom Bauer, Aging Services legislative counsel, to help provide leadership in the public policy arena.
- Provided information of public policy initiatives to Aging Services board members at board meetings
- Provided Aging Services members information on public policy issues through monthly articles in the *Coffey Break*.
- Maintained a strong, diverse, public policy committee with resident membership.
- Established legislative and budgetary priorities in which to focus in 2009.
- Delivered testimony to various General Assembly committees (e.g., House Committee on Certificate of Need, House Relations and Aging, and Senate Health and Human Services) with emphasis on changes needed for CCRCs.

- Met with key legislators and arrived at an agreement with other healthcare groups on reforming some aspects of the CON process as it affects CCRCs.
 - Secured inclusion of above agreement in SB 433, comprehensive CON reform legislation, which passed and was signed into law.
 - Worked with Department of Community Health personnel to interpret provisions of SB 433.
 - Began the discussion and process of initiating legislation to for 2009 to fully legislative intent of the CCRC provisions of SB 433.
 - Continued meeting with CCRC DOI task group and met with and established ongoing dialogue with key Department of Insurance officials.
 - Prepared draft of legislation extensively reforming and modernization of the regulation of CCRCs for consideration in 2009 General Assembly.
 - Participated in Senior Week at the Capitol by hosting GAHSA Day. Seniors and member staff dialogued with legislators.
 - Testified in favor of funding for licensure of adult day centers and actively participated in discussions to oppose diminution of the regulations of adult day program licensure. Worked with ORS on final rules and secured agreement to minimize licensure fees.
 - Monitored legislative issues that would impact members, the residents and clients they serve, throughout the continuum of aging services
-

Business Connection Updates from our Associate Members

From Georgia Medical Care Foundation

Georgia Medical Care Foundation (GMCF) entered a new contract with CMS on August 1, 2008 to improve prevention of pressure ulcers in hospitals and nursing homes and to reduce physical restraints in nursing homes. Utilization of "cross setting" collaboration is a practice which originated four years ago. Members of the Aging Services of Georgia have participated in a cross setting collaborative groups which include hospitals, nursing homes and other service providers like home health, dialysis and transportation vendors who share patients. The service providers meet together to work out win-win situations. Typically first meetings of the group include identification of:

- Barriers to preventing pressure ulcers in each setting.
- Communication barriers experienced between providers.

- Ways to increase communication when a person is moving from one setting to another.
- Who should be at the table to give insight and facilitate changes.

Team building is a major focus. Every person who touches a patient/resident is a part of the team including the patient/resident/family. Usually patients/residents and families do not attend the cross setting meetings but their input is valuable as the collaboration grows. Important questions to ask residents/patients/families before attending the first cross setting meeting are:

- What was good about your transfer?
- What would you change about a transfer experience?
- What activities/habits from home made your hospital (nursing home experience) more difficult? An example is sitting in a recliner without moving for long periods of time.
- What was the best part of being in the hospital?

[\(more\)](#)

From Michael Nischan, The McCart Group: New Transportation Guidelines for Commercial Drivers:

You have heard about this for a while – and now the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has taken new steps toward improving standards and setting uniform requirements for medical examiners, while finalizing a streamlined process for combining the commercial drivers license (CDL) and medical certificate records for commercial truck and bus drivers.

FMCSA issued a final rule that will require states to merge the commercial driver's license (CDL) and the driver's medical examination certificate into a single electronic record. When fully implemented, the new combined CDL will streamline recordkeeping obligations for states and CDL holders, while providing instant electronic access to the CDL holder's medical certificate by enforcement officials. The rule also requires states to take enforcement actions against CDL holders if they do not provide medical certification status information within the deadline.

If you have ever doubted if the physician you are using is following procedures, the requirements are clarified in the new [Medical Examiner's Handbook](#). The handbook provides information and guidance to the medical examiner who performs the commercial driver medical examination.

FMCSA also issued a related rulemaking that would establish a National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners to ensure that physical qualification examinations of CDL holders are performed by qualified medical practitioners and are administered in a uniform and consistent manner. This would require the medical examiner to electronically transmit to FMCSA the name and a numerical identifier for each driver who is examined. This would create a process by which medical examiners who fail to meet or maintain the minimum standards would be removed from the National Registry.

Michael Nischan, CDS, Loss Control & Safety Consultant, NATMI nstructor
michael.nischan@mccart.com 678.475.5720 office 678.938.2012 cellular
The McCart Group; 2405 Satellite Boulevard Suite 200; Duluth, GA 30096



GIA News

Distance Learning Programs: Early 2009

The Georgia Institute on Aging is partnering with AAHSA's Professional Development Network* and IHN University to bring you the easiest and most affordable way to earn continuing education unit credit for you and your staff. **Watch Current Events for registration information.**

IHNUniversity.com provides CEU and non-CEU courses on vital topics presented by nationally recognized speakers/consultants. IHNUniversity.com is exciting, high quality, affordable and offers:

- Easy to use web site.
- High level information and courses for all staff/management needs.
- Proven course authors and healthcare experts

At IHNUniversity.com you'll receive the CEU information and training you and others want when you need it. Distance learning programs are perfect for individuals or groups who can't always leave their organization for required coursework.

*Professional Development Network

The Professional Development Network is a community of association professionals responsible for professional development and event planning to promote idea sharing, collaboration, learning, networking and renewal in support of its members and their Stakeholders. The network is composed primarily of event and /or education directors from the affiliates of the American Association of Homes and Services of the Aging (AAHSA) and AAHSA Staff.

First Session in the IHN/PDN Distance Learning Series: *Dealing with Difficult People*

Online Presentation Available January 1, 2009 – March 31, 2009 Have you ever worked with one of "those" people that made you want to: avoid them? Shout at them? Terminate them? If the answer is "yes" to any of these questions, you need to try another alternative- how to *deal* with them. As hard as that may seem, it is possible. Learn how to deal with the multitude of potentially difficult situations in day-to-day relationships. Today's aging services organizations experience many diverse and somewhat complicated human interactions. Learn specific techniques to demonstrate appropriate implementation for handling "tough" situations.

Speaker

Clint Maun, Maun-Lemke & IHN President & Founder, Omaha, NE

Clint Maun is recognized for his innovative leadership in healthcare consulting, speaking and research. He has over 38 years experience in healthcare management, leadership, quality enhancement and self-development programs. Clint's visions, ideas, techniques and concepts are currently at work in thousands of small and multi-facility organizations nationwide.

CEUs

One (1) CEU is available for administrators, RNs, LPNs, social workers, certified aging services professionals, activity, dining services and accounting staff. One CEU is available per registration.

Fee \$39

Registration

Register online at www.IHNUniversity.com. Questions? Call (800) 356-2233 or write Aging Services of GA/Georgia Institute on Aging at www.agingervicesga.org or call us at (404) 872-9191 ext. 10.

Anticipate CEU and non-CEU courses on vital topics for aging services providers presented by nationally recognized speakers. Easy to use Website; high level information and courses for all staff and management needs; proven course authors and healthcare experts. Check our Website often at www.IHNUniversity.com for related details.

Passport 2 Giving: GIA Travel Advantage Seasonal Campaign

Looking for a great holiday gift and one that gives back?

Post your reservations and join us for a Family and Friends cruise to Bahamas in support of the Georgia Institute on Aging. You can make your deposit for as little as \$25 per person to secure your reservation. To participate in this seasonal campaign, simply click [this link](#) by December 18, 2008:

4 Day Bahamas Cruise from Port Canaveral (Orlando), FL
Carnival Sensation ~ June 28 thru July 2, 2009

Ocean View - \$680.71 per person
Ocean View Triple - \$607.71 per person
Ocean View Quad - \$571.21 per person
inside - \$630.71 per person
Inside Triple - \$567.71 per person
Inside Quad - \$536.21 per person
Suite - \$1165.71 per person



You'll need to be quick to take advantage of these prices because when they are gone they are gone! All of your Sensations will come to life when you board this fabulous "Fun Ship." The sights of the beautiful decor, delightful smells and tastes of Total Choice Dining, exciting sounds of the ship's nightlife and the relaxing touch of Spa Carnival all make up the wonderful experience that is a Carnival cruise. Book your cruise now for a vacation that is nothing less than Sensational.

Get away for a weekend on this 4 Day Bahamas cruise from Port Canaveral. You'll spend a relaxing time in Nassau and Freeport. It's a wonderful trip on a beautiful ship.

Get a great deal every day on travel! Go ahead and check out [our website](#) right now.

Thanks again for all your past and future support of the Georgia Institute on Aging. After all you have done so much for us, we are so happy we can give back to you through this fantastic travel program.

Dutch Visitors on Study Tour

Last October a group of five eldercare managers from Foundation Marga Klompe headquartered in Groenlo, The Netherlands visited with their Georgia colleagues. During their three week visit they were hosted by Aging Services of Georgia members: Visting Nurse Health System / Hospice Atlanta, Lanier Village Estates, Presbyterian Village Austell, MJCAA Weinstein Center for Adult Day Services, A.G. Rhodes, Lutheran Towers, Canterbury Court, King's Bridge, Lenbrook, Senior Connections and St. George's Village. The Dutch visitors were also hosted by the staff of Morehouse School of Medicine, Ebener Baptist Church and New Generations Partnership, Inc.

For four of the Dutch visitors this study tour was their first introduction to the United States and in a recent feedback session the group stated that the experience had been 'life changing' in many positive respects. The learning moments focused around culture change (the group attended a culture change presentation by The Culture Change Network of Georgia Consultant, Kim McRae and Lutheran Towers' Director of Social Services, Zandra Matthews, hospitality in its many forms and employee training. Many highlights but the one that stands apart was the participation in the Person-Centered Dementia Care Conference and hearing Richard Taylor's personal story. The group felt tremendously welcomed in each of their visits and discussions with their American counterparts and community residents. "Delivery of eldercare services in the Netherlands is very different from the United States. Therefore we can learn from each other and we hope that this visit will be the start of a continuous dialogue and exchange of ideas and experiences between Georgia eldercare professionals and their Dutch colleagues", remarked Eric Lucas, with LMP, Inc., who together with Jacque Thornton, Aging Services of Georgia's Senior Vice President, organized the management exchange / study tour.

"Bertho ten Brinke, Wilbert Rothman, Monique Kerkhof, Edith de Raaf and Ellis Nijkamp are looking forward to greet their American friends in an upcoming counter visit to the Netherlands. This visit has enriched all participants in many ways and we are looking forward to the ongoing dialogue", concluded Eric Lucas.

Last Month's Events

**Ethics Symposium with Nancy Kriseman
Tuesday, November 4
Hosted by Canterbury Court, Atlanta
Sponsored by Morrison Senior Dining**

Nancy Kriseman delivered an exceptional presentation regarding the "Spirit of Ethical Caring". The message inspired leaders in the field of aging to *rethink* what it means to provide *ethical quality care* that is person centered. Participants learned specific caring strategies that help support the mind, body and spirit of the elders and staff in their communities, barriers to ethical care, as well as ways to move through the barriers.

Upcoming Events

Watch the website for listings and registration under **Upcoming Events**.

News Throughout the Continuum

AAHSA's Compensation Reports currently available from HCS:

CCRC Salary & Benefits Report—published June 2008
Nursing Home Salary & Benefits Report—published July 2008
Assisted Living Salary & Benefits Report—published January 2008
Rehabilitation Compensation Report—published September 2008

To purchase, complete [this order form](#) and fax to HCS at (201) 405-2110.

*New this year—the salary/hourly/visit results may be purchased in Excel.
(See order form for details.)*

For additional information, please visit [HCS's website](#).

New Georgia Salary Survey Effective February '09

Open participation for entries for the Aging Services of Georgia Annual Salary and Benefits Survey

Affordable Housing

HUD Management Update

This edition of the [HUD Management Update](#) features hot topics and new releases, technology and systems updates, tidbits from the latest TRACS Industry meeting, and a compilation of other recent releases.

Specifics of what you will find include the 2009 OCAFs; new Social Security cost of living adjustments; latest information on model leases; a new final rule on Pet Ownership in Senior Housing; and a new rule - including yet another new lease addendum (and a certification form)- for implementing the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA); rescheduling of the next comprehensive EIV training, expectations for when EIV will become mandatory, initial implementation of TRACS 202C and iMAX coming in

December; and recent notices including economic incentives exclusion, Section 202 operating cost standard, new Section 202 development and selection policies, fair market rents; REAC physical inspection resources; and more. Fact Sheets offer expanded coverage of certain topics here, too.

Emergency Capital Repair Grants for Multifamily Housing Projects Designated for Occupancy by the Elderly: Notice of Funding Availability Published

The Emergency Capital Repair Grant was published in the Federal Register on Monday, November 24, 2008. This notice announces the availability of approximately \$9.5 million in grant funds to make emergency capital repairs to eligible multifamily projects owned by private nonprofit entities that are designated for occupancy by elderly tenants. The capital repair needs must relate to items that present an immediate threat to the health, safety, and quality of life of the tenants.

The intent of these grants is to provide one-time assistance for emergency items that could not be absorbed within the project's operating budget and other project resources, and where the tenants' continued occupancy in the immediate near future would be jeopardized by a delay in initiating the proposed cure. The notice provides instructions for owners of multifamily projects to request funding and instructions for the HUD field offices to process requests. The maximum amount an individual project owner may apply for is \$500,000.

HUD TRACS Posts New MAT User's Guide

For those that prepare HUD TRACS data for transmission, a completely updated Monthly Activity Transmission (MAT) User's Guide was posted on Oct. 28, 2008, and some additional new appendices were further added on Nov. 6, 2008. [\[full story\]](#)

HUD Throws Monkey Wrench Into Preservation Deals

In the recent changes to the Section 8 Renewal Guide, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) altered its policy on caps on Section 8 rents for not-for-profits marking rents to budget or market in rehabilitation financing. Under the new guide, Section 8 rents can be increased, but they are limited to tax-credit rents if tax credits are used in the refinancing.

In many market areas, tax credit rents actually are less than the market. The guide previously permitted rents marked to market but capped at 150 percent of the fair market rent. The impact of this change in certain markets will be to force not-for-profit providers to choose between foregoing tax credits and renewing their Section 8 contract at sufficient rents, or using tax credits and artificially limiting the Section 8 rents for the project. This new policy runs counter to the policy established in the project-based vouchers rule, where the voucher rents are set at market and used even if the tax-credit rents are less.

This policy can be reversed in two ways. The new administration can quickly revise the policy, along with others that AAHSA will recommend be changed, or the policy can be changed legislatively. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, intends to pursue comprehensive preservation legislation as soon as Congress reconvenes. His bill could be used to reverse the policy, or a new provision

could be added in the reintroduced Section 202 legislation that AAHSA will work on in the new Congress. For more information, contact [Nancy Libson](#) with AAHSA.

HUD Releases Evaluation of the Section 202 Program

In a study dated June 2008, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Policy Development and Research (PDR) released its assessment of the effectiveness of the Section 202 program in meeting the needs of low-income elderly Americans.

The study was a thorough analysis of the Section 202 program, its history, its demographics, and key issues including processing delays, cost limits, and project size and allocations. Most importantly, the study finds that the Section 202 program is an important and cost effective alternative to premature placement in institutional settings, and necessary where states are engaged in transitioning seniors from costly nursing homes to the community. The study estimates the potential cost savings for the first time as it acknowledges that seniors overwhelmingly prefer to remain in their own homes.

Recommendations include the following: providing funding for service coordinators in all Section 202 properties, producing 10,000 units per year over the next 10 to 15 year period, and encouraging owners and managers of Section 202 properties to collaborate with nursing homes in their communities to provide necessary health related services.

[Read](#) the complete study. *Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly: Program Status and Performance Measurement.*

Notify Residents: SS Numbers To Be Required for ALL Family Members

According to a recent RHIIP Tip, a final rule is expected out shortly that will require documentation of Social Security numbers for all family members. This is part of HUD's Proposed Rule on Upfront Income Verification (UIV) published last year. The current rule provides that family members age 6 and older must document Social Security numbers or certify that they've never had a Social Security number.

Once the Final Rule is in effect, applicants will be required to disclose and provide verification of the social security number for all members of their household before they can be admitted. Current residents will be required to disclose and provide verification of social security numbers for all members of their household, where disclosure and verification has not occurred, at the time of their next interim or annual recertification. Owners and management agents are encouraged to begin informing applicants and residents who have not disclosed their social security number, or the social security number of a child under the age of 6, or who have certified they do not have a social security number, of this upcoming revision to the regulations and their need to begin the process of obtaining a social security number.

REAC Agrees to Corrective Measures Regarding "Locked" Electrical Boxes

AAHSA housing staff recently met with Delton Nichols, deputy director of HUD's Real Estate Assessment Center (REAC), to discuss concerns regarding securement of electrical panels. Recent resurgence in member

reports of physical inspection deficiency citations related to “unlocked” electrical panels instigated the discussion. The deputy director and REAC technical staff proposed to develop clearer guidance, including a visual reference resource, for owner and inspector use in the near future. REAC staff will also work with the training, quality assurance and quality control divisions to ensure consistent application of appropriate inspection standards in this area. AAHSA thanks the various members who provided detailed inspection reports and appeals information that was used during this discussion. For more details, contact [Colleen Bloom](#).
http://www.huduser.org/Publications/pdf/sec_202_1.pdf

Home and Community Based Care

Proposed OASIS Revisions

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is requesting Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval to modify the Outcome and Assessment Information Set (OASIS) data set used by Medicare home health agencies. Proposed revisions to the OASIS data set include: removing items that are not currently used by CMS for payment or quality, adding items to address clinical domains not currently covered, and modifying item wording or response categories for selected items; as well as the addition of process items that support measurement of evidence-based practices. Please [click here](#)

To review the changes published in the Federal Register Notice (November 14, 2008). Please [click here](#)

To read the proposed changes on the CMS Website. Visit this [Website](#) to comment on the proposed information collections (comments must be submitted by January 13, 2009).

Nursing Care

“LIFELines” email publication for Aging Services of Georgia Nursing Home Members & Nursing Staff

Aging Services of Georgia healthcare/nursing home members will begin receiving a new publication called LIFELines. This publication is a partnership between Aging Services of Georgia and our Illinois Association (Life Services Network). LIFELines provides timely information regarding state and federal issues such as survey preparedness, risk management, immediate jeopardy, clinical issues, abuse investigation, recruitment and retention and a host of other vital information for GAHSA nursing home members. **All Aging Services of Georgia nursing home members should now be automatically receiving LIFELines. Any other Aging Services of Georgia member is welcomed to receive this publication – just contact swatkins@agingservicesga.org.**

November topics were:

November 10: Of Course You Have an Elopement Prevention Program... But is it Effective Enough?

November 17: Emergency Response: Avoid putting your Residents and Facility in Immediate Jeopardy!

November 24: Nursing Summaries: Making them Meaningful!

Medicare Coinsurance Amounts for 2009 to Increase

This Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) [MLNMatters article](#) provides the Medicare rates for deductible, coinsurance and premium payment amounts for calendar year 2009. For skilled nursing facility (SNF) services, the per diem coinsurance amount for the 21st through the 100th day of care, for which beneficiaries are responsible, will increase 4.3 % from \$128 to \$133.50. Read more in this week's Nursing Home Alert, NH 08-43.

CMS: Important Information on Medicare Payment and Supplier Requirements for Oxygen and Oxygen Equipment

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has released an MLN Matters article that emphasizes important information on Medicare payment and supplier requirements for oxygen and oxygen equipment. To assure proper implementation of these policies, the MLN Matters article focuses on significant supplier requirements for furnishing oxygen and oxygen equipment to our beneficiaries. The article (# SE0840 entitled, Changes in Medicare Payment for Oxygen and Oxygen Equipment) is available on the [CMS Web site](#)

CMS has also released questions and answers to address beneficiary concerns regarding the changes in payment and supplier requirements for oxygen and oxygen equipment. To view these questions and answers visit [Questions](#) on the Internet.

Improving Palliative Care in Nursing Homes

The Center to Advance Palliative Care has issued its final report regarding the state of palliative care in nursing homes. It specifically identifies the common barriers to quality care, including: 1) poor transfers between nursing homes and hospitals and other sites of care; 2) staff recruitment difficulties and high turnover; 3) training and educational needs and challenges, and 4) cultural differences. The report identifies difficulties nursing home providers have providing high quality care and maximizing their residents' quality of life while addressing fiscal constraints and strict regulatory oversight.

The report also identifies how implementation of resident centered care models help focus on alleviating pain and other symptoms. The report concludes that sufficient knowledge of best practices exists to support improvement in palliative care in this setting. Promising models are already being implemented in nursing homes and could be expanded to better address the quality of care and quality of life for our elders. To read the entire report, click [here](#).

Vacancy Report

Please assist your colleagues by sharing this information when you receive calls from consumers you cannot serve.

Campbell-Stone Apartments, Buckhead

3 - Efficiency (Sec. 8)
\$650

Lutheran Towers

3 - Efficiency (Sec. 8)
7 - One-bedroom (Sec. 8)

Springfield Gardens, Warner Robbins, GA

1 - One-bedroom (HUD PRAC)
\$627

Career Opportunities

Magnolia Manor, Buena Vista, GA

[Administrator](#)

Peachtree Hills Place, Buckhead and Park Springs, Stone Mountain

[CCRC Residency and Sales Counselor's](#)

Riverview Health and Rehabilitation, Savannah

[Chief Financial Officer](#)

Personal Care, Inc., Atlanta

[Marketing Manager](#)

Brandon Wilde, Evans, GA

[Health Services Administrator](#)

MobilexUSA

[Sales Representative](#)

A.G. Rhodes Home

[Director of Nursing](#)
[Admissions Manager](#)

St. George Village

[Marketing Director](#)

AAHSA Information

News from AAHSA Melissa Sharp, Vice President, Southeast Region, AAHSA

Please feel free to contact me with your questions or concerns at (202) 508-9456 or by e-mail at msharp@aahsa.org.

CCRCs: Prepare to Meet Challenges to Your Tax-Exempt Status

As local governments face declining tax revenues and growing holes in their budgets, we have to anticipate that they increasingly will challenge retirement communities' tax-exempt status. It is no longer enough to simply do good; you must be able to show exactly how the services you provide contribute to the larger community's welfare. In this brief video, Larry Minnix will get you started on your social accountability journey. [Watch video.](#)

Calling all Aging Services Experts!

We're giving our Consumer Section a makeover to help certain users find out more about aging services and the not-for-profit difference. What better way to achieve this goal than by giving them access to the experts: our members. We're looking for members who are willing to answer questions and share ideas about finding the right aging services. [More information.](#)

2009 Leadership Summit

The Hidden Power of Teamwork *featuring Patrick Lencioni* San Francisco, Calif.

January 26 - 27, 2009

As a leader in the aging services field, you understand the gifts and imperfections of humanity. With people at the heart of everything you do, the success of your leadership is directly linked to the success of your team. Making teams work is never easy, but it remains the ultimate competitive advantage in today's fast-changing times. Teams are constantly challenged, but teamwork is particularly crucial during this tough economic climate. Not-for-profit aging services providers must craft lean, imaginative practices to somehow continue to do more with less—and teamwork is at the core of such innovation.

If you are passionate about leading a well-functioning, cohesive team, join us for two days of evidence-based insights, case studies and interactive exercises that will enable you to:

- Gain a clearer understanding of your team's purpose and role within your organization.
- Identify your team's potential dysfunctions and learn how to break down silos to create a culture of trust and accountability.
- Explore practical tools to build and maintain an effective team—and develop an action plan to take your team to the next level.

[Download the brochure](#) and [register today!](#)

AAHSA Member Benefit Spotlight: *Social Accountability Resources*

Need ideas to jumpstart your current social accountability program? Are you looking for ways to quantify your community benefit? AAHSA has a myriad of resources to help! Simply go to [this link](#) on aahsa.org.
