



Wisconsin Assisted Living Association

News Blast

December 16, 2010

Save the date for the
WALA Spring
Conference!

March 22-24, 2011

Kalahari Resort,
Wisconsin Dells

Dear Sarah,

Happy Holidays! Hope you are staying warm!

WALA Members receive these blasts twice a month plus whenever breaking news in Assisted Living develops. If you are a member and want to join the mailing list please follow the link on the left of the page.

Not a current member?

Please contact Sarah Bass, WALA's Operations Director, at WALA at sbass@ewala.org or call her at 608/288-0246 to become a member today!

To join WALA, please visit www.ewala.org for more information.

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**Division of Quality Assurance - Pharmacy
Newscapsule/November - December 2010.**

http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/rl_dsl/Publications/PharmCapsule.htm

New Draft Memo regarding new requirements that will expand coverage for carbon monoxide alarms to most residential buildings in February 2011. <http://www.ewala.org/breakingnews/blasts/2010/DraftMemoCarbonMonoxideAlarmsNewRequirements2011.pdf>.

DQA Memo 10-035 Personal Care Provider Program Update
Complaint Investigations. http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/rl_DSL

 **Time is running out! Take the WALA Compensation Survey Now!**

Have you wondered what others in your area compensate their staff? Take this survey to be able to compare your facilities compensation to others like yours in the State!

The second annual WALA Compensation Survey for Wisconsin's Assisted Living Facilities is now available!

Participants will receive the published report of the findings and be entered in a drawing for a \$300.00 voucher for WALA products and events!

You can take the survey 3 ways:

- Use Survey Monkey directly online,
- Download the PDF and send information to Wipfli LLP,
- Download an Excel Spreadsheet and send information to Wipfli LLP

<http://www.ewala.org/events2/CompensationSurvey.cfm>

 **Legislative Update - From a Member of our Legislative/Regulatory Subcommittee**

As a follow-up to ALFA's and WALA's comprehensive update on the historical mid-term elections, Jim Murphy and I thought the membership might be interested in an initiative that Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) has proposed. It appears that Ryan will become the Chairman of the House Budget Committee and therefore moving up the ranks in the Republican party. When President Obama's health care reform initiative was initially proposed, Ryan also introduced an alternative which may get more steam and would have a major affect on the current health care reform legislation.

In essence, Ryan is proposing to reform Medicare. In the proposal, retirees who turn 65 after 2021 would receive a payment subsidy where the lower your income, the more of a subsidy one would receive to purchase health insurance through a Medicare exchange program of insurance companies voluntarily participating. The subsidy would also be based upon geography and health related factors. This is still in the very early stages so no other specific information is available.

Ryan has also proposed to repeal the CLASS program, implement medical malpractice reforms, modify Medicare cost sharing and establish Medicaid cost grants. Ryan expects that if these changes were to take place, approximately \$280 billion would be saved in the budget deficit from 2011 through 2020.

All in all, it will be very interesting to see how these next two years play out.

Mike Pochowski
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For more information on how you can get more involved in subcommittees like the Legislative/Regulatory Subcommittee. Please contact WALA at 608/288-0246.

Legislative Update

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE CHAIRS, VICE-CHAIRS LISTED

Speaker-elect Fitzgerald has announced the Assembly committee vice-chairs for the 2011 session. (Committees are listed with chair first and vice chair.)

- **Aging and Long Term Care.** Rep. Knodl. Rep. Petryk.
- **Agriculture.** Rep. Nerison. Rep. Tranel.
- **Children and Families.** Rep. Pridemore. Rep. Krug
- **Colleges and Universities.** Rep. Nass. Rep. Knudson.
- **Consumer Protection and Personal Privacy.** Rep. Ripp. Rep. August.
- **Criminal Justice and Corrections.** Rep. Kleefisch. Rep. Jacqué.
- **Education.** Rep. Kestell. Rep. Marklein.
- **Election and Campaign Finance Reform.** Rep. Tauchen. Rep. Bernier.
- **Energy and Utilities.** Rep. Honadel. Rep. Klenke.
- **Financial Institutions.** Rep. Kramer. Rep. Kooyenga.
- **Forestry.** Rep. Mursau. Rep. Tiffany.
- **Health.** Rep. Stone. Rep. Severson.
- **Homeland Security and State Affairs.** Rep. Van Roy. Rep. Kuglitsch.
- **Housing.** Rep. Murtha. Rep. Litjens.
- **Insurance.** Rep. Petersen. Rep. Weininger.
- **Jobs, Economy and Small Business.** Rep. M. Williams. Rep. Endsley.
- **Judiciary and Ethics.** Rep. J. Ott. Rep. Larson.
- **Labor and Workforce Development.** Rep. Ballweg. Rep. Kapenga.
- **Natural Resources.** Rep. Gunderson. Rep. Rivard.
- **Public Health and Public Safety.** Rep. Bies. Rep. Knilans.
- **Rural Economic Development and Rural Affairs.** Rep. A. Ott. Rep. Steineke.
- **Tourism, Recreation and State Properties.** Rep. Kaufert. Rep. Loudenberg.
- **Transportation.** Rep. Petrowski. Rep. Farrow.

- **Urban and Local Affairs.** Rep. Brooks. Rep. Thiesfeldt
- **Veterans and Military Affairs.** Rep. Spanbauer. Rep. Wynn.
- **Ways and Means.** Rep. Huebsch. Rep. Kerkman.

More information about Legislative Changes : <http://www.ewala.org/breakingnews/blasts/2010/LegislativeUpdate12-17-10.pdf>

NCDPP - Press Release - Free Tool Kit!

The deadline is approaching to receive the free NCCDP Alzheimer's and Dementia Staff Education Week Feb 14-21 power point in-services and free tool kit at www.nccdp.org . The in-services include power point, hand outs, pre tests, post tests, etc. The tool kit is massive and includes proclamations, resources, etc. To read the press release follow this link: <http://www.ewala.org/breakingnews/blasts/2010/NCCDPP%7E2.pdf>

Sincerely,

Jim Murphy, Executive Director
Sarah Bass, Operations Director

Wisconsin Assisted Living Association