



Annual Report 2011

The American Association for Long Term Care Nursing (AALTCN) has continued its growth in terms of members served, benefits offered to members and impact in national efforts to improve long term care nursing.

Education

AALTCN launched its online **Learning Community**, offering a wide range of resources for all levels of LTC nursing staff. These include:

- **Certification Programs** for DONs, Staff Development Specialists, LPNs, RNs, and Culture Change Nurse Coordinators. AALTCN now offers more nationally recognized and ANCC contact hour approved certification programs than any other LTC nursing association.
- A new **Director of Nursing in LTC Certification Webcast**- an interactive online program powered by Care2Learn
- Offering a new **Safety Specialist in LTC Certification Program**: A culture of safety is an essential ingredient to a high quality of care and life for residents and a high quality of work experience for employees.
- **Culture of Safety** webpage, containing facts, resources, legislative updates, and other information to reduce risks and promote safety for residents and staff.
- **Nursing Assistant Educator** lesson modules, written on topics relevant to frontline nursing assistants and on a level that enables them to read and complete independently. An Instructor's Guide accompanies each module that contains objectives, content outline, test answers, and resources for further learning.
- **Professional Educators**, targeted to nurses, on a wide range of clinical and management topics that provide contact hours.
- **Forums**, including *Safety Forum*, *Ask the Wound Coach*, *Coaching Corner*, *Incontinence Forum* and *Ask the Diabetes Nurse*

AALTCN/WOW 2011 Conference

AALTCN's Conference was rich with opportunities for quality education, networking, and exposure to dynamic services and products. A reporter for the Annals of Long Term Care did a great job of describing the highlights in an article that you can access at: <http://annalsoflongtermcare.com/article/wild-wounds-and-aaltn-2011-conference-recap>

Clinical Learning Center

AALTCN announced the expansion of their Cincinnati headquarters with the addition of a Learning Center, outfitted with the latest technology and equipment used to support safe care. This complements AALTCN's other efforts to enhance safe care for residents and a safe working environment for employees. This project was made possible through a generous sponsorship from RoMedic Inc, a Handicare Company. It reflects the shared commitment of RoMedic and AALTCN to providing a safe environment for employees and residents/patients. Special thanks also to MC Healthcare Products for supplying a long-term care bed and to WY'East Medical for the Totalift Transfer Chair.

Committees

In addition to its own committees, AALTCN actively participates on a variety of national committees and initiatives to advance the status and practice of long term care nursing; these include:

- **Advancing Excellence Collaborative Board of Directors**: to promote goals of improving the quality of services and life for nursing home residents.
- **Advancing Excellence Ohio LANE and Maryland LANE** to assist with implementing Advancing Excellence Campaign efforts on a state level
- **Center for Nursing Excellence in Long Term Care Advisory Committee**
- **Geriatrics Multidisciplinary Competencies Task Force**: convened by the American Geriatrics Society to develop geriatric core competencies for all disciplines

- **Coalition of Geriatric Nursing Organizations:** to collaborate with other nursing associations in addressing common specialty issues.
- **Coalition to Protect Senior Care:** to help educate lawmakers about the potential negative impacts on patient care and ongoing quality improvements that could result from Medicare funding cuts to skilled nursing facilities.
- **JCAHO PTAC Committee**
- **Long Term Care Quality Alliance**
- **Maryland Culture Change Coalition**
- **National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (NPUAP)** AALTCN is part of the Collaborating Organization Council (COC).
- **Partnership for Health in Aging**
- **Provider Unit of Health Education Network**
- **Safe Patient Handling Committee and CHAPS**
- **University of Missouri Leadership Development Academy:** to serve as a project advisor for leadership development for DONs in nursing homes.
- **University of Nebraska Leadership Academy:** Career Ladder Advisory Board
- **Wellspring Program:** to provide advanced practice nursing consultation on implementing this model of culture change.

Conferences

AALTCN had a presence and made presentations at many conferences, including:

- AHCA Conference
- AOHP Conference
- ASCP (American Society of Consultant Pharmacist) Conference
- Health Manufacturers Conference – HMMC
- LeadingAge Conference
- LTC 100
- LTC Link Conference
- NPUAP- National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel
- ODONA Conference
- Pioneer Network Conference
- Safe Patient Handling Conferences in Orlando and San Diego – Co-Sponsored 2011 Conferences
- State Conferences – CAHF/QCHF, Lifespan Network, Grace Healthcare

Scholarships/Educational Support

AALTCN was able to provide educational grants to the following:

- CA Quality Care Health Foundation (QCHF)
- FL Health Care Association-
- MI Health Care Association (HCAM)

Support was provided to a project of the Beacon Institute in which quality improvement and culture change education and consultation was provided to a group of critical access nursing homes. Nurses within these facilities were able to participate in the Culture Change Nurse Coordinator Certification Program and become certified, thereby equipping them to be inhouse champions for culture change. As a result of her efforts with this project, AALTCN's Executive Director Charlotte Eliopoulos was named a *Health Care Hero* by the Maryland Daily Record.

Corporate Members

Membership has grown. Corporations that have shown a commitment to the professional growth of their nursing staff in providing memberships to each of their facilities includes: Sava Senior Care facilities Extendicare, Kindred Healthcare, and Grace Healthcare.

Member Benefits

AALTCN members enjoy a growing list of benefits:

- A monthly e-letter that presents timely, relevant information to keep members abreast of best practices, current research findings, legislation, resources, and regulatory news.
- A weekly motivational emessage, *Seeds of Inspiration*.
- *Core Competencies* and *Position Statements* for every major position in the nursing department
- Advocacy and representation on national issues pertaining to LTC nursing, such as supporting improved LTC workforce reimbursement.
- Free toolkits and training programs to assist in staff education
- Links to free webinars, videos, and other resources.
- Certification programs for the Director of Nursing, Staff Development, Safety Specialist in LTC, LPN in LTC, RN in LTC, and Culture Change Nurse Coordinator.
- Free educational resources.
- Verizon discount: a 22% discount on Verizon cellular phone service.
- Free publications, including
 - Annals for Long Term Care- AALTCN official journal
 - ADVANCE for Long-Term Care Management,
 - ADVANCE for Nurses
 - Long Term Living
 - Provider for Long Term Care Professional
 - Kestrel Health Information Product Sourcebooks

Plans for 2012

- AALTCN will publish a **Long-Term Care Safety Manual** that offer a comprehensive approach to addressing the unique safety risks in long term care settings. This unique, first-of-its-kind resource presents content related to:
 - Clinical risks arising from the resident population served
 - Environmental risks
 - Root cause of caregiver injuries and measures to prevent them
 - Proper selection and use of safety equipment
 - Strategies for implementing a comprehensive safety promotion programA wide range of relevant topics are discussed, including safety considerations for medications, pressure ulcers, infections, combative residents, use of lifts and slings, bariatric residents, violence, disasters, and falls. Algorithms for common tasks and other resources provide specific guidance. In addition, strategies to effectively teach staff and develop safety champions, and implement a dynamic safety program are offered.
- AALTCN will be partnering with Care2Learn in offering AALTCN's a Nurse Assessment Coordinator Certification as an interactive online webcast.
- As a result of members' requests, a LTC Infection Prevention Certification Program will be launched.
- An Incontinence Management Standards and Certification Program will be developed.
- A Clinical Resource Manual to Enhance Competencies for the Care of Medically Complex Residents will be produced to assist in meeting the demands of an increasingly clinically complex resident population.
- AALTCN will be again co-sponsoring the Safe Patient Handling Conferences – East and West.
- In collaboration with the American Holistic Nursing Association, AALTCN's Executive Director will be attending the ANA House of Delegates.
- AALTCN leaders will be keynoting and presenting at several conferences, including the Care2Learn Providers Conference, HIRA Conference, Geisinger Medical Center, University of Missouri School of Nursing Leadership Academy, and the Joint Provider/Surveyor Training for the Michigan Bureau of Health Systems,

Patron Members/Business Partners

AALTCN wishes to express its appreciation to all of the organizations and individuals who have provided support, including

Association for Professionals in Infection Control & Epidemiology, Inc
Astellas Pharma
Atlas Lift Tech LLC
Barton Medical Corporation
Boeinger Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Care2Learn
CleanWaste
Clinical Advisors for Resources and Educational Services (CARES)
Clinical Resources, LLC
Cooperlabs Limited
Diabetes Care Works
DiabetesCare.net
DMS Systems, Inc
Eisai Pharmaceutical
Evonik (CliniShield Brand)
First Quality
GuideOne Insurance
Health Education Network
Health Industry Representatives Association - HIRA
HealthPoint
IL Healthcare
In House Hospice/Great Lakes Caring
Life Gear/COMFORT ZONE
Medical Nutrition
Millennium Pharmacy Systems Inc.
National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel - NPUAP
Personal Safety Corporation
Personna American Safety Razor Company
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Recover Care
Redex Industries Inc - Udderly Smooth
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Wound Care Education Institute - WCEI