

# Pennsylvania State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators Newsletter

March/April 2009

dos.state.pa.us

## Greetings from the Chair

By Eva J. Bering

I am honored to serve as the chair of the organization that determines standards of professional practice and conduct for nursing home administrators, approves candidates for licensure and works on your behalf to serve those entrusted to our service. On behalf of the Nursing Home Administrator (NHA) Board, I bring this communication and invite you to read it as a short synopsis of the board activities.

The 15-member board meets 10 times annually to conduct business related to administrative practice. The dates for open meetings are posted on the [NHA Web page](#). Items of business conducted routinely include review of qualifications and approval of applicants to take the NHA exam, approval of administrators for licensure by endorsements, disciplinary hearings, proposal of changes to the NHA act or rules and regulations, and communication from members.

This past year has been dedicated to completing the Administrator-In-Training (AIT) program, which was published in final form in the July 12, 2008, Pennsylvania Bulletin.

Pennsylvania has been one of the very few states without an avenue for an AIT program with defined content that prepares a candidate to take the NHA exam. Interested individuals can either download an application from the board [Web page](#) or call the board office. The revised educational methods for NHA's to obtain their required 48 Continuing Education Units has just been published and will become final within the next few months.

As board chair, I was fortunate to have represented Pennsylvania at the National Association of Boards (NAB) meeting last June. The NAB governance committee has finalized a model practice act for Assisted Living/ Residential Care Administrators.

There is national momentum to consider the licensure of assisted living administrators as a key provider of senior services, both now and in the future. The NAB exam committee has continued to review the entire exam, adding questions to match current knowledge and reviewing old test questions for relevancy.

Goals of NAB Chairperson Jane Baker include retention and recruitment of new administrators, licensure for NHA and for assisted living administrators, standardization of training, AIT program standardization, public awareness of long-term care, and to increase the number of accredited college programs offering long-term care programs.

The board has plans to meet with academic programs throughout the state to discuss the enhancement of gerontology offerings in an effort to recruit more individuals into the senior services field. A dialogue has already started with York College on this initiative.

The NHA board is your representative and the board is committed to advocate for the standards of professional practice that are of the highest caliber.

We invite you to attend the scheduled meetings and to participate with us by holding us accountable for practice standards as they affect you and the seniors we collectively serve. Thank you to each practicing administrator for your resolve to better serve the lives entrusted to our services.

## Board Meetings

- April 8
- May 20
- July 1
- Aug. 5
- Sept. 23
- Oct. 28
- Dec. 2

**Newsletter continued on next page**

## Other News:

- [Disciplinary Actions](#)
- [PA Becomes Smoke-Free](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Report Unethical Activity](#)

[Update Your License](#)

[Meet the Board](#)

## Administrator-In-Training Program Is Final

By Leonard S. Oddo, Chairman, Education Committee

One of the board's highest priorities has been the creation of an Administrator-in-Training (AIT) program in Pennsylvania. As you know, the Pennsylvania Board of Nursing Home Administrators has been diligently working on a plan to encourage and facilitate recent college graduates interested in becoming nursing home administrators (NHA).

Our plan is now complete and regulations have been enacted to enable college graduates to serve as nursing home administrators in training under the mentoring of licensed nursing home administrators.

The proposed regulations will now permit a college graduate to secure a position as an AIT, paid or unpaid, and to serve in that position for between 800 hours to 1,000 hours of approved training. Thereafter, upon completion of the approved course of training, an individual may be approved to take the examination for licensure as a nursing home administrator. This vehicle to licensure is in addition to those already included in the Pennsylvania Code.

The new regulations will permit the new college graduates to seek opportunities for meaningful professional employment in Pennsylvania, to secure responsible positions here, and to enhance the conditions of the commonwealth's senior citizens.

Applications for approval to enroll in the AIT program are available from the State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators. We encourage all those who are interested in this challenging career path to inquire.

## Thank You Message

By Barry S. Ramper, II

The opportunity to be of service to seniors is an honor you should hold in high acclaim. This service is further defined by recognizing the true essence of our consistent commitment and focus for a group of seniors who have

entrusted the end of their lives to us. The responsibility of being a licensed Nursing Home Administrator is intense when thoroughly understood and professionally is second to none in the personal satisfaction one attains by being in the daily presence of the wisest element of our society – our seniors.

As my tenure as a member of the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing Home Examiners comes to a close, I commend you for your efforts in the best interest of our seniors.

Additionally, I challenge you to aggressively push the standard of acceptable excellence to new levels. Recognition of standards only meeting, or slightly exceeding the minimum required, is not acceptable for our seniors whom have entrusted their lives to us.

This will require creativity, dedication, and most importantly, a mindset that facility-by-facility, resident-by-resident, we are responsible to administer and facilitate the outcomes necessary for the highest level of resident quality care and quality of life. This mindset allows us to fully commit to the responsibility that we have been entrusted.

As a board member, past vice-chairman, and recently chairman, I thank all those involved during my tenure. Collectively, with your focused commitment, we made a positive difference. This difference must be built upon, for our seniors deserve no less. I wish you well.

## Governor's Newsletter

[Sign up now](#) to receive the weekly e-newsletter from Governor Rendell on important issues facing Pennsylvania.