

NHIA Moving Forward

by Russell Bodoff

NHIA Executive Director

Many changes have taken place in the alternate-site infusion field during the last 12 months and NHIA has been changing as well. We want the association to be in a position to best represent the entire field of alternate-site infusion.

As such, NHIA is completing a transition discussed for many years that will allow it to operate as the leading voice and trade association for the infusion field. To help make this happen NHIA is in the process of a dues restructuring process which started in January that will bring it closer to the membership models of leading-edge trade associations.

In another change, the NHIA Board decided to restructure itself to best represent the variety of different size infusion providers. The nine-person Board was expanded to 12. Six new representatives have been elected to the NHIA Board (three are designated to replace members whose terms have expired), and their terms will commence following the Annual Conference.

Joining the Board will be presidents or senior management representatives from Apria, Walgreens, Critical Care Systems, Critical Homecare Solutions, and HomeChoice Partners. In addition, our new representative from NCPA will be someone who almost everyone knows: Gene Graves. Bylaw changes were made to allow the adjustment of the Board size, as well as to change the title of the NHIA President to Chairman of the Board and the Vice President to Vice Chairman. Chris Maksym, University of Michigan Home Infusion Services, HomeMed, was elected as the Chair for a second term and Lynn Giglione, Chartwell Pennsylvania, was elected as the Vice Chair.

Again these changes were made to bring NHIA in line with traditional trade association structures. The new Board will help NHIA bring together a more diversified pool of providers adding expertise, skill sets, and resources not readily available in the past. The bylaw changes designate a balance of representation on the Board between small, medium, and large providers.

We are working to attract skilled professionals to the NHIA staff who can support the association's activities as well as member services and needs. We have two very important new staff officers at NHIA whom I hope you will meet at the Conference. Steve Jurich, joined NHIA in June as our Vice President of Operations and Chief Operating Officer. His health care and association background, leadership skills and dedication to our mission has been demonstrated by a tremendous improvement in our internal processes, staff leadership and new approaches to our educational programs. In February of this year John Magnuson joined NHIA as its first Vice President of Legislative Affairs. John brings to NHIA years of Hill experience, great contacts and many fresh ideas on how we can drive our push for legislation for the needed Medicare reimbursement fix.

It has been an honor to be your Executive Director for the past year and to have the pleasure to work with so many dedicated professionals within the NHIA membership. I look forward to the coming year and the association's continued success—and hope to see you in Phoenix.

Regards,

