



# Cap Reform Update



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## NAHA Newsletter

May 26, 2009 Issue #01

Fellow NAHA members,

Welcome to the first issue of our new e-newsletter. We're excited to share our plans for 2009 with you. Your commitment and involvement with NAHA is greatly appreciated by the Board of Directors.

Please contact us if you would like to be involved with any of our newly established committees and let us know how we can best assist you in any of your state's efforts.

## NAHA Leadership Summit

*Strategic Framework Established for 2009*

An energized group of independent hospice operators from California, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, Oklahoma, Texas, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Arkansas, and other states assembled on April 7, 2009, to chart NAHA's course in the coming year.

In a comprehensive and far reaching status report, NAHA co-founders Lois Armstrong and Dave Daucher reviewed NAHA's efforts to reform the hospice benefit including the hospice cap. The 2009 legislative strategy was introduced, and NAHA leaders reaffirmed a commitment to working together for fiscally responsible legislative change in 2009.

Dave Daucher noted that efforts have been made to bring all stakeholders to the table, including NHPCO leaders, in order to present a united front and gain strength through numbers. Despite these efforts, NHPCO has explicitly confirmed that they would support no substantive cap reform for the foreseeable future. Instead, NHPCO leaders have confirmed they support what can only be described as "NHPCO bridge to nowhere" cap reform...

[Click here to read the full story...](#)

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## NAHA Board Ready for Action

*Following NAHA's recent summit, a Board of Directors has been put in place*

- **Lois Armstrong**, President
- **David E. Daucher**, Secretary and Treasurer
- **Shelia Arnette**, Recruitment Universe, Florida
- **Gordon Brown**, Haven Hospice, California
- **Veda Cochran**, Comfort Care, Alabama
- **Bobbie Flemming**, Seyah Hospice, Mississippi
- **Mike Harvey**, Compassionate Care, Oklahoma
- **Lynn Keitz**, Haven Hospice, California
- **Amanda Knight**, Hospice Direct, Mississippi
- **Cindy Longanacre**, Ross Healthcare, Oklahoma
- **Vicki Myers**, Russell-Murray Hospice, Oklahoma
- **Shaw Phillips**, Hearts for Hospice, Utah
- **Tim Posey**, Carrefour Associates, Oklahoma
- **Tom Richardson**, Hospice Complete, Alabama
- **Mike Smajd**, Columbus Hospice, Georgia
- **Randy Staples**, Hearts for Hospice, Utah
- **Sharon Steinman**, Autumn Bridge Hospice, Oklahoma
- **Sherry Williams**, Zia Hospice, New Mexico

The Board will do its work through four standing committees.

1. **Finance Committee**  
Will oversee accounting, control, cash and legal issues.
2. **Advocacy Committee**  
Will establish a national and local advocacy schedule and coordinate local activities with our DC consulting team.
3. **Fundraising Committee**  
Will implement revenue-generating activities and recruit new NAHA members.
4. **Marketing/Communications Committee**  
Will handle NAHA's newsletter, website, social networking, and media activities.




If you would like to join the Board or one of its committees, contact Lois Armstrong at [larmstrong@hospiceaccess.org](mailto:larmstrong@hospiceaccess.org) or Jan Monroe at [jmonroe@hospiceaccess.org](mailto:jmonroe@hospiceaccess.org).

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## Spread the Word

*Mobilizing others to support the cause is key...*

- [Forward this email to colleagues, employees, and friends](#)
- Follow NAHA news on top social networks
  -  [Facebook](#)
  -  [LinkedIn](#)
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Would you like to share your thoughts as a blogger on the NAHA website?  
If so, please [email April Goode](#).

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## Help NAHA Now

## *We Need Funding for the 2009 Campaign*

Right now, countless healthcare interests are on the Hill competing for scarce dollars. NAHA must continue to mount an aggressive campaign in 2009 to demand reform of the hospice benefit including the hospice cap. The Board of the National Alliance for Hospice Access is asking every NAHA member to consider making a cash contribution to NAHA now to support these activities. Invite your employees, your physicians, and your vendors to join NAHA, the only organized voice for independent hospices and for the rural and minority patients they serve.

NAHA works every day to make access to hospice care a national priority. When you make a contribution to NAHA:

You ensure that efforts to reform Medicare include fiscally-responsible reform of the hospice benefit and the hospice cap;

You will be part of outreach to the Members of Congress who have influence over the outcome of our efforts;

You will dramatically support the needs of frail dying Medicare beneficiaries in your community who depend on the hospice benefit to be available to them when they need it.

### **Corporate Members**

Pledge today. Payments can be made in a lump sum or in equal quarterly payments.

#### **Hospices**

Suggested annual contribution: \$2,000 plus \$500 per hospice office operated.

#### **Associates**

If you derive significant sales from hospices, consider making a contribution to the only organization that is addressing the antiquated Cap that threatens hospice's survival.

### **Individual Memberships**

Send a gift of \$25 or more, and we'll send you a "green" reusable NAHA shopping tote.

#### **Caregivers**

If you are a caregiver working on a hospice team, please consider a contribution of \$25. If you are a physician, please consider making a gift of \$100.

#### **Advocates**

You don't have to work for a hospice to care about access to hospice care. Join NAHA and consider making a contribution.

If you would like to contribute by check, your check should be made payable to NAHA and may be sent directly to 1220 N. Fillmore Street, Suite 400 Arlington, VA 22201

The easiest way to make a contribution is through PayPal.



You do not need to create a PayPal account to make a donation.

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## Grassroots Fundraising is Critical

### *A Challenge to Our Members*

NAHA Board member, Sharon Steinman, CEO of AutumnBridge Hospice in Oklahoma, seems to

be vying for the “fundraiser of the month” award. Within hours of the Board approving the new contributions and membership plan, Sharon raised an additional \$1,400 from employees, vendors, and physicians to help support NAHA’s work.

Watch the website for fundraising ideas and tips that can help you help NAHA achieve our goals. See if you can beat Sharon’s record!

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## CMS Call for Comment

*We need your comments by May 29*

On April 24, 2009, CMS published a proposed rule in the Federal Register. In addition to other matters concerning hospice, there is a section on payment reform including reform of the hospice cap.

The publication references recent reports on hospice by MedPAC, the non-partisan commission that advises Congress on Medicare benefits.

Inexplicably, MedPAC appears to be building a case to cut hospice spending and access, despite the fact that hospice is the only Medicare benefit proven to save healthcare dollars.

Comments on the proposed rule must be provided to CMS by June 22, 2009. NAHA will file a formal comment. Please share your thoughts with Dave Daucher at [ddaucher@hospiceaccess.org](mailto:ddaucher@hospiceaccess.org) by May 29, or call Dave at 602-359-4629.

[Click here to read the proposed rule in the Federal Register](#)

This is a large file and it may take some time to load. Alternatively, you can go to the NAHA website and read the report there...


[Read the proposed rule on the NAHA website](#)

Make your voice heard by sending your comments to Dave Daucher by email or by phone no later than May 29.

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