

Member Value Report | 2017

NHA Nebraska
Hospital
Association



YOUR ASSOCIATION. YOUR RESOURCE.

Dear valued member,

2017 marked the Nebraska Hospital Association's 90th Anniversary. We are proud to celebrate this milestone, and pay tribute to the founders of the NHA and the legacy they have created. As the 90th year as your Association comes to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the membership for its support over the past nine decades. It is because of the collaboration with our members that we have achieved many successes since 1927. Though not without its challenges, the successes have been many and have been equally rewarding.

This following report highlights the many efforts, together with you, we have endeavored on behalf of Nebraska's hospitals and health systems during 2017.

With the support of committed members, it is our priority to advocate with a common voice in local, statewide and national policy discussions.

The Nebraska Legislature adjourned Sine Die on May 23, 2017, four days earlier than the usual 90-day session. Eighteen new senators joined the 105th Legislative Session and they managed to pass 174 Bills in 86 days.

667 Bills were introduced and NHA members decided to monitor 99 Bills, support 19 Bills, oppose 3 Bills and be neutral on two Bills. 32 of the 123 Bills "of Interest" became law. The NHA provided testimony before the Nebraska Legislature on 23 Bills.

The NHA anticipates the efforts on the Telehealth Bill (LB 92) a milestone toward achieving reimbursement parity for telemedicine in Nebraska. Though it will be an uphill battle, this is the next step in reducing barriers to access to care through telemedicine services. The Helmet Law Repeal Bill (LB 368) was narrowly halted and it is anticipated that LB 368 will be revived in 2018 with an equally difficult job ahead for opposing stakeholders.

It is a priority to maintain an excellent caliber of educational programs by partnering at the federal and state level with other health care educational organizations. We are committed to keeping abreast of the changing needs of our members and providing relevant, quality educational opportunities based on those needs.

The NHA strives to provide reliable and comprehensive health data and information regarding health care services, health care trends, clinical outcomes, and their impacts and implications on Nebraska health care providers and the communities they serve.

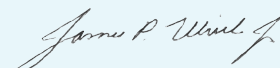
Nebraska's hospitals continue their strong tradition of improving quality of care and enhancing patient safety measures. Through the collaboration with the AHA HRET HIIN, Nebraska hospitals continue to further improve quality of care provided through implementation of clinical initiatives.

We actively communicate with Nebraska's congressional delegation, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the American Hospital Association and other stakeholders on a frequent basis regarding health care provisions being proposed and implemented. Through advocacy efforts, the NHA and our members are able to influence federal policy and its impact on Nebraska hospitals.

With the continued support of our members, the NHA will remain the influential voice of Nebraska's hospitals and health systems for the next 90 years.

Your participation in the Association has never been more important. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James P. Ulrich, Jr.".

NHA Board Chairman
James P. Ulrich, Jr., MHA, FHFMA
Chief Executive Officer
York General, York

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura".

Laura J. Redoutey, FACHE
NHA President

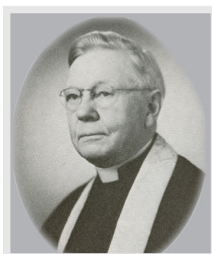
CELEBRATING 90 YEARS: 1927-2017.



Miss Homer Harris



Miss Ida Isaacson



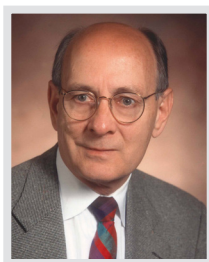
Rev. Dr. Emil Chinlund



Miss Blanche Fuller



Stuart C. Mount



Harlan Heald

The NHA, a statewide health care trade association representing Nebraska's hospitals and health systems, was organized in 1927 as a result of an informal meeting called by Miss Homer Harris, superintendent of Clarkson, to discuss pending legislation which affected hospitals in the state of Nebraska. At that meeting, the NHA founded and appointed its first board of directors. Rev. Emil G. Chinlund of Immanuel was named president; Miss Blanche Fuller of Methodist was named vice president; Miss Ida Isaacson of Evangelical Covenant was named secretary; and Miss Homer Harris was named treasurer.

In 1955, Stuart C. Mount was hired as the first NHA employee, serving as president until his retirement in 1985. Harlan Heald began his career at the NHA as associate executive director in July of 1968. He was named NHA president after Stuart Mount's retirement in 1985, and served until his retirement in 2000. The Association's current president, Laura J. Redoutey, took the helm on May 15, 2000.

The NHA's first office was located at near the State Capitol and its second office was in an old funeral home at 1335 H Street, near what is now The Cornhusker Marriott Hotel. We then moved into a rented suite at 1640 L Street. In 2005, land was purchased on the north side of Lincoln and a new building was completed near Interstate 80 in 2007.

The Nebraska Hospital Association changed its name in 1994 to the "Nebraska Association for Hospitals & Health Systems (NAHHS)", only to return to its original name, Nebraska Hospital Association, in 2002.

The NHA has been representing and supporting the needs of Nebraska's rural and urban hospitals and health systems. We work closely with our membership to provide state and federal legislative advocacy, health care trend and regulatory information, educational programming, communication, data reports and special services.

Through our partnerships with representatives in the health care industry, legislators, government and citizens, the NHA will continue to assist our membership to develop strong, healthy communities.

The NHA will continue to take a leadership role in advancing the missions and goals of its member hospitals and health systems as providers of quality, affordable and accessible health care to all Nebraskans.

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Laura J. Redoutey, FACHE
President
Nebraska Hospital Association, Lincoln

CORE SERVICE AREAS.

Influential Voice/Advocacy

Goal: Proactively position the NHA as the most respected, knowledgeable and influential resource for the development of health care policy by providing strong leadership, communicating effectively and strategically collaborating with policymakers, NHA members and other stakeholders.

Quality & Patient Safety

Goal: Facilitate a learning environment for NHA members to assist them in providing care that is free from medical error, utilizes and shares evidence-based best practices, is customized to meet patient specific expectations and values, and sets the standard in Nebraska for service excellence.

Health Data & Information

Goal: Provide reliable and comprehensive health data and information about health care services, health care trends, clinical outcomes and their impacts and implications on Nebraska health care providers and the communities they serve.

Education

Goal: Offer educational programs to assist hospitals with leadership development and competencies of their management, clinical staff and board members using a variety of educational tools, providing high-quality content and learning opportunities.

Communication

Goal: Enhance members' collective ability to improve public trust in Nebraska's hospitals by playing a strong, influential role in the development of public awareness and confidence. Inform hospital members of relevant news and promote communication and collaboration among members, public officials, other health care organizations and those interested in improving health care in Nebraska.

Member Services

Goal: Stay in contact with NHA members on a personal level, develop opportunities for member involvement in the Association, and serve as a positive conduit to review issues, enabling members to network in a collegial and involved environment. Increase revenue through the NHA Affiliate Membership Program and sponsorship of Association events.

Governance

Goal: Strengthen and improve the Association's governance processes and procedures to ensure strong, focused and representative leadership. Maintain financial viability in the face of change.

Finance: Reimbursement & Regulation

Goal: Provide expertise to NHA members regarding financial policy issues by analyzing and communicating all significant reimbursement regulations and their impact, collaborating extensively with Nebraska's congressional delegation, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and other agencies/organizations as appropriate to influence financial policy and achieve reimbursement fairness.

NHA Research & Educational Foundation

The NHA Research & Educational Foundation, a nonprofit subsidiary of the NHA, was started in 1968. The Foundation's mission is to provide quality onsite educational programs and a wide variety of other services such as web-based programs, webinars, training products and publications to assist health care providers in meeting state and federal regulations, maintaining quality delivery of patient care and improving health.

NHA Services, Inc.

NHA Services, Inc., a for-profit, wholly-owned subsidiary of the NHA, was started in 1992. A collaboration among the NHA, NHA member hospitals and other Nebraska health care organizations and providers, NHA Services helps providers find cost-effective, appropriate solutions to their operational challenges. Using "NHA Services Preferred Business Partner" provides direct financial support to all NHA programs.

Bio-Electronics

Bio-Electronics, a for-profit, wholly-owned subsidiary of the NHA, was started in 1976. Bio-Electronics provides expert, cost-effective maintenance, repair and equipment management of medical equipment to health care facilities in Nebraska and surrounding states.

THE INFLUENTIAL VOICE.

Mission

The mission of the Nebraska Hospital Association (NHA) is to serve its members by being the trusted leader to improve the health, well-being and quality of life of all Nebraskans.

Vision

The NHA's vision is to be the state's most influential, trusted and respected voice in health care policy and advocacy, a valued resource for information and knowledge, and a leader in patient safety.

Strategic Framework

The Nebraska Hospital Association has been the guiding force of its members since 1927. The NHA serves as the influential voice of its members in the health care legislative and public arenas, promoting delivery of quality health care and influencing public opinion of hospitals and health networks. Members depend on the Association for information, advice, education and changes in health care regulations, legislation, trends and other issues.

To accomplish its mission and serve its members, the NHA has developed a strategic framework that consists of four pillars: Advocacy & Policy; Information & Knowledge, Strategic Collaboration and Quality & Safety.

To uphold these pillars, the NHA builds on a secure values-based foundation comprised of Integrity, Transparency and Accountability. Everything the NHA does is designed to assist our members in their quest to provide quality care to Nebraska's patients, families and communities.

Nebraska's hospitals serve as health and wellness cornerstones and economic engines of their communities and the state. For decades, hospitals have been committed to strengthening not only their patients, but also the communities and regions they serve. In addition to caring for the injured and serving the health needs of area residents, for many communities, hospitals are the largest employer and most stable economic driver.

Hospitals contribute significantly to the goal of improving the overall health of Nebraskans, all the while focusing on aiding the less fortunate as part of their mission and purpose of caring for the sick and injured, regardless of their ability to pay and the net cost to the hospital. Nebraska's hospitals are always there when needed, from prenatal care to helping patients and families at the end of life. Often, the extent of how much hospitals contribute to the betterment of their communities and the state is neither recognized nor understood. Regardless of awareness, Nebraska's hospitals are committed to addressing the critical and necessary needs of their communities in a responsible, considerate and compassionate way.

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FROM THE HOMEFRONT TO THE FOREFRONT.

The 2017 Nebraska Legislature adjourned Sine Die on May 23, 2017, four days earlier than the usual 90-day session. **Eighteen (18) new senators joined the 105th Legislative Session and they managed to pass 174 Bills in 86 days.**

Six hundred sixty-seven (667) Bills were introduced; 123 Bills identified as "of Interest" to NHA members. NHA members decided to monitor 99 Bills, support 19 Bills, oppose 3 Bills and be neutral on two Bills. Thirty-two (32) Bills of Interest became law. The NHA provided testimony before the Nebraska Legislature on 23 Bills.

One hundred thirty-seven (137) Legislative Interim Studies were introduced and were 23 identified as "of Interest" by our members.

Credentialing of Health Care Providers

Licensed Practical Nurses

Since 2007, Nebraska has required additional training and a separate license for Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) who provide intravenous therapy (LPN-C). LB 283 merges the LPN and LPN-C licenses with specific requirements for LPNs holding a license issued prior to May 1, 2016. These requirements must be completed by August 24, 2022.

All LPNs (holding a license issued prior to May 1, 2016) will be required to complete an eight-hour didactic course in intravenous (IV) therapy. If the LPN wishes to provide IV therapy within the course of his or her employment, an approved employer-specific IV therapy skills course must also be completed. Any individual currently holding the LPN credential who is not required to provide IV therapy within the course of his or her employment must only complete the eight-hour didactic course. While DHHS is currently developing plans for implementation of this new model, it is likely both courses will be offered through community colleges and/or facility education centers.

Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

Under LB 61, Nebraska is now a member of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC). The IMLC provides a streamlined application process for physicians residing in a member state who want to hold a license in a participating state. Currently, 18 states including Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa and Kansas, are members of the Compact.

NHA staff will be working with the Department of Health & Human Services to assist in implementation planning. At this time, it is anticipated that full participation will occur in 2018.

Telehealth

LB 92 requires private payers to provide coverage for telemedicine services, regardless of the provider's location in relation to the patient, as long as the provider is licensed within the state of Nebraska. The payer shall not exclude coverage solely because a service is provided through telemedicine.

The NHA anticipates this is a milestone towards achieving reimbursement parity for telemedicine in Nebraska. Though it will be an uphill battle, this is the next step in reducing barriers to access to care through telemedicine services.

Helmet Law Repeal

This year's Bill requiring repeal of Nebraska's helmet law requirement for anyone 21 years of age and older was narrowly halted. LB 368 needed a single vote to overcome a filibuster effort and advance towards likely passage. It is anticipated that LB 368 will be revived in 2018 with an equally difficult job ahead for opposing stakeholders.

2018 Election

Twenty-four out of the 49 senators are up for election in 2018. Sixteen of the seated senators face re-election. There will be at least 8 new senators elected. Since term limits went into effect in 2006, there have been nearly 100 new senators elected.

The NHA has met with candidates for the Nebraska Legislature from legislative districts: 6 (Omaha), 8 (Omaha), 10 (Omaha), 12 (Ralston), 14 (Papillion), 16 (Lyons) and 20 (Omaha), and will continue to meet with all candidates before the May 15, 2018, Primary.

NHA PAC

The NHA would like to thank the **180 individual NHA members from 41 hospitals who contributed a total of \$31,735** to the NHA Political Action Committee (PAC) this year.

The NHA conducted PAC appeals this year at:

- Box Butte General Hospital, Alliance
- CHI Health Good Samaritan, Kearney
- CHI Health St. Francis, Grand Island
- Columbus Community Hospital, Columbus
- Lexington Regional Health Center, Lexington
- Community Hospital, McCook
- Ogallala Community Hospital, Ogallala
- York General, York

ADVOCATING FOR HEALTH CARE FOR ALL.

The NHA staff actively communicates with Nebraska's congressional delegation, the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the American Hospital Association (AHA), other state hospital associations and other stakeholders on a frequent basis regarding health care provisions being proposed and implemented. Through advocacy efforts, the NHA and its members are able to influence federal policy and its impact on Nebraska hospitals.

Federal Advocacy

The NHA advocates on behalf of our member hospitals in many ways at the federal level, some of which include the following:

- The NHA led two visits to Capitol Hill in 2017 to meet with Nebraska's congressional delegation.
 - In May 2017, NHA Staff and 12 member hospitals met with the Nebraska delegates and staff. The timing of this meeting was critical as the House had just passed the AHCA and it was an opportunity meet with Senators and their staff about what would be coming in the Senate regarding Repeal and Replace.
 - Other key issues discussed:
 - CHIP Reauthorization
 - Medicare Disproportionate Share
 - Access to Behavioral Health Services
 - Medicare Rural Payment Extensions
 - Critical Access Hospital Payment Policies
 - 340b Drug Pricing Program
 - Telehealth Services
 - Medicare Physician Payment (MACRA)
 - In September 2017, NHA staff and 10 member hospitals again met with the Nebraska delegation. The group attend the Nebraska Breakfast that included all five congressional delegates and again met with the delegation and staff.
 - Key issues discussed:
 - Repeal and Replace
 - CHIP Reauthorization
 - Medicaid Cuts
 - Direct Primary Care
 - 340b Drug Pricing Program
 - Workforce Shortages
 - J-1 Visa Waivers
 - Telehealth
 - Protecting Health Information (Cybersecurity)
 - Broadband Access
 - Regulatory & Administrative Simplification
 - Rural Health Issues

- Advocacy Alerts to members requesting action on specific legislation and regulations:
 - AHCA
 - BRCA
 - 340b CMS regulations
 - Tax reform impact on tax-exempt bond financing
- Communications with congressional delegation in Washington regarding legislative and regulatory issues.
 - CAH 96-Hour Rule
 - 340b Drug Pricing Program
 - Medicaid Cuts
- Participated in national meetings within several specialty areas with state hospital association colleagues from around the country.
- Submitted comment letters to CMS on various proposed regulations and rule updates.
- Meet quarterly with the CMS Regional Office in Kansas City.
 - November meeting included an opportunity to meet with CMS Administrator, Seema Verma.

NHA staff provides impact analyses to member hospitals on regulations proposed by CMS and legislation being considered by Congress. These analyses help hospitals better understand the financial impact of federal legislative and regulatory changes.

State Advocacy

The NHA staff actively communicates with Nebraska's state legislators and the with NDHHS in many ways.

- Met regularly with members of the state legislature and staff to keep them informed on issues important to our members.
- Facilitated the introduction of legislation regarding the licensure compact and APR-DRG fix.
- Served on the Medical Assistance Advisory Committee and Administrative Simplification Committee.
- Testified at various legislative and DHHS hearings regarding Heritage Health and Dual Eligible issues.
- Worked with DHHS to set up workgroup to review proposed implementation of Enhanced Ambulatory Payment Grouping payment system for PPS hospitals.
- Worked collaboratively with DHHS to address issues with the implementation of Heritage Health.

MAKING AN IMPACT. TAKING THE LEAD.

Allied Groups and Coalitions

NHA Staff actively participates with outside groups to support health care issues in our state. Groups and coalitions include:

- Nebraska Chapter of the Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA)
- Nebraska Health Care Association (NeHCA)
- Psychiatric Administrators Coalition
- Heritage Health Coalition
- Rural Health Groups

Member Surveys

NHA staff frequently queries the membership group regarding issues brought forward by the membership, as well as to determine policy issues that the NHA should pursue.

In addition to the annual policy development survey, the advocacy staff has queried the membership on the following:

- Facility Influenza Vaccination Policies
- Staff Paid Time Off Accrual Policies
- Emergency Department On-Call Staffing
- Cyber Insurance Coverage
- Locum Provider Housing
- Environmental Services
- Behavioral Health Services

The NHA also facilitates three annual compensation surveys conducted by Compdata Surveys & Consulting.

Each year the NHA looks for new ways to generate revenues so we can reduce the reliance on member dues. Other revenues generated by NHA primarily consist of the following:

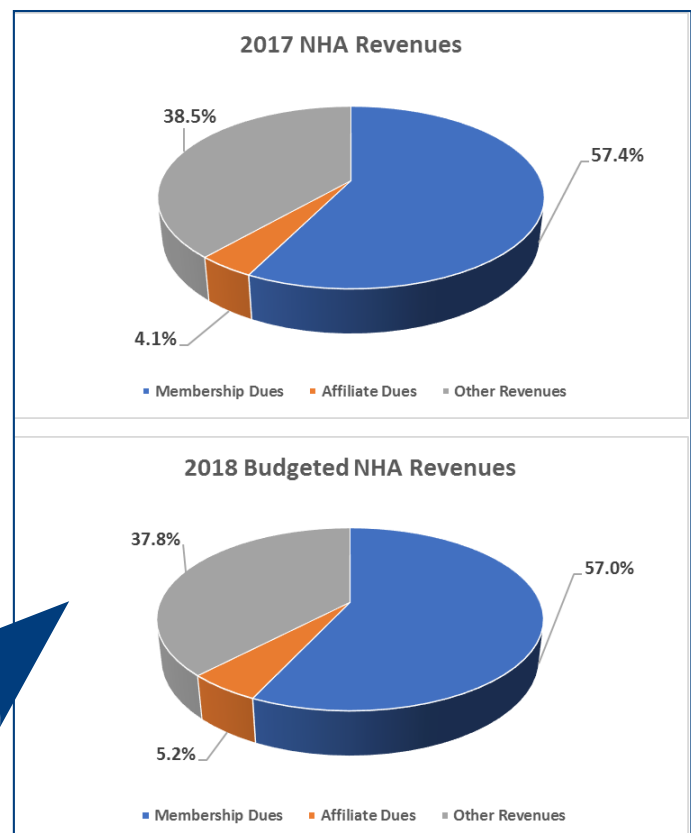
- Quality Improvement grants and services
- Management services for NHA subsidiaries
- Survey revenues
- NHIS report revenues
- Advocacy revenues
- Advertising revenues
- Rent Revenues from Bio-Electronics
- Investment income

Membership Dues

Member dues are important part of the revenues generated by the NHA. Member dues represent 57 percent of the revenues generated by NHA. Ensuring that the membership receives value for the dues is important to us.

We conducted a Member Value Survey to determine if the needs of the membership are still being met. The results were shared with the membership at the April district meetings.

The following graphs show the breakdown of the revenues generated by the NHA.



ADVANCING HEALTH CARE EDUCATION.

We know the definition of commitment is a “pledge, a promise.” The meaning of the word commitment for the NHA Research and Educational Foundation speaks to the dedication to our mission to provide educational opportunities that enable NHA members to remain current and respond to advances in health care.

Committed to offering high-quality education

Commitment reinforces an acceptance of responsibility to be a leader always driving to innovate and improve. The NHA Foundation embraces this leadership role as we commit ourselves to providing the highest-quality health care education that is affordable and accessible.

We are partnering at the federal and state level with other health care educational organizations to find new ways to improve the health care delivery system. In this year’s annual report, we are sharing our success stories of innovation and coordination. These examples of how NHA member hospitals are utilizing the services provided by the Foundation as we combine the strengths of our collective talents to develop the best education for staff that will benefit our patients. The best of times are ahead of us, as are the greatest challenges.

The Foundation Board of Directors, the Education Advisory Group and NHA staff continue to use the opportunity to carve a path that will guide, support and advance our educational mission and the missions of NHA members.

Education Advisory Group

In March 2017, the Foundation reconvened its Education Advisory Group. Consisting of staff from various managerial positions within NHA member hospitals from each of the five districts and key organizational partners, including the Nebraska Chapter of the Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA), American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), Nebraska Healthcare Marketers (NHM) and the Nebraska Organization of Nurse Leaders (NONL), this group assisted the NHA staff in efforts to identify the most relevant and high-quality educational offerings and the most appropriate methods of delivery.

The group identified 18 individual breakout sessions for both the NHA Spring Forum and the NHA Annual Convention, along with face-to-face educational offerings they felt would be most beneficial to member hospitals carrying into 2017.

Educational Programming

The NHA Foundation **offered and co-sponsored 15 individual educational programs** for NHA member hospitals and their staff. As always, the signature events were held such as the NHA Annual Convention, CAH Quality Conference, Advocacy Day, Nebraska Healthcare Administrative Professionals Conference, Spring Forum & Golf Tournament and the Western Regional Trustee Symposium.

Along with these live events were webinars. Webinars and distance learning are a popular delivery method the association has of providing education to the membership. Webinars initially developed by the NHA Foundation are shared with hospital associations in all 50 states. **More than 100 webinars were offered to NHA members in 2017.**

NHA Leadership Institute

Class XIV (14) of the NHA Leadership Institute held their opening retreat on Jan. 20-21, 2017. Participants completed their final session at the NHA Annual Convention on Oct. 25, 2017. This brings the **total number of alumni to 357**. This Foundation initiative continues to be the premiere leadership development program in the state, serving the unique needs of health care employees. Leadership Institute participants benefit from interactive learning with guidance from faculty in various departments from Bellevue University, including business, management and health care administration.

Participants gain a great deal from continuous learning and networking due to the strong bonds they develop throughout the 10-month program. The Institute is not only a gateway to career-long professional development, but also provides a solid base of knowledge to help individuals position themselves as health care leaders.

GROWING OUR OWN.

Hospital Trustee Community Accountability Education Certification Program

Seventeen hospital boards and 100 individual hospital trustees and executives completed certification through the Hospital Trustee Community Accountability Education Certification Program in 2017. These boards and individual board members dedicated the time and effort to governance practices and participated in the quality governance education programs offered by the NHA Foundation and others to ensure governance community accountability.

Western Regional Trustee Symposium

Several Nebraska hospital trustees attended the 21st Annual Western Regional Trustee Symposium (WRTS). Hospital trustees and executives from Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming gathered this past June in Santa Fe, New Mexico, for this annual event. The program is geared primarily to smaller, rural hospital boards and provides tools and strategies trustees need to navigate the increasingly complex health care environment. Galen Wiser, board trustee from Providence Medical Center in Wayne, completed his sixth year as Nebraska's trustee representative to the WRTS Planning Committee in 2017. The 22nd Annual Symposium will be held in Omaha in June of 2018.

careLearning

careLearning, the e-learning company co-owned by the NHA Foundation and 41 other state hospital associations saw tremendous growth in 2017. Through careLearning the Foundation added new online courses for 2017 for members bringing the total number of **Nebraska hospital employees enrolled in careLearning online courses to 2,500** out of more than 140,000 nationally.

NHA Health Care Career Scholarship Program

During the past 17 years, the NHA Foundation has awarded more than \$530,000 in scholarships – supporting nearly 320 employees of NHA member hospitals in their efforts to earn a high-quality education. This year, four additional scholarships were made available because of a generous donation from NHA Affiliate Members Focus One Solutions & Aureus Medical Group.



KEEPING YOU INFORMED.

Through multiple forms of traditional and social media communication platforms, the NHA provides the latest news and information to keep you current and up-to-date on trends and developments in the health care industry.

The communications inform you on a broad range of issues, including state and federal legislation, quality, health data, education and emergency preparedness. We inform you of state and federal legislation, the latest quality initiatives and best practices, health data and the impact hospitals are having on the state and workforce training, educational opportunities and emergency preparedness.

NHA Website

We continue to refine the website to be the go-to resource for NHA hospital members, state and federal lawmakers, the media and the general public.

Publications

The NHA continues to offer a wide variety of electronic newsletters delivered directly to your in-box to be accessed at the click of a button. The newsletters provide important information regarding issues that impact the hospital and health care industry across the state.

The NHA is proud to celebrate its 90th Anniversary in 2017. A special publication was published to commemorate this milestone and pay tribute to its founders. The publication features each member hospital, a brief history of the hospital and photos.

Legislature Lately

"Legislature Lately" highlights key state and federal issues that impact hospitals and the health care industry during the Legislative session. From health care reform to state legislative races, this e-newsletter covers a wide breadth of issues, keeping you up-to-date on the latest issues, developments and changes in the legislative arena.

e-Bulletin

"e-Bulletin" is a monthly electronic newsletter that provides information and resources relating to health care education and events.

KEEPING YOU PREPARED.

Emergency Preparedness News

"Emergency Preparedness News" (EP News) informs members of existing or potential issues that have resulted in mass emergencies. Many hospitals and their employees were hit hard this year with the devastating aftermath from Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, and random acts of cyberterrorism. EP News strives to provide the latest information on disaster readiness for hospitals and health care facilities.

Healthier Nebraska

Healthier Nebraska is a quarterly publication that provides a comprehensive overview of current stories and issues pertaining to hospitals and health care providers in Nebraska. Each edition features a member hospital, the challenges and opportunities it faced and the positive changes and improvements they have made.

Nebraska Hospitals Community Benefits Report

The annual "Nebraska Hospitals Community Benefits Report" contains information about the contributions member hospitals made to the state and their respective communities during the previous fiscal year. The report also features stories focusing on the impact those contributions are having on patients, communities and the hospitals themselves.

Newslink

"Newslink" is a member-focused publication highlighting member achievements, recognitions and initiatives. Newslink provides information on positive trends in health care. The weekly newsletter, features state and federal health care news, member hospital news, current health care topics of interest and educational opportunities, and is distributed to more than 3,000 recipients.

Quality Matters

Nebraska is home to healthy communities where hospitals are known as leaders of quality initiatives. "Quality Matters" is a monthly newsletter that focuses on achieving the goal of being leaders in quality, sharing with you some of the initiatives that are taking place right now in our state.

LEADERS IN QUALITY.

The NHA informs members of evidence-based best practices to improve quality, makes available information to improve patient experiences and outcomes, and provides programs, educational opportunities and information to help reduce avoidable patient harm.

CAH Conference on Quality

The NHA convened the 15th Annual Critical Access Hospital (CAH) Conference on Quality. This conference, especially designed for critical access hospitals, provides a forum for our Nebraska CAHs to come together to discuss issues of importance, share best practices with their peers and hear from national experts.

All relevant and good presentations; well worth the time spent! Good conference. Valuable information. Great place to bring new staff to hear information from experts and validate what us veterans have been telling them. Thanks much." Anonymous (Comments included in evaluation of 2016 CAH Conference on Quality)

Quest for Excellence Award

Together with the Nebraska Association of Healthcare Quality, Risk & Safety, the Great Plains QIO-QIN and the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services, the NHA sponsors the *Quest for Excellence* award. One Critical Access Hospital and one Non-Critical Access Hospital are selected each year to receive this prestigious award. All applicants for the award generously agree to share their expertise and the lessons learned with others throughout the state. The 2017 recipients were St. Francis Memorial Hospital in West Point and Great Plains Health in North Platte.

Quality Improvement Initiatives

Nebraska hospitals continue their journey to improve quality of care using resources made available through participation in national quality initiatives such as the Hospital Improvement Innovation Network (HIIN), by sharing with their peers through the NHA Quality Committee, and by partnering with stakeholders such as the Nebraska Health Care Association and the Department of Health & Human Services.

ENSURING PATIENT SAFETY.

- In 2016, Nebraska hospitals **provided care during approximately 203,600 inpatient visits and 504,524 emergency room visits.**
- Since 2012, Nebraska hospitals have **steadily reduced the rate of early elective deliveries**, achieving the national goal of 2 percent.
- Since 2015, Nebraska hospitals have **prevented approximately 5,100 harms, saving and reallocating approximately \$33,000,000 in health care spending** through improvements in quality.
- **69 Nebraska hospitals currently participate in the CMS Partnership for Patients Hospital Improvement Innovation Network** through the AHA's Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET HIIN) and are working to reduce preventable harm in the following areas:
 - Adverse Drug Events – anticoagulants, opioids and glucose related events
 - Central Line-Associated Blood Stream Infections (CLABSI)
 - Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTI)
 - Ventilator-Associated Events (VAE)
 - Falls with injuries
 - Pressure ulcers
 - Surgical site infections in patients undergoing total hip replacements, total knee replacements, abdominal hysterectomies and major colon procedures
 - Infections due to C. diff and MRSA
 - Sepsis
 - Venous thromboembolism
 - Preventable readmissions

AHA HRET HIIN

Through the NHA's participation in the AHA's HRET HIIN, we provided professional development scholarships for 13 individuals to attend the Association for Professionals in Infection Control & Epidemiology (APIC) National Conference and for 15 individuals to attend the AHA's Leadership Summit.

Collaborative Partnerships

- **Nebraska Health Care Association**
The NHA partnered with the Nebraska Health Care Association to offer the workshop "Bridging the Gap: Working Together to Improve Transitions in Care." During this workshop, facilities identified how working together would improve transitions of care. Topics discussed included social determinants of health to reduce readmissions, conducting root cause analysis to understand why readmissions occurred, nurse to nurse hand-offs, advance directives and medication reconciliation.

- **Great Plains QIO-QIN**

The NHA partners with the Great Plains Quality Innovation Network (QIN) on a variety of issues such as reducing avoidable readmissions and infections, and improving transitions of care from one facility to another.

- **Department of Health & Human Services**

The NHA participates in a variety of initiatives with the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services. This includes the Newborn Genetics Screening Advisory Committee, the Healthcare-Acquired Infections Advisory Committee, the Safe Sleep Campaign and the Heritage Health Quality Management Committee.

"One of the benefits of participation is the abundance of learning opportunities from the web based seminars to the opportunity to network with others across the state. These educational opportunities have assisted Oakland Mercy Hospital with improving our quality department, as well as infection prevention program, ultimately, enhancing and improving the quality of care delivered to our customers."

**Amanda Walton, Quality Coordinator
Oakland Mercy Hospital, Oakland**

"Through the work of the HIIN program, there is unlimited access to education, training and resources to help keep up with the latest evidenced based practices. The face-to-face meetings help to share best practices and work through challenges with other organizations across Nebraska."

**Anne Timmerman, Quality Improvement and Patient/Resident Safety Coordinator
St. Francis Memorial Hospital, West Point**

"HIIN has provided our hospital with many quality improvement resources such as free webinars, conferences and knowledge sharing sessions. These opportunities have guided our efforts to improve the quality of care we deliver."

**Aimee Black, Director of Clinical Quality
Nebraska Methodist Hospital, Omaha**

RELIABLE & COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH DATA.

Nebraska Hospital Information System (NHIS)

The NHA continues to provide reliable and comprehensive health data and information about health care services, health care trends, clinical outcomes and their impacts and implications on Nebraska health care providers and the communities they serve.

The Nebraska Hospital Information System is a signature resource as reliable hospital inpatient and outpatient data. The NHIS is the successful result of a coordinated effort between the NHA, Nebraska's community hospitals, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska, and the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services (NDHHS). Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska and NDHHS continued their financial sponsorship of the NHIS.

Reports & Information

Reports and information continue to be a critical value to Nebraska hospitals. In addition, the NHIS generates non-dues revenue. NHA staff distributed NHIS reports in prior 12 months for **non-dues revenue of \$251,067**. Of this revenue, \$158,417 was from non-member organizations including financial sponsorship and research. NHIS marketing for services included emails, newsletter information, brochures and presentations.

The NHA continues refinement of claims data submission process including new process for hospitals using Change (RelayHealth). Partnering with claims clearinghouses to submit claims data on behalf of Nebraska hospitals is an effective method for collection. The NHA continues to work with clearinghouses used by member hospitals, and currently works with 10 clearinghouse options on behalf of members.

The NHA supports a web portal for NDHHS to collect the monthly hospital statistical information (1310 report). **Participation by hospitals through 2017 continued to increase with 128 user accounts.**

The Hospital Improvement Innovation Network (HIIN) reporting measures for 68 HRET participating Nebraska hospitals are compiled. Additional reports on quality and patient outcomes for the Clinical Outcomes Measurement System (COMS) were generated from the Truven CareDiscovery data load process. NHIS data is also loaded to the NHA Care Compare (NHACareCompare.org) public web portal.

As a benefit to participating hospitals, NHA continued to provide monthly data to the NDHHS on behalf of Nebraska hospitals for both monthly and annual reporting mandates.

Data reporting mandates include the following:

- External Cause of Injury (Neb. Rev. Stat. 71-2078 to 71-2082)
- Head, Brain & Spinal Injury (Neb. Rev. Stat. 81-653 to 81-661)
- Ambulatory Surgical Center (Neb. Rev. Stat. 81-6,111 to 81-6,119)
- Communicable Diseases (Neb. Rev. Stat. 71-532)
- Parkinson Disease Registry (Neb. Rev. Stat. 81-697 to 81-6,110)
- Cancer Registry Early Case Capture (Neb. Rev. Stat. 81-642 to 81-650)
- Contagious, Infectious, or Poisoning (Neb. Rev. Stat. 71-503)

Health Information Technology

The NHA participates in Nebraska Health Information Initiative (NeHII) to further development of the Nebraska Health Information Exchange and Electronic Health Record. Current positions include vice president of the NeHII board and chair of Professional Association Advisory Council.

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) has been a significant focus of NeHII this year with the passage of LB223. The NDHHS also received several grants to enhance the existing PDMP and is working with NeHII on implementing a new system during 2017.

In addition to a new PDMP system, NeHII converted to a new platform for the health information exchange functionality. NeHII continues to add hospitals, physicians and other providers as users. There was significant push to add CAH through the end of Fiscal Year 2017 with Office of National Coordinator (ONC) grants. With in-progress hospitals, 53 Nebraska hospitals are connected with NeHII.

The NHA also serves on Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC) eHealth Council.

We continue to serve in leadership role with the Nebraska Chapter for the Health Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS). Activities include advocacy, Health IT Week Proclamation and financial activities.

COST-EFFECTIVE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS.



Designed to reduce expenses for NHA member hospitals, NHA Services is a collaboration among the NHA, member hospitals and preferred business partners. NHA Services' successful volume aggregation model is key to achieving best value for all members. The NHA Services Board of Directors leads the organization's vetting and contract decision-making process.

NHA Services helps providers find cost-effective, appropriate solutions to their operational challenges. Using NHA Services Preferred Business Partners provides direct financial support directly back to the NHA.



In February 2017, the NHA Services Board of Directors adopted a new set of guiding principles:

- The services provided by the preferred business partners will generate value-added benefits for members and offer products and services that help hospitals, health care organizations and health care providers minimize costs, recover revenue, improve operational efficiencies, improve management and quality, increase productivity, develop staff resources and apply new strategies.
- The partners selected will meet high standards for quality, service and integrity, and provide products and services at a discounted fee and/or with added benefits for members.
- NHA members can be assured of continuous performance monitoring of all partners.
- The NHA Services Board of Directors recognizes that there are multiple qualified vendors in any endeavor. The partners that are carefully vetted and selected by the Board are not promoted as, or intended to represent, the "best" or only solutions available to member hospitals, health care organizations and health care providers in the state. Because of evaluation and analysis of each partner, the Preferred Business Partner program is intended to discover a proven top vendor, thereby assisting members by reducing the need for them to invest considerable time and financial resources on their own due diligence process.
- As a business practice perspective, at any given time the Preferred Business Partner roster may include only a single vendor representing a product or service.

- The Board of Directors, whenever possible, will seek recommendations from NHA members that have had experience with quality vendors that could be potential candidates for endorsement.
- NHA members are not bound by any obligation to work with vendors endorsed by the NHA Services, Inc. Board of Directors.
- The Preferred Business Partner program is intended to provide a source of funding to the Nebraska Hospital Association to support activities and programs on behalf of member hospitals.

In 2017, the NHA Services Board of Directors approved nine new partnerships, creating a total of 20. Six inactive partnerships were dissolved, leaving a total of 14 currently active. These 14 represent **26 individual service lines available for NHA members hospitals.**

In 2017, NHA Services is projecting an **increase in preferred partnership income of \$33,000 over 2016. Revenue projections for 2018 are estimated to be an additional \$79,000 for a total of \$221,000.** Revenue generated by NHA Services is returned to the NHA's general budget in the form of an annual dividend. NHA Services also added an **additional \$36,000 in revenue to the NHA Affiliate Membership program.**

This year has been an exciting and re-invigorating time for the subsidiary. It is on track to meet its ambitious goals and uphold the newly defined guiding principles. By doing so, all NHA member hospitals will see the benefits.

We encourage you to use NHA Services as your trusted guide when making product and service line choices.

NHA Services current preferred business partners include:

- Accurate Background
- Assurity
- careLearning
- Community Hospital Consulting
- Five Nines
- HighPoint Solutions
- ITPAC Consulting
- LMC Insurance & Risk Management
- Lutz
- MCAG
- Medi-Waste Disposal
- Merritt Hawkins
- MyVitalz
- RehabVisions
- SunRx

IMPROVING PATIENT CARE & FACILITY PRODUCTIVITY.



Bio-Electronics

Bio-Electronics is a wholly-owned subsidiary company of the Nebraska Hospital Association (NHA), providing medical equipment service to hospitals and healthcare facilities in Nebraska, Wyoming, Kansas, Colorado, South Dakota and Iowa. **Highly-qualified technicians service more than 250 hospitals and clinics each year.**

We continue to provide services to numerous health care organizations, and have added or enhanced the services to many hospitals and medical clinics.

Bio-Electronics assists Nebraska Hospital Association member hospitals to achieve compliance with three deeming entities:

- The Joint Commission
- DNVGL
- State of Nebraska Certification for Medicare and Medicaid

Bio-Electronics has taken an active role in communication with the deeming agencies to clarify the rules and regulations to determine compliance for the member hospitals.

Bio-Electronics continues to serve approximately 200+ contracted health care customers, of which three are in-house programs.

Bio-Electronics is continuing its efforts to grow its "Contract Management Program" in partnership with Mediserve, to reduce the manufacturers' maintenance contract cost to the hospitals in the Bio-Electronics system. To date, the average amount of **savings realized by the 12 hospitals is a savings of 15 percent over what the hospital was spending for a manufacturer's maintenance contract**, utilizing the existing manufacturer's service personnel.

Bio-Electronics is also working to actively develop relationships with various imaging vendors to provide equipment that will meet the proposed revisions for digital readers (DRs) with selected customers. This change could provide relief to customers in reducing the loss of revenue with existing systems.

Bio-Electronics stands ready to provide services to new and existing customers to assure compliance and meet the quality needs of the organization.

VALUED MEMBER HOSPITALS & HEALTH SYSTEMS.

Annie Jeffrey Memorial County Health Center, Osceola
Antelope Memorial Hospital, Neligh
Avera Creighton Hospital, Creighton
Avera St. Anthony's Hospital, O'Neill
Beatrice Community Hospital & Health Center, Beatrice
Boone County Health Center, Albion
Box Butte General Hospital, Alliance
Boys Town National Research Hospital, Omaha
Brodstone Memorial Hospital, Superior
Brown County Hospital, Ainsworth
Bryan Health, Lincoln
Bryan Medical Center, Lincoln
Butler County Health Care Center, David City
Callaway District Hospital, Callaway
Chadron Community Hospital & Health Services, Chadron
Chase County Community Hospital, Imperial
Cherry County Hospital, Valentine
CHI Health, Omaha
CHI Health CUMC Bergan Mercy, Omaha
CHI Health Good Samaritan, Kearney
CHI Health Immanuel, Omaha
CHI Health Lakeside, Omaha
CHI Health St. Elizabeth, Lincoln
CHI Health St. Francis, Grand Island
CHI Health St. Mary's, Nebraska City
CHI Health Schuyler, Schuyler
Children's Hospital & Medical Center, Omaha
Columbus Community Hospital, Columbus
Community Hospital, McCook
Community Medical Center, Inc., Falls City
Community Memorial Hospital, Syracuse
Cozad Community Health System, Cozad
Crete Area Medical Center, Crete
Dundy County Hospital, Benkelman
Faith Regional Health Services, Norfolk
Fillmore County Hospital, Geneva
Franklin County Memorial Hospital, Franklin
Fremont Health, Fremont
Friend Community Healthcare System, Friend
Genoa Medical Facilities, Genoa
Gordon Memorial Health Services, Gordon
Gothenburg Health, Gothenburg
Great Plains Health, North Platte
Harlan County Health System, Alma
Henderson Health Care, Henderson
Howard County Medical Center, St. Paul
Jefferson Community Health & Life, Fairbury
Jennie M. Melham Memorial Medical Center, Broken Bow
Johnson County Hospital, Tecumseh

Kearney County Health Services, Minden
Kearney Regional Medical Center, Kearney
Kimball Health Services, Kimball
Lexington Regional Health Center, Lexington
Madonna Rehabilitation Hospitals, Lincoln
Mary Lanning Healthcare, Hastings
Memorial Community Health, Aurora
Memorial Community Hospital & Health System, Blair
Memorial Health Care Systems, Seward
Merrick Medical Center, Central City
Methodist Women's Hospital, Omaha
Morrill County Community Hospital, Bridgeport
Nebraska Medicine - Bellevue, Bellevue
Nebraska Medicine, Omaha
Nebraska Methodist Health System, Omaha
Nebraska Methodist Hospital, Omaha
Nebraska Spine Hospital, Omaha
Nemaha County Hospital, Auburn
Niobrara Valley Hospital, Lynch
Oakland Mercy Hospital, Oakland
Ogallala Community Hospital, Ogallala
OrthoNebraska, Omaha
Osmond General Hospital, Osmond
Pawnee County Memorial Hospital, Pawnee City
Pender Community Hospital, Pender
Perkins County Health Services, Grant
Phelps Memorial Health Center, Holdrege
Providence Medical Center, Wayne
Regional West Garden County, Oshkosh
Regional West Medical Center, Scottsbluff
Richard H. Young Hospital, Kearney
Rock County Hospital, Bassett
St. Francis Memorial Hospital, West Point
Saunders Medical Center, Wahoo
Select Specialty Hospital, Lincoln
Select Specialty Hospital, Omaha
Sidney Regional Medical Center, Sidney
Thayer County Health Services, Hebron
Tri Valley Health System, Cambridge
Valley County Health System, Ord
Webster County Community Hospital, Red Cloud
West Holt Medical Services, Atkinson
York General, York

Affiliate Member Hospitals

VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System-
Omaha, Grand Island, Lincoln

BUILDING STRATEGIC ALLIANCES.

The Nebraska Hospital Association Affiliate Membership Program is an ongoing effort to build and strengthen alliances with Nebraska's health care providers and the organizations that support them in their mission and also to support the NHA as a non-dues revenue source to aid in keeping member dues affordable.

In 2017, NHA introduced a new affiliate membership opportunity, Patron Level, for our non-profit allies that also support the hospitals and health systems throughout Nebraska.

The Patron Affiliate Membership offers non-profit organizations the opportunity to network and collaborate with the NHA hospital members at on site events and through the NHA website and social media channels. The NHA welcomed five new Patron Level Affiliate Members during its inaugural year.

The program continues to grow with over 50 Advanced Level Affiliates (Platinum, Silver and Bronze), nearly 90 Partner Level Affiliates and five Patron Level Affiliates, collecting nearly \$300,000 in membership dues.

Platinum Affiliate Member

LMC Insurance & Risk Management 

Silver Affiliate Members

COPIC
Creighton University
HDR
MMIC
Nebraska Total Care
SilverStone Group
Union Bank & Trust Co.

Bronze Affiliate Members

American National Bank
Ameritas Investment Corp.
Ameritex Services
athenahealth, Inc.
Avera eCARE
Baird Holm LLP
BD Construction, Inc.
Beckenhauer Construction, Inc.

Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Nebraska

CG-ID Architecture

Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather, LLP

Community Hospital Corporation 

Coverys

Credit Management Services, Inc.

Eide Bailly LLP

Evident

First National Capital Markets

Five Nines 

The Graham Group

H4 Technology

The Harry A. Koch Co.

Hausmann Construction, Inc.

HighPoint Solutions 

InSPIRe Rehabilitation

JE Dunn Construction

Kiewit Building Group

Lutz 


Marco

Marcotte

McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.

Medefis, Inc.

Midwest Medical Transport & MedAir

MyVitalz 

Nebraska Community Blood Bank

The Olson Group

Prairie Health Ventures

RehabVisions 

Sampson Construction Co.



Valley Hope

Wipfli LLP

STRENGTHENING HEALTH CARE.

Partner Affiliate Members

Accurate Background 
Acute Care, Inc.
ASI Signage Innovations
Associated Imaging Services
Aureus Group
Aureus Medical Group
The Austin Company
Bellevue University
BKD CPAs & Advisors
BWBR Architects
Calvin L. Hinz Architects, PC
CenterPoint Energy Services 
ClearScript
CMBA Architects
Constellation Energy
Courtyard By Marriott Lincoln Haymarket
D.A. Davidson & Co.
Darland Construction Co.
Davis Design
Docs Who Care
Dohman, Akerlund & Eddy, LLC
Electronic Contracting Co.
Electronic Sound, Inc.
Erickson & Sederstrom, P.C., L.L.O.
EZ Way, Inc.
FocusOne Solutions 
General Collection
Great Plains Communications
Great Plains Health Alliance, Inc.
Hoefer Wysocki Architecture
Holland Basham Architects
ICE Technologies, Inc.
IdeaBank Marketing
Intellicom
ITPAC Consulting, LLC 
Jablonski Physics Services
Jackson Physician Search
Kaplan University

KTECH Project Services
LightEdge Solutions
Lincoln Regional Center
Mazzuca & Associates
Medi-Waste Disposal, LLC 
MedPro Group
Merritt Hawkins 
MetaLogic, Inc.
Midlands Choice, Inc.
Midwest Alarm Services
Nebraska Department of Education NCE
Nebraska Organ Recovery System
NRC Health
One Source The Background Check Co.
ProAssurance
Professional Associates, Ltd.
Regional Care, Inc.
Risk Administration Services (RAS)
Ryder Rosacker McCue & Huston
Schemmer
Seim Johnson, LLP
Shannon Specialty Floors
Signature Performance, Inc.
Staff Care, Inc.
Trane
TSP
UnitedHealthcare
VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care
VTI Security
WoodRiver Energy, LLC

Patron Advanced Affiliate Member

Nebraska Health Information Initiative, Inc. (NeHII)
Pediatric Cancer Action Network
Praesidio Healthcare Consulting LLC
Sammy's Superheroes Foundation

Patron Basic Affiliate Member

Great Plains Quality Innovation Network

