AANHR Meeting November 11, 10:00 AM
Reflecting on the Past
Looking to the Future

November's AANHR meeting is a time we have set aside to revisit our accomplishments for the year and look ahead to our goals for 2014. We’ve been busy advocating for nursing home residents as well as their family members. AANHR has become known as the "go to" organization when one encounters maltreatment at the hands of seemingly uncaring or uncareful staff members at the local nursing center. Many concerns have been forwarded to the Office of Long Term Care via AANHR members, resulting in correction of care and amelioration of pain and suffering for nursing home residents.

Arkansas is known nationally for its successful advocacy groups that concentrate on our frailest senior citizens. AANHR honored the role of Arkansas' state ombudsman program at its annual Residents' Right Rally held this past month. Under the steering of Kathie Gately, AR State Ombudsman, the Certified Volunteer Ombudsman program has grown from a few to a wide group of volunteers who visit nursing home residents each week, checking on their health and well-being but also sharing a smile and welcome caring conversation to those who may rarely if ever have visitors. The sixty-five plus age group is known to be the least "touched" group of persons in our society.

If you are looking for a way to give back to society, to work for the good of the whole, to make a difference, please consider joining AANHR or the Ombudsman program this coming year. Year end is a time to reflect, to consider what we wish to be remembered for, to plan where we go from here, what we hope to accomplish by this time next year. Please come out and join us. AANHR would dearly love to have you join our team. Hope to see you at the November 11th meeting.

No AANHR meeting in December.
Next meeting will be January 13th, 2014
Arkansas Advocates for Nursing Home Residents (AANHR) celebrated our 10th annual Residents’ Rights Rally at the State Capitol on October 7th. The annual rally is to acknowledge the rights of long-term care residents.

It was a beautiful day and we had a great turnout including some very special guests: nursing home residents from local Little Rock nursing homes. Following the invocation by Dr. Gerald Parker, Pastor at Pilgrim Progress Missionary Baptist Church, President Deaver read the proclamation recognizing this special event signed by Governor Mike Beebe. Krista Hughes, Director of the Division of Aging and Adult Services, was our keynote speaker filling the spot of Kathie Gately, AR State Ombudsman, who was on furlough due to the federal government shutdown. Other featured speakers were Maria Diaz, AARP State Director; Dr. David Montague, Director of the UALR Senior Justice Center and Edna Morgan with Healing Place Ministries in Pine Bluff.

Nursing home abuse and neglect will affect every citizen in the United States, if changes are not made now to protect our most frail and vulnerable American Citizens. These American citizens do not lose their basic civil rights when they enter a nursing home. Sadly, the government data shows, year after year, that their basic rights are violated on a daily basis. We will all be in danger of losing “our civil rights” as well, if drastic changes in nursing home care do not occur now!

This year is the Fiftieth Anniversary of Martin Luther King’s “I Have A Dream” speech. AANHR has a dream of realizing the optimum care for our family members in Arkansas nursing homes.

The latest government data shows that seventy-one percent of Arkansas nursing homes have been cited for having an environment that caused accidents, fifty-three percent cited for poor quality of care, fifty-two percent cited for poor infection control, forty-six cited for poor food sanitation & forty-seven percent cited for failing to prevent bed sores. THIS IS DEPLORABLE! Fighting for the Rights, dignity & well-being of these American citizens has to be a priority to AANHR and everyone else.

For more information about residents’ rights and other nursing home issues please visit www.aanhr.org. AANHR is also on Facebook (Arkansas Advocates for Nursing Home Residents). Please “friend” us there.
Ribbon Tree Represents "Actual Harm" Violations Cited in Arkansas Nursing Homes

Each ribbon on the ribbon tree represents a nursing home resident who has encountered "Actual Harm" while in the care of a nursing home.

These "Actual Harm" violations were cited for harm or the potential for death to the nursing home residents.

Arkansas Advocates for Nursing Home Residents (AANHR) aanhr.org

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”
Proverbs 31:8 NIV
Tenth Annual
Residents’ Rights Rally
Election at November 11th Meeting for 2014 AANHR Officers and Board Members

Nominating Committee for November Election:

Chairperson: Nancy Allison, Conway (501) --327-3152
Committee Members: Linda Brimmer, Searcy -- (501) 230-5844
Nancy Patterson, Searcy - (501) 305-4034

Call any member of the Nominating Committee if you wish to nominate someone as an officer or board position. You must have the permission of you nominee.

The AANHR by-laws require a presentation of a slate of officers and board members for the coming year at the November meeting. Officers are automatically members of the board of directors.

These are the nominees for 2014:

President: Martha Deaver, Conway (501-450-9619)
Vice-President: Nancy Patterson, Searcy
Secretary: (currently open)
Treasurer: Frances Walker, Benton

Nominees for the Board of Directors:

Martha Blount, Searcy
Linda Brimer, Searcy
James Brooks, North Little Rock
Pat McGuire, Alexander
Ann Pinney, Benton

Steps to take if you find care lacking . . . .

1. Talk to the CNAs on duty for your hall.

2. Talk to the nurse for your hall.

3. Talk to the Director of Nursing or the Administrator.

4. Call the Office of Long Term Care or the Regional Ombudsman.

The Office of Long Term Care Phone in Arkansas is 1-800-582-4887.
Regional Ombudsman contact information complete with a photo of the ombudsman should be posted in a prominent place in your facility. You may also have a certified volunteer ombudsman (CVO) for your facility who might offer advice.
**AANHR Special Thanks**

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the following people and groups who make our outreach possible:

**Bob Edwards** of Wilkes and McHugh for its financial assistance in the printing and mailing of AANHR’s newsletter and other publications as well as financing the attendance of two board members to the annual NCCCHR conference.

**First Assembly of God Church** in North Little Rock for providing AANHR a meeting room.

**David Couch** of The Law Offices of David A. Couch, PLLC, PA, for his support and assistance, and his providing POA documents pro bono.

**Gary Miller of Prosmart Printing** for assistance in newsletter and brochure publication.

**M. Darren O’Quinn, Attorney, Little Rock**, for his continued assistance to and support of AANHR.

**Paschall Strategic Communications** for their continued assistance with public relations needs.

**Joshua Mayhan** for managing the AANHR website and sending AANHR email alerts.

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**AANHR Officers and Board Members**

- **President** - Martha Deaver, Conway (501-450-9619)
- **Vice President** - Gary Melton, Searcy (501-230-2846)
- **Secretary** - Betty Buckta, Judsonia (501-593-8860)
- **Treasurer** - Frances Walker, Benton (501-316-0260)

**Members of the Board**: Nancy Allison, Conway (501-327-3152); Martha Blount, Searcy (501-278-9168); Linda Brimer, Searcy (501-268-4699); James Brooks, North Little Rock (501-454-6279); Julie Edwards, Alexander; Pat McGuire, Alexander (501-847-1016); Nancy Patterson, Searcy (501-305-4034); and Ann Pinney, Benton (501-249-1084).

**Newsletter Editors**: Ernie and Martha Blount, Searcy.

**Honorary Board Members**: Faye Sandstrum, Searcy.

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**Helpful/Important Numbers**

**The Office of Long Term Care (OLTC)**

has a toll-free number for information, assistance and complaints for residents and family members:

1 - 800 - LTC - 4887 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on weekdays.

You may also write to: Office of Long Term Care (OLTC) P.O. Box 8059, Slot 400 Little Rock, AR 72203-8059

OLTC website:  [Http://humanservices.arkansas.gov/dms/Pages/oltcHome.aspx](http://humanservices.arkansas.gov/dms/Pages/oltcHome.aspx)

You should also report complaints to the Arkansas Attorney General

Toll Free: 1 - 866 - 810 - 0016

Little Rock Local: 682 - 7760

For additional assistance or a listening ear, call AANHR at

(501)450 - 9619 in Conway

Visit our website at [www.aanhr.org](http://www.aanhr.org) or e-mail us at [Info@aanhr.org](mailto:Info@aanhr.org)

Your local Ombudsman’s number should be posted in a prominent place in the nursing home, preferably near the front entrance. You may also call your local Area Agency on Aging to secure the name and phone number of the Ombudsman.

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**The UALR Senior Justice Center** can be reached at: 501 - 683 - 7153.

[www.ualr.edu/senior justice](http://www.ualr.edu/senior justice)
Strength in Numbers, AANHR Needs You!!

AANHR is a nonprofit organization run by non-paid volunteers dedicated to protecting and improving the quality of care and life for Arkansas residents in long term care facilities.

Won’t you please lend your support to us by joining our organization? Your membership dues help to pay for our activities that support our mission statement. Memberships are available on a calendar year basis. Join now and you will be a member through December 31, 2014.

Today’s Date__________________________

Name_________________________________

Mailing address__________________________

City/State/Zip___________________________

Phone_________________________________

Email__________________________________

( ) I wish to receive the AANHR newsletter.

( ) $15 per individual membership enclosed.

( ) $20 per family or corporate membership.

( ) Waive dues because of financial hardship.

Please make checks payable to: AANHR and mail to PO
2336 Riverview Circle, Benton AR 72019

Driving directions to
First Assembly of God Church,
4501 Burrow Road, North Little Rock

Coming from the North:
When driving South on Highway 67/167, take exit #1A onto Warden Road. As soon as you safely can, move into the right-hand lane, as you will be turning right at the Golden Corral Restaurant onto Commercial Drive.

Coming from East, West or South:
If you are on either I-30 or I-40, take Highway 67/167 North. Take exit #2 onto Landers Road. Stay in the left-hand lane, as you will be turning left and going under Highway 67/167 and enter Warden Road going southbound. As soon as you safely can, move into the right-hand lane, as you will be turning right at the Golden Corral Restaurant onto Commercial Drive.

Commercial Drive terminates at the church. Proceed straight across Burrow Road into the church’s parking lot and turn right at the far side of the building into the narrow alley-like drive.

The entry door is located about half-way down this side of the church and the meeting room (#113) is immediately inside the entrance door.