



AANHR

Arkansas Advocates for Nursing Home Residents

PROTECTING NURSING
HOME RESIDENTS

**November
2011**

Conway (501) 450-9619 · Fairfield Bay (501) 884-6728
Conway (501) 450-7405

AANHR's Mission Statement:

"To protect and improve the quality of care and life for residents in Arkansas nursing homes."

**Next Meeting
Nov. 14**

**MEETING
PLACE:**

**First Assembly of God
Church**

**4501 Burrow Road
North Little Rock
Directions to church
on back of Newsletter.**

**10:00 a.m.
Meeting for
members, family and
friends of residents
(Closed to persons
representing the
nursing home
industry).**

**11:00 a.m.
Public Meeting
(see article at right)**

**Please Note!!!
No AANHR meeting
or newsletter in
December. We're
looking forward to
further successful
advocating in 2012.**



David Couch, co-author of
*Litigating Nursing Home
Abuse Cases*

**November 14:
Our last AANHR meeting in 2011
Please join us!**

Have you ever wondered why the nursing home industry has so many "companies" or how/why we should hold them accountable for neglect? Join us at 11:00 a.m. on Nov. 14 when Attorney David Couch will delve into these issues.

David Couch is a strong advocate for our civil justice system, and thus dedicates time working to insure that the rights of innocent individuals who have been harmed are protected. In recognition of his efforts to protect the rights of individuals in 2003 he was awarded the Civil Justice Advocacy Award by the Arkansas Trial Lawyers Association and in 2010 the President's Award.

Born and raised in Newport, Arkansas, David received his Bachelors degree from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville in 1981. He graduated in 1985 from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law. In law school David served as an associate editor of the UALR Law Journal. He is the co-author of the book *Litigating Nursing Home Abuse Cases* by the AAJ Press and has written numerous articles on Nursing Home Abuse that have been published in various publications. He is a frequent speaker at national and local seminars on trial issues, especially ones involving nursing home litigation.

David worked 15 years at a large civil defense law firm in Little Rock. In 2001 he left to start his own firm dedicated to protecting those injured and harmed by the neglect of others. He is a member of the American Association of Justice where he is active in the Nursing Home Litigation Group having served as the Chair of that organization. He is a former member of the Board of Directors of NCCNHR, now the Consumer Voice.

David is admitted to practice before all Arkansas and New Jersey State and Federal courts and the United States Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. He has represented individuals and the families of those neglected in nursing homes in many other jurisdictions across the United States.



From the President's Desk . . . Martha Deaver

Arkansas Advocates for Nursing Home Residents (AANHR) celebrated our 8th annual Residents' Rights Rally at the State Capitol on October 10th. The annual rally is to acknowledge the rights of long-term care residents.

I am happy to say that we had the largest turnout in eight years. Our keynote speaker was the AR State Attorney General, Dustin McDaniel. Other featured speakers were: Candice Brooks, speaking on behalf of Dr. David Montague, Director of UALR Senior Justice Center; Maria Diaz, AARP State Director; Kathie Gately, Arkansas State Ombudsman; and Dr. Gerald Parker Sr., Pilgrim Progress Missionary Baptist Church. The honorable Governor Mike Beebe signed a proclamation recognizing this special event.

AANHR's goal as an organization is to "protect and improve the quality of care and life for nursing home residents in AR." We acknowledge the importance of these rights guaranteed by the Federal Nursing Home Reform Act of 1987. These rights must not be diminished!

Information pertaining to protecting the rights of AR nursing home residents was handed out to every person in attendance. For more information about residents' rights and the rally visit www.aanhr.org.



Complimentary Lunch

The Wilkes McHugh Law Firm graciously provides those who attend AANHR monthly meetings a complimentary catered lunch at noon following the meetings. Please feel free to stay for this time of fellowship after our meetings. AANHR thanks Wilkes McHugh for their many years of support to our organization.

Menu for our last catered lunch of 2011:

- Oven Roasted Turkey Breast,
- Southern Style Cornbread Dressing,
- Seasoned Green Beans,
- Cranberry Sauce,
- Cream Potatoes, Gravy,
- Rolls, and
- Red Velvet cake & Apple Pie

Ribbon Tree Represents “Actual Harm” Violations Cited in Arkansas Nursing Homes

2,500 “Actual Harm” violations were cited on Arkansas nursing homes in 2010. These “Actual Harm” violations were cited for harm or the potential for death to the nursing home residents. This is an average of nearly seven incidents per day in 2010.

Each ribbon on the ribbon tree represents a nursing home resident that has encountered “Actual Harm” while in the care of a nursing home.

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



Eighth Annual Residents' Rights Rally 2011





Please check out AANHR's website: aanhr.org for KTHV television 11 and KUAR radio coverage of our Residents' Rights Rally along with much other useful information.



Arkansas Advocates
for
Nursing Home Residents

**Election at November Meeting
for 2012 AANHR Officers and Board Members**

Nominating Committee for November Election:

Chairperson	Linda Brimer, Searcy - (501)230-5844
Committee Members	Nancy Patterson, Searcy - (501)305-4034 Julie Edwards, Alexander - (501) 425-9959

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

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

Current Officers include:

President - Martha Deaver, Conway (501-450-9619)
Vice-President - Gary Melton, Searcy
Secretary - Betty Buckta, Judsonia
Treasurer - Frances Walker, Benton
Program Chairperson - Gary Melton, Searcy

Members of the Board of Directors:

Nancy Allison, Conway
Martha Blount, Searcy
Linda Brimer, Searcy
James Brooks, North Little Rock
Julie Edwards, Alexander
Pat McGuire, Alexander
Nancy Patterson, Searcy
Ann Pinney, Benton

**Volunteer Ombudsmen Needed**

Do you have one hour per week to visit with residents (those who have few/if any visitors) in a nursing home? We have a place for you. After one day of training and a short orientation period one can become a Certified Volunteer Ombudsman and can choose to be assigned to a specific nursing home where just two hours service per week is expected.

Regardless of whether or not you end up becoming a volunteer ombudsman, your knowledge will increase greatly by attending an ombudsman training session. Volunteer Ombudsman training takes only one day and can make an incredible difference in the life of a nursing home resident. A volunteer ombudsman is authorized to help residents with any concerns. Protecting the resident's rights is a priority. The volunteer ombudsman is authorized to take complaints and report things they see that are questionable to their regional ombudsman, who can take steps to remedy the situation. A volunteer ombudsman can make a big difference brightening the life of a nursing home resident. If interested, please contact Martha Deaver at 501-450-7405; she will put you in touch with your regional ombudsman.

AANHR Special Thanks

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

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 employing Brent Birch of One6 Media, LLC, to create and maintain AANHR's website.

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.

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 NCCNHR conference.

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

AANHR Officers and Board Members

President - Martha Deaver, Conway

Vice President - Gary Melton, Searcy

Secretary - Betty Buckta, Judsonia

Treasurer - Frances Walker, Benton

Program Chairman - Gary Melton, Searcy

Members of the Board: Nancy Allison, Conway; Martha Blount, Searcy; Linda Brimer, Searcy; James Brooks, North Little Rock; Julie Edwards, Alexander; Pat McGuire, Alexander; Nancy Patterson, Searcy; and Ann Pinney, Benton.

Honorary Board Member: Faye Sandstrum, Searcy.

Newsletter Editors: Martha & Ernie Blount, Searcy

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>

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;

(501) 884 - 6728 in Fairfield Bay;

Visit our website at www.aanhr.org or e-mail us at 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.

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

www.ualr.edu/seniorjustice



Arkansas Advocates for Nursing Home Residents

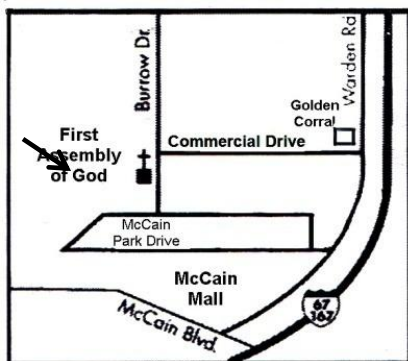
AANHR

P.O. Box 165641 Little Rock, AR 72216

www.aanhr.org

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LITTLE ROCK, AR
PERMIT NO. 1886

November 2011



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.

Please lend your support by joining AANHR. 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, 2012.**

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.
- ☐ \$4 per student or CNA membership.
- ☐ Waive dues because of financial hardship.

**Please make checks payable to: AANHR and mail to
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.