

Wisconsin Association of Homes and Services for the Aging



The Wisconsin Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (WAHSA) has a reputation for quality and a tradition of excellence. Today, it seems there are boutique associations popping up everywhere claiming to be the newest and greatest when it comes to representing those who serve elderly individuals and persons with a disability. WAHSA's difference is that we have a 50-year history to back up our commitment to quality for the en-

tire spectrum of care and services. From home and community based services and independent living settings to assisted living and skilled nursing environments, WAHSA is a recognized voice of leadership. We know who we are and we honor our members' mission dedicated to the not-for-profit philosophy of care. We are our members, and our members are WAHSA. Together, we have achieved a 50-year history worthy of celebration.

Throughout the past twelve months, WAHSA took big, bold steps to lead the association and its members into the future. After reflecting on the strengths of WAHSA, we turned to the types of services that historically have been successful, and we built upon, strengthened, and grew these services into new service offerings to better address the interests and needs of a continuously diversifying membership.



- The RCAC Quality Improvement Network has grown to 56 members. Under the guidance of an active task force, the major focus of the network this year was the development of the RCAC Manager's Comprehensive Training Program and its companion *RCAC Directory of Samples, Policies and Forms*.
- The new CBRF Quality Improvement Network already has 43 members, all of whom have access to 54 tools related to assessments, decision trees, and individualized service plans.
- WAHSA is submitting an application to the Bureau of Assisted Living to have the RCAC Quality Improvement Network and the CBRF Quality Improvement Network approved under Wisconsin's new Coalition for Collaborative Excellence in Assisted Living.
- The 90 members of the MDS Innovation Team meet regularly to share best practices and successful strategies related to MDS.
- WAHSA is working to ensure all members are adequately prepared for MDS 3.0 and RUGs IV with a planned, systematic approach to implementation that features 12 on-site seminars and two webinars.
- The Trends and Technology Network already is 60 members strong. This network assists members to better serve residents through the use of technology.



*Annual
Report*

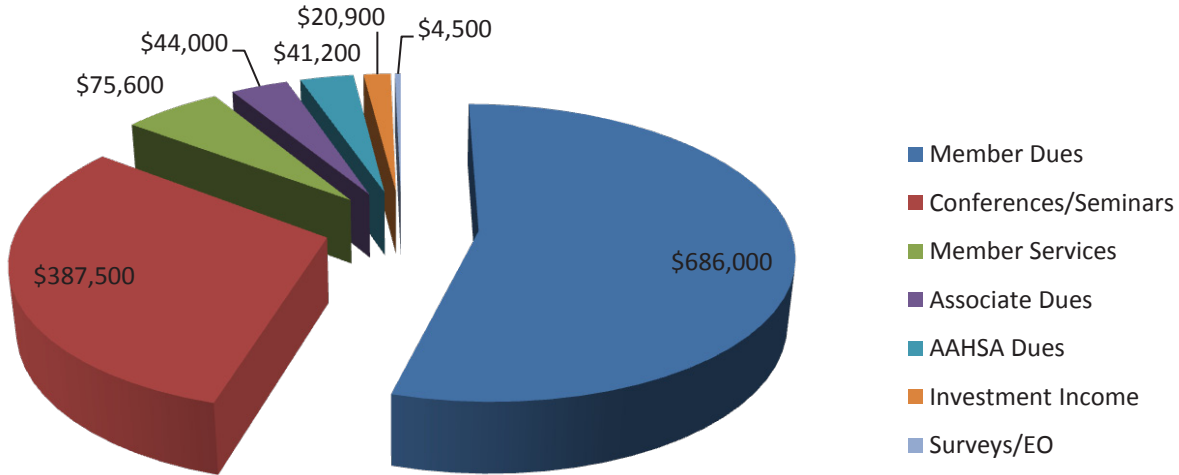
- WAHSA's Electronic Medical Records (EMR) Software Forum provided members an opportunity to test drive and compare multiple EMR Software programs and provided information to enable members to select the software program best equipped to address their individual needs.
- A new assessment tool will enable members to evaluate their productivity and to identify areas of waste. A companion decision tree will help members learn how technology can enhance productivity.
- WAHSA introduced a new listserv featuring discussion forums for each of WAHSA's six regions and 20 professional groups.
- This year's educational offerings included the 2009 Senior Housing Conference, the 2009 Reimbursement Seminar, the 2009 Fall Conference with the largest tradeshow in the association's 50-year history, an expanded Public Policy Seminar, and WAHSA's 50th Anniversary Spring Conference which featured an unprecedented 50 educational sessions.
- WAHSA began offering webinars as a means of bringing educational offerings right to members in their own facilities. This year's webinars focused on issues such as dietary F-tags, the Red Flags Rule, optimizing Medicaid reimbursement, infection control, and MDS 3.0.
- WAHSA set out to capture our story on DVD. The resulting DVD is a powerful message told by the residents, family members, and employees of member organization and a true celebration of WAHSA's 50-year journey.
- WAHSA negotiated a legislative solution to the property tax exemption issue that was over 20 years in the making, a solution which will enable most non-profit retirement homes for the aging to maintain their tax-exempt status.
- WAHSA was relentless in identifying shortcomings in the Family Care program and in pursuit of ways to effectively address those shortcomings. WAHSA was the first LTC organization to call for an audit of the Family Care program and to bring to the Legislature's attention the need to investigate the relationship between MCO capitation rates and payments to direct care and service providers. At the direction of the WAHSA LTC Managed Care Committee, WAHSA legal counsel produced *Family Care: A Review of the 2010 Subcontract for Providers*, the second such toolkit to better position providers in their contract negotiations with Family Care MCOs.
- WAHSA played its usual significant role in the formulation of the 2009-10 nursing home payment formula by, among other things, convincing the DHS to authorize interim payments to facilities, to use a four-page form for the MDS quarterly assessment, and to include Medicare Advantage days under the EMMUA calculation.
- Advocacy efforts remained a WAHSA priority in 2009-10, whether it was negotiating a property tax exemption solution, fighting a proposed doubling of the nursing home "bed tax," or pursuing additional Certified Public Expenditure (CPE) funds for county and municipal nursing homes.
- Regulatory issues remain a WAHSA focus, with the 2009-10 highlight quite possibly being the production of the *WAHSA Survey and Regulatory Survival Toolkit* by WAHSA legal counsel Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren. WAHSA also addressed regulatory issues ranging from federal and state citing policy, nursing home abuse/neglect reporting requirements, and proposed Chapter 50 nursing home/CBRF regulatory revisions, to the defense of pot-luck dinners.
- The DHS sought to reduce funding to the MA program by \$633 million in 2009-11, and WAHSA fought successfully to minimize the impact of those cuts on members. WAHSA also played a significant role in convincing Congress to provide Wisconsin with \$300 million in additional MA funds.
- Following AAHSA's lead, WAHSA engaged the Wisconsin Congressional delegation in discussions ranging from health care reform/the CLASS Act, FMAP enhancements, SNF Medicare market basket increases, and Medicare therapy cap exceptions extension to pain medications and the DEA.

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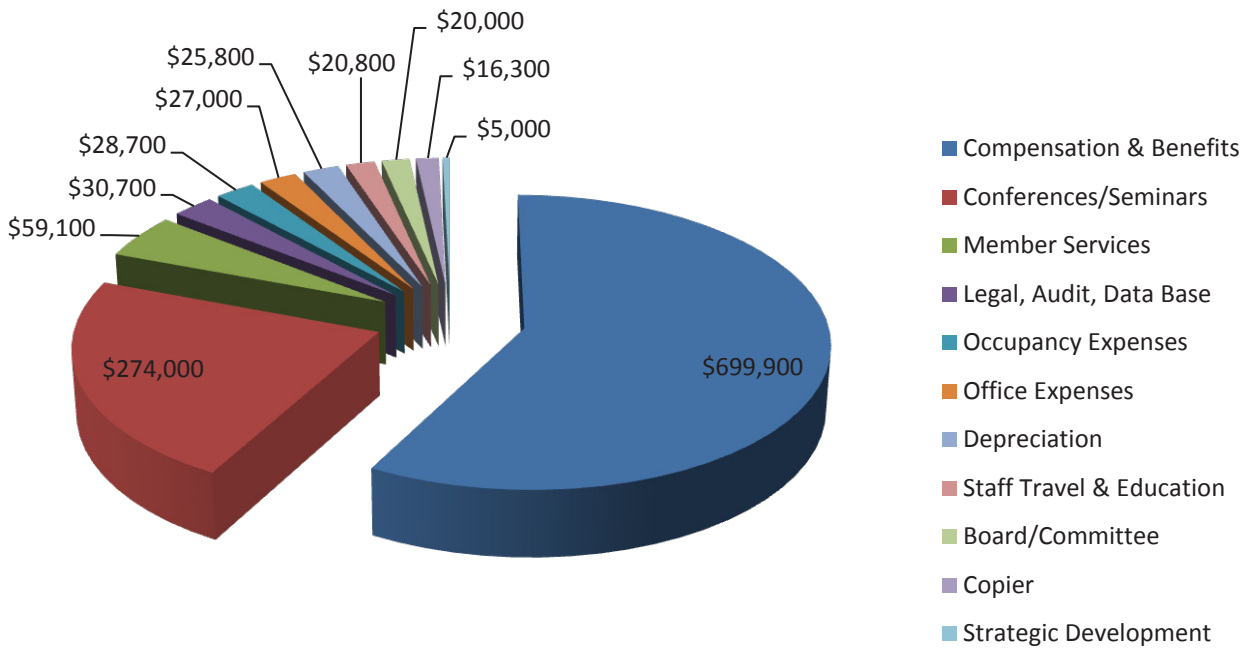
www.wahsa.org

WAHSA's Financial Picture

Projected Revenues June 30, 2010 - \$1,259,700



Projected Expenses June 30, 2010 - \$1,207,300



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2009-2010

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Bethany Lutheran Home
La Crosse

2009-2010

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2009-2010

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