

# Perspectives

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## **NJALC Board Elected**

The New Jersey Assisted Living Council (NJALC) held it's annual meeting on September 14, 2016 and elections were held for the NJALC Board.

Unanimously elected to the Board were the following HCANJ members:

Todd Aronson – Van Dyk Senior Living – Chair

Steve Heaney – Brandywine Living – Vice Chair

Michele Hughes – Brookdale Senior Living– Executive Committee Rep

Joann Ryan – Sunrise Senior Living – Legislative Services Rep

Edie Empirio – Chelsea Senior Living – ALF Representative-At-Large

Congratulations, all!

NJALC meetings are held every other month, (on the odd numbered months) usually on the second Wednesday at 10:00 AM at the HCANJ offices. All HCANJ assisted living members in good standing are encouraged to attend. Watch your emails for meeting announcements.



## **HCANJ Members Go To The Hill**

September 20 & 21 were busy for some HCANJ members as Argentum hosted a two-day congressional fly-in. Day one was packed with speakers who presented on a variety of senior living topics. Day two included visits to numerous members of Congress and their staff.

HCANJ members attending included Michele Hughes, Brookdale Senior Living, Steve Heaney, Brandywine Living, Denise Fasano and Kevin Hunter, Greenfield Senior Living and Timothy Fox and Robyn Kjar from Fox Rehabilitation. In fact, there were so many NJ attendees we were awarded with Georgetown cupcakes! That alone was worth the train trip!

## Legislation Acted Upon By The Governor

**A15**, Prieto (D32); Wisniewski (D19); Schaer (D36); Tucker (D28); Oliver (D34); Wimberly (D35); Sweeney (D3); Vitale (D19); Cunningham (D31).

This bill would raise the minimum wage rate to \$10.10, make further increases over a four year period, and maintain annual cost of living increases.

This bill was vetoed by the Governor and was received in the Assembly on September 8, 2016.



## NJ's Advanced Standing Program Cited in Wisconsin Study

The LaFollette School on Public Policy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison released a report on their study of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Bureau of Assisted Living. Their study, dated Spring of 2016, and titled, *“Evaluation of the Wisconsin Assisted Living Regulatory System”* reviewed regulatory oversight in five other states, including New Jersey.

The report makes statutory recommendations as well as non-statutory ones. Their first non-statutory recommendation is to “implement an inspection system that focuses on poor performers and rewards voluntary compliance, using New Jersey’s Advanced Standing program as a model.” The report states that in comparison to abbreviated surveys, the Advanced Standing program “provides greater guarantees of resident safety and additional benefits to providers.”

The report continues, “A program like New Jersey’s allows facilities that comply with all necessary regulations and meet certain quality benchmarks to be in the Advanced Standing program. Such a program signals to consumers, which facilities are of high quality and has the potential to incentivize providers to enhance quality.”

They conclude, “This recommendation is supported by our regression analysis, which found that providers not belonging to a trade association have 1.3 times the odds of association members of having a serious violation. Like trade association membership, our recommendation requires higher quality assurance standards for the providers in Advanced Standing. Thus, we expect members of Advanced Standing would also be less likely to commit serious violations.

Boardman, D., Farley, C., Schumann, E., & Vincze, D. (n.d.). *Evaluation of the Wisconsin Assisted Living Regulatory System* (Rep.).