



Membership Update

For Your Information

March 2013

Assisted Living Community Life Safety Code Modifications

Georgia-ALFA has been working diligently with the State Fire Marshal on changes to the life and fire safety code requirements for the new Assisted Living Community (ALC) licensure category. The proposed changes will allow more existing personal care homes (PCH) the opportunity to become licensed as ALCs. Below is a summary of the proposed code modifications as developed in discussions with the State Fire Marshal. Please visit our web site to review State Fire Marshal Dwayne Garriss proposed code changes as of March 2013. Chief Garriss will go over the proposed code modifications at our luncheon Friday, May 3 (*more below*).

Large Existing PCH Communities

- Limited to 4 stories wood frame (either 1-1-1 hour or 0-0-0 wall ratings) when there are NFPA 13R sprinklers or NFPA 13 sprinklers.
- NFPA 13R sprinklers are required (sprinklers except in the attic) when evacuation time is less than 13 minutes. (Prompt or Slow Categories)
- NFPA 13 sprinklers are required (including attic) when evacuation time is more than 13 minutes. (Impractical Category)
- Smoke barriers are not generally required unless there are no NFPA 13R sprinklers or there are Impractical timed residents.
- Evacuation times are calculated per the "point of safety" definition which means residents have to get to an exterior exit door, reach and be within a rated stair with a sufficient landing area, or be on the other side of a smoke barrier wall within 13 minutes.
- Other requirements generally and essentially will be similar to current requirements that large personal care homes have been built under during the last decade.

May 3 Luncheon Speaker – State Fire Marshal Dwayne Garriss

Join us for our next luncheon on Friday, May 3, at Maggiano's in Buckhead. Our speaker will be State Fire Marshal Dwayne Garriss. He will review the proposed code modifications to the *2012 NFPA Life Safety Code 101 – Residential Board and Care*. The code modifications will place ALCs under Board and Care which will be more favorable to existing PCHs that plan to convert to an ALC.

Space is still available for our May 3 luncheon with Fire Marshal Garriss. To register, you can download the registration form from Georgia-ALFA's website:

<http://www.georgiaalfa.org/Events/luncheons.html> and fax it to our office, or you can

send an email to memberservices@georgiaalfa.org. Please include your name, title, community name and phone numbers.

Department of Community Health (DCH) releases new IGs for Personal Care Homes (PCH) Rules

Please visit our website to view and download a copy of the interpretive guidelines.

Also available on our website, www.georgiaalfa.org - copy of the PCH Rules, PCH IGs, ALC Rules and Proxy Caregiver Rules.

Legislative Update

Georgia's 152nd Legislative Session is scheduled to end on Thursday, March 28.

HB 398 - Consumer transactions: licensed personal care homes and community living arrangements to use certain terms; authorize. Sponsored by Rep. Maxwell (17th), Rep. Channell (120th), Rep. Stephens (164th), Rep. Clark (101st), Rep. Martin (49th), Rep. Kaiser (59th). This bill seeks to allow licensed personal care homes to continue using “assisted living” in their company names and marketing materials. A substitute bill was reported by the House Human Relations & Aging committee on March 4. The bill was not passed out of Rules Committee for a House floor vote before crossover day. Therefore, the bill is dead for this legislative session unless it gets attached to a live bill.

SB 14 - Georgia Alzheimer's and Related Dementia State Plan Task Force.

Sponsored by Senator Unterman (45th), Senator Wilkinson (50th), Senator Crosby (13th), Senator Hill (4th), and Senator Orrock (36th). SB 14 passed out of the House Human Relations and Aging Committee last week and we hope to see it pass out of Rules this week.

Assigned: House Rules

Advocacy Day 2013

We had a successful day at the Capitol on Tuesday, February 26. Our members made over 30 contacts with state senators and representatives during this event.

Activity Director Training is scheduled for Friday, April 5. Space remains. Please plan to attend this exciting and informative new program. Details, call 678-407-2060.

Membership Dues for Providers & Industry Partners are due NOW!

Don't miss out on receiving important updates and information from Georgia-ALFA, renew today! Invoices have been mailed. If you need a replacement invoice, please email (genia@georgiaalfa.org) or call (404-583-1261) Genia Ryan, President/CEO.

Questions or need more information about anything in this update?

Please contact Genia Ryan at genia@georgiaalfa.org or 678-407-2060.

Upcoming Events!

- Our next **Georgia-ALFA Bi-Monthly Luncheon** is Friday, May 3, 2013.
- **Georgia-ALFA Conference & Trade Show** - October 8 & 9 - Cobb Galleria Centre