NAB Elects New Leadership at Its Annual Meeting

Cleveland proved to be the center of excitement last month, with the confluence of historic events: the NBA Finals (won by the hometown Cavaliers) and the NAB Annual Meeting! NAB elected the association’s new leadership, approved a marketing plan for the comprehensive HSE credential and AIT training programs, renewed two university programs for academic accreditation and received an update on the NAB Foundation-sponsored study on administrators and facility quality rankings. Over 100 attendees representing 35 states participated in the meeting.

New NAB Chair Delvin Zook (Oregon) and Past Chair Keith Knapp (Kentucky) are joined on the Executive Committee by Chair-Elect Lisa Hahn (Virginia), Treasurer Mary Ellen Wilkinson (Nevada) and Secretary Gaylord “Z” Thomas (Oklahoma). Zook presented Knapp with an award in recognition of his leadership of NAB as it underwent the monumental and detailed process of formulating the new Health Services Executive (HSE) designation. NAB is also grateful to Randy Snyder (Minnesota), who has completed four consecutive terms of service on the Executive Committee, for his dedication to NAB and his invaluable leadership during the implementation of the HSE.

Professional Practice Analysis (PPA) Task Forces Report on Progress towards the HSE

Katrina Magdon (Alabama) and Jim Bennett (Washington), co-chairs of the PPA Exam Resources Task Force, reported to the Board on their progress in developing NAB’s exam programs to initiate the new HSE structure. They have overseen the redesign of the NAB practice exams, as well as examined terminology used in the exams to reflect “core” concepts and activities that apply to all lines of service. This fall, they will view the first drafts of the HSE exams and standardize their passpoint. The new online study guide is also moving forward, using the recent NAB annotation study as its basis. The draft NHA study guide will be available this fall, followed by the construction of the RCAL and HCBS guides.

Margaret McConnell (Nevada), chair of the PPA Outreach Task Force, reported that this group is finalizing the draft of the HSE Qualifications for Licensure. State boards were invited to submit comments or recommendations to be reviewed by the task force, with a final recommendation to be made at the Mid-Year Meeting in Atlanta. The goal is to establish guidelines that will be acceptable to the majority of states to adopt the HSE licensure by equivalency standards.

The NAB exam committees, led by vice chairs Phil Jean (NHA, Maine) and Michael Coury (RCAL, Ohio), worked in Cleveland on re-referencing thousands of exam items to include HCBS. They also announced that the NHA and RCAL exam reference lists have been modified.
Keynote Presentation Studies Relationship between Administrator and Facility Qualities

Dr. Elena Siegel of the University of California-Davis delivered the keynote address at the Cleveland meeting, presenting the preliminary findings of her NAB Foundation-sponsored research project. Co-led by former NAB President Steve Chies, the project explores the "black box" between NHAs and organizational factors that affect the quality of care. The project is a feasibility study that is dependent on organizational level participation and access to information.

Administrators were surveyed and interviewed within participating organizations, and they were evaluated on their confidence to carry out various tasks in all the domains of practice. Dr. Siegel reported that the results showed differing structures of functions of the NHA position, with anywhere from two to thirty people reporting to an administrator. The results also showed that tension occasionally exists between the goal of attaining quality ratings and a facility's financial and organizational restraints. Dr. Siegel stated that the research findings will likely generate questions about an organization's chain of command and its commitment to professional development.

Committee Reports

CONTINUING EDUCATION
Chair Michael Hickey (Washington) reported that the committee had met its strategic planning goals over the past two years, including the development and implementation of the new NCERS online platform. The new website, launched in March, simplifies the processes for sponsors to submit continuing education programs for approval, and for administrators to look up programs to suit their licensing renewal needs. The committee also developed new training tools to assist course reviewers, as well as updated current provider resources to complement the updated NCERS site. The Board of Governors approved nine NCERS sponsors for certified status: Brookdale Senior Living Solutions, Direct Supply, Educational Training Service Seminars, Foundation Health Services, Inc., Greater New York Health Care Facilities, The Illinois Health Care Association, LeadingAge DC, LeadingAge Florida and NHS Management.

EDUCATION
Chair Jennifer Johns-Artenseni (Wisconsin) reported that the Board had previously approved the committee's recommendations at the 2015 Mid-Year Meeting to require NAB-accredited schools to institute a 1000-hour internship for their students. NAB also will accredit assisted living-only programs that meet NAB's standards. The committee also recommended the renewal of academic accreditations for Ohio University and Concordia College for five more years, which were both approved by the Board of Governors.
MEMBER RELATIONS AND OUTREACH
Committee Chair Laura Lucas (North Carolina) reported that the committee discussed a planned revision of NAB’s collateral materials, brand refreshing, HSE marketing initiatives and press releases through 2017. Work groups within the committee collaborated on marketing the HSE to individuals, fundraiser ideas for the Foundation and the official rollout of the AIT/Preceptor manuals in Atlanta in November. It was also announced that NAB is seeking volunteers to pilot the AIT/Preceptor manual and related materials.

STATE GOVERNANCE
Chair Donald Aldridge (New York) remarked that the committee has served as a conduit for new NAB initiatives. The committee discussed ways to finalize the HSE rollout, as well as promote the AIT support network to alleviate financial and career hurdles for AITs. State board members were asked for their feedback regarding the HSE qualification document and how this could be adopted by their respective states.

Jim Bennett Awarded for NAB Service
Jim Bennett of Washington was awarded the Distinguished Service Award for his leadership of and contributions to NAB’s exam programs. Jim is the former chair of the NHA Exam Committee and currently co-chairs the PPA Exam Resources Task Force. He is currently leading NAB’s efforts to redesign the NAB study guides, which will be structured to complement the HSE program, and will be online and interactive. Chair Keith Knapp presented the award to Jim at the Board of Governors meeting.

Next NAB Meeting
We invite you to join us at our 2016 Mid-Year Meeting, November 9-11 in Atlanta. Meeting details and registration forms will be emailed and posted on www.nabweb.org later in August. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend!