

Assisted Living Excellence in Washington Gains National Recognition

The American Health Care Association and its National Center for Assisted Living have awarded an individual administrator and an assisted living community in Washington with National Quality Awards to be presented in September at their Annual Convention and Expo being held in Las Vegas. Congratulations go to **Robin Aman, Administrator at Rock Cove Assisted Living** in Stevenson, Washington, on being selected National Assisted Living Administrator of the Year and to **The Ponderosa Retirement Community in Yakima, Washington—Administrator Lori Crow, Marketing Director Marilee Ramos and Activities Director Annie Oord**—on being awarded the 2010 National Assisted Living Week Programming Award.

Recently, Robin and Ponderosa Retirement Community were recognized by the Washington Health Care Association during its Annual Convention held in Tacoma. Having been nominated by their peers, colleagues and residents for the state award, their applications were then submitted to the committee selecting national awards for this year.



Robin Aman has been with Rock Cove Assisted Living for 10 years, and she has been the administrator for the past 8 ½ years. She has worked to maintain 100% occupancy for the past seven years, and her leadership and commitment to quality care has helped Rock Cove maintain deficiency free annual inspections (surveys) since 2002. Robin promotes leadership in her staff, finding the strengths of each individual and building on them. She looks for and celebrates the positive aspects of those she works with. She sets the example of dedication to the residents, finds ways to have fun every day and celebrates successes.

Robin has spent many years in her community volunteering for schools, acting as a Cub Scout Leader, volunteering for children's programs and helps in endless fundraising efforts for families in need.

The **Ponderosa Retirement Community** in Yakima is *not what you expect!* They focus on, "Continuing Our Commitment to the Community" reminding their staff that no matter what our age, we all have something to give. Their activities for National Assisted Living Week in September 2010 were tailored for the residents' enjoyment and to remind everyone that they continue to touch the lives of others while celebrating their past, present and future. An American Barbecue, A Gala Dinner, Sundaes and Sunshine, Ladies Spa Day and Men's Day Out, and much, much more were on the agenda of the week while residents and staff celebrating *Living Life* with each other and the Yakima Community.



WHCA wishes heartfelt congratulations to Robin and to Ponderosa Retirement Community on receiving this national honor and recognition. It is much deserved!

Initiative Signature Gatherers Face July 8th Deadline

With over 56 proposed initiatives to the people on file with the Washington Secretary of State's office, Washington voters can expect to be asked to sign any of a number of petitions prior to the July 8, 2011 filing deadline.

In order to qualify for the November 2011 general election ballot, a petition must contain the signatures of at least 241,153 registered voters. The number is based on the total number of votes cast for the office of Governor at the last regular state gubernatorial election.

For long-term care providers, it's back to the future as Service Employees International Union 775 works to collect signatures for a measure that would ask voters to re-instate caregiver training and certification standards. Additionally, signatures are being gathered for a proposed initiative that would restore home care funding cuts taken this past session.

A total of 26 proposals have been filed by Washington Initiative czar Tim Eyman. In addition to measures that would reinforce the two-thirds voting requirement for legislative proposals to raise taxes, Eyman is also sponsoring measures to the voters that would auction off liquor stores and prohibit the use of traffic cameras.

Caged chickens, medical marijuana and enforcement of immigration laws are other topics for consideration.

For a look at the myriad of proposals you may be asked to sign before the July deadline, go to the Washington Secretary of State [website](#).