

December 2011

## Certification Corner

### 2011 Government Affairs Program Summary

*By Josephine Colacci, JD, IAHCSSM Government Affairs Director*

Given that it's December, I thought it was the perfect time to outline the actions, accomplishments and initiatives set forth by the IAHCSSM Government Affairs Committee for 2011. As is apparent by the following report, our achievements have been both significant and far-reaching.



- **National Government Affairs Committee**

- We have five representatives in different geographic areas across the United States. This team has been instrumental in helping create model legislation and a public policy brochure, and in answering certification-related questions that arise across the U.S.

- **Certification Legislation**

- In New York, we hired a lobbyist to aid our legislative efforts. We introduced legislation and successfully passed it unanimously out of the Senate Higher Education Committee. We were unable to get it through the entire legislature and will be reintroducing it in 2012.
- In Pennsylvania, we have a state representative that is championing our issue. The legislation has been drafted but has not yet been introduced. We are currently working out some kinks with the state hospital association.
- In Ohio, we have legislative sponsors in both the house and senate. The legislation has been drafted, but has not yet been introduced.

- **Educating Elected Officials**

- In Oregon, Washington, California, Arizona, Colorado, Maryland, and Virginia, we had meetings with elected officials to discuss the certification issue. Additionally, I conducted a webinar to explain grassroots advocacy and the steps that we would take to educate the legislators.
- Even though it is difficult to see the results from these efforts right now, we are laying the foundation for introducing legislation in the next couple years.

December 2011

- **National Healthcare Central Service/Sterile Processing Week**

- We received 17 Governor's proclamations and one Mayor's proclamation. This was a huge success!
- We sent out two action alerts: one to elected officials and another to the media through letters to the editor. This effort saw dismal member participation. We need to work harder on sending letters next year.

- **Publications**

- We have stepped up our efforts to publish informative articles and updates on IAHCSSMM's legislative initiatives and the importance of state certification. We had two articles published in AORN Journal that focused on our certification efforts, and another published in Healthcare Purchasing News and OR Today. We also provided good editorial coverage on the subject in Communiqué and Central Source.

- **Chapter Meetings**

- I participated in chapter meetings in various states and provided an update on IAHCSSMM's certification efforts.

- **Government Affairs Web Pages**

- Check out the new legislative map for current state standings in the legislative process;
- Review the proclamations from National Healthcare Central Service/Sterile Processing Week;
- Review the government affairs news archives; and
- View the Model certification legislation (stay tuned because this will be modified in the near future).
- Next year, we will also be introducing a more comprehensive legislative tools page.

Overall, we accomplished quite a bit in our first year and I am optimistic about our progress and direction. I look forward to working with our National Government Affairs Committee and other members on our certification efforts in 2012 and beyond. In 2012, we will be introducing a new public policy issue and new content for our web pages, so stay tuned!