



Stay Informed, Get Involved and Make a Difference



Your legislators are about to make decisions on key issues that will greatly impact your ability to care for your residents. Florida is facing a huge budget deficit, and this year it is critical that Florida Health Care Association members stand united to make our voices heard.

FHCA's 2010 Legislative Priorities Include:

- Protecting the Funding for Nursing Home Residents' Quality Care
- Strengthening Resident Protections
- Streamlining the Regulatory Process

It is up to us, the long term care community, to educate legislators – to be present throughout session – to tell them why they must vote to help us with these important issues. FHCA makes this possible through Lobby Wednesdays, where members travel to Tallahassee nearly every Wednesday before and during session to advocate on behalf of our profession and our residents.

Mark your calendar for the 2010 Lobby Wednesdays:

- February 17
- March 10, 17, or 24
- April 7, 14, or 21

Attendees can arrive in Tallahassee on Tuesday, and FHCA has secured the Aloft Hotel in downtown Tallahassee as this year's preferred member hotel. Lobby Wednesdays start with an informative briefing at 7:30 a.m. EST at the FHCA headquarters, followed by meetings with your legislators and their staff and other activities at the Capitol. The day wraps up with a quick debriefing at FHCA to recap your meetings and discuss any follow up activities that need to be coordinated. A typical Lobby Wednesday ends between 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. EST.

Please use the 2010 Lobby Wednesdays RSVP Form to sign up yourself, your company, region or district for a Lobby Wednesday. Fax or e-mail the completed form back to Teresa Hamlin at (850) 681-2075 or thamlin@fhca.org to coordinate your participation. If you have questions about your hotel accommodations, please contact Ysonde Jensen at yjensen@fhca.org.

To ensure a successful visit, prepare yourself or your team members as follows:

- Lobby Wednesday participants should plan to be at FHCA at the start of the briefing (7:30 a.m. EST) where they will be updated on the issues and how to conduct a successful legislative visit. A complimentary breakfast will be provided for all participants.
- If you are traveling to Tallahassee alone for Lobby Wednesday, don't worry. FHCA will pair you up with fellow Association members who are here with the same purpose.
- If you are traveling with a group and have designated a team leader for your visit, they will receive a sample packet for review prior to travel to Tallahassee. Individual packets will be available at FHCA headquarters at the time of the visit.
- If you are traveling as a large group, you may also want to consider hosting your briefing the Tuesday evening prior as a dinner function. Please work with Teresa Hamlin to coordinate this.
- Before you travel to Tallahassee, schedule appointments with your legislators so you can visit with them while you are here. Be sure to schedule the appointments after the morning briefing at FHCA headquarters so you can receive your packet before heading to the Capitol. When you call your legislators' office, request an appointment to discuss nursing home issues with him/her. You may find that your legislator cannot meet with you because of legislative meetings. If that is the case, it is fine to make an appointment to meet with the legislator's aide.
- It is also a good idea for members and/or facilities in the same area to team up and visit the legislators as a group. Consider coordinating your Lobby Wednesday with nearby administrators who have the same legislators. This makes a big impact and shows solidarity of the group. If you have time while you are here, consider visiting other legislators from your county.

We look forward to your participation in FHCA's 2010 Lobby Wednesdays.

**Florida
Health Care
Association**



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**FHCA Lobby Wednesdays
Tallahassee, Florida**

2010 RSVP Form

Name _____

Company _____

Daytime Phone _____ E-mail _____

FHCA District # or Related Organization _____ Estimated number of attendees _____

I/We plan to attend the following Lobby Wednesday (briefings begin at FHCA headquarters at 7:30 a.m. EST)

** The following companies/organizations have confirmed their Lobby Wednesday to date. FHCA members may still choose from any one of these dates for participation.*

_____ **February 17**
*Consulate Health Care
Hathaway Resources
Ponce de Leon*

_____ **April 7**
*Opis Management Resources
Ponce de Leon*

_____ **March 10**
*Florida Leaders
Disaster Preparedness Committee
Districts IV, V & X
FADONA
Seacrest
Pines of Sarasota
Senior Care Group*

_____ **April 14**

_____ **March 17**
*Cypress Health Care/Gulf Coast Health Care
Avante Group
Ponce de Leon*

_____ **April 21**

_____ **March 24**
*Greystone Healthcare Management
Whitehall Boca Raton*

_____ Yes, we are interested in hosting our briefing on Tuesday evening; please contact us to coordinate.

_____ No, we will arrive at 7:30 a.m. at the FHCA headquarters on Wednesday

FHCA has secured the [Aloft Hotel](#) as this year's preferred Lobby Wednesday property for members. The Aloft Hotel, located at 200 N. Monroe Street, is in the heart of downtown Tallahassee and within walking distance to the FHCA headquarters and the Capitol. Accommodations can be made by calling (850) 513-0313 and asking for the FHCA rate of \$129/night – single or double occupancy. As a member benefit, FHCA will reimburse the cost of one hotel room night.

Please return this form to Teresa Hamlin by fax at (850) 681-2075 or e-mail at thamlin@fhca.org to reserve your space and coordinate your briefing.

Representing the Florida Long Term Care Community

Street Address: 307 West Park Avenue, Tallahassee, Florida 32301-1427