Nebraska Hospice and Palliative Care Association (NHPCA) kept members informed of state and federal policy and reimbursement issues affecting them, including such things as Hospice Service Intensity Add-on services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services’ new Primary Care First Seriously Ill Population payment model, and Nebraska Medicaid’s proposed regulation changes related to nursing facility room and board.

NHPCA monitored federal legislation for members, such as the Palliative Care and Hospice Education Act to establish a training program for physicians and other interdisciplinary health care professionals, and the Rural Access to Hospice Act to allow Rural Health Clinics and Federally Qualified Health Centers to receive payment for serving as the hospice attending physician.

Stateside, NHPCA monitored legislation that had the potential to impact members, including a bill that would allow a physician assistant to serve as the attending physician for a hospice patient.

NHPCA members and staff discussed hospice and palliative care with Nebraska’s members of Congress in Washington, D.C., as part of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization’s April Leadership and Advocacy Conference.

In May, NHPCA members met with U.S. Senator Deb Fischer at Hospice House in Omaha to share their stories and talk about the importance of hospice and palliative care. In July, Senator Fischer was among a bipartisan group of four U.S. senators who launched a caucus to focus on legislation and policy impacting palliative care.

In September, Nebraska Senator Suzanne Geist visited with The Monarch by Eastmont and NHPCA teams to learn more about end-of-life care.
In March, Nebraska’s hospice and palliative care professionals came from across the state for learning and networking at NHPCA’s annual conference and trade show.

Five NHPCA members were awarded scholarships from the Galen Miller Memorial Education Fund to attend NHPCA’s 2019 conference: Chaplain Darin Corder, Care Manager Ally Hoefer, and Social Worker Cheri Miller of Hospice Community Care; Volunteer Coordinator Jennifer Smith of AseraCare Hospice; and Bereavement Coordinator Kay Ross of Hillcrest Hospice.

As part of NHPCA’s efforts to increase online offerings, two educational webinars were held: End-stage Lung Diseases and Their Hospice Management and Hospice Hot Topics.

In December, in partnership with the Department of Veteran Affairs, NHPCA hosted the Nebraska Hospice-Veteran Partnership Annual Workshop and Update. Topics of the day included suicide prevention and how trauma impacts personality.

Financial Summary

Revenue: $166,837
- 49% Membership Dues
- 27% Professional Education
- 22% Contributions, Events
- 2% Other

Expenses: $172,373
- 79% Program Services
- 18% Management, General
- 3% Fundraising

We value being part of a larger group that advocates on behalf of hospice and end-of-life care across Nebraska. 2019 Member Satisfaction Survey Response
Nineteen Outstanding Hospice Volunteer Awards were presented to individuals from across the state for their exemplary services. Awards were presented by NHPCA Chair Gary George.

**2019 Spirit of Hospice Award:**
Kari Fishell, ruralMED Home Care Resources

**2019 Shining Star Award:**
Sue Bace, Children’s Hospital and Medical Center Hand in Hand Program

Funds raised during NHPCA’s annual raffle and silent auction supported scholarships for hospice and palliative care professionals.

Social media efforts ramped up in 2019, including adding an Instagram presence, a month-long campaign to highlight NHPCA members during National Hospice and Palliative Care Month in November, implementation of #inspiringQOLmoments, and promoting December’s Giving Tuesday as a way to support NHPCA’s work.

@NeHospice
427 followers
+ 116 from 2018

@NebHospice
1,081 followers
+ 23 from 2018

@NebraskaHealth
86 followers
Launched Oct. 2019
Combined Health Agencies Drive (CHAD) is a local, donor-designated driven organization that raises funds for Nebraska health charities, including NHPCA. CHAD connects people, including through workplace campaigns, with charities they are passionate about. **NHPCA is grateful to be among the beneficiaries of this partnership.**

Rhonda Saunders (on right) of Hospice Community Care of Nebraska (pictured with NHPCA Board Chair Beth Nelsen of The Monarch by Eastmont) as Rhonda received the **Speaker of the Year Award at the United Way Annual Luncheon.**

The NHPCA team celebrated, luau-style, for exceeding their own 2019 United Way/CHAD workplace giving campaign goal and reaching 100 percent participation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41%</td>
<td>are between the ages 40 and 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28%</td>
<td>have worked in hospice and/or palliative care for two to five years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40%</td>
<td>are registered nurses (RNs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>hold a master’s degree in social work or are certified social workers</td>
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The mission of the Nebraska Hospice and Palliative Care Association is to “improve the quality of life for all Nebraskans who have chronic conditions or are near the end of life.” Words cannot express how grateful NHPCA is for your role in helping us work toward that mission.

NHPCA’s volunteer committee members, board of directors, and staff work in the areas of advocacy, education, and general support to provide Nebraska’s hospice and palliative care providers what they need to be successful. As times change, NHPCA changes. We remain flexible to meet providers where they are and how they best receive and need information. The board of directors is continually assessing approaches to delivering education or increasing awareness of hospice and palliative care.

Your financial support allows NHPCA to unite nurses, physicians, social workers, chaplains, volunteers, administrators, educators, and many others in their calling to serve Nebraskans who are seriously ill or at the end of their life. Thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Heath G. Boddy
President and CEO

2019 NHPCA Board of Directors

CHAIR, Beth Nelsen, Eastmont Towers/The Monarch, Lincoln
VICE CHAIR, Dr. Bob Bleicher, Horisun Hospice, Lincoln
TREASURER, Sue Kufeldt, ruralMED Home Care Resources, Seward
SECRETARY, Christine Wismer, Hospice of Tabitha, Lincoln
PAST CHAIR, Gary George, Hospice House - The Josie Harper Residence, Omaha
DEVELOPMENT CHAIR, Tina Coffey, AseraCare Hospice, Lincoln
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION CHAIR, Diane Randolph, Omaha
ADVOCACY CHAIR, Lisa Weber, Hospice of Columbus Community Hospital, Columbus
RESEARCH AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT CHAIR, Marilee Malcom, ruralMED Home Care Resources, Holdrege
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CHAIR, Marcia Leonard, Good Samaritan Medical Group, Kearney
The Association also extends thanks to the many Nebraskans who donated to NHPCA through a Combined Health Agencies Drive (CHAD) workplace giving campaign or the Combined Federal Campaign.