

IGA NEWSLETTER – VOLUME 2, Issue 1

(February – June 2004)

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(Insert President's message here)

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IGA Board Members and Officers

The new IGA officers and board members were introduced at the Annual Conference in April: President Catherine Goebel MA, MS Ed, RG-NGF; President-Elect Benjamin Brown JD; Vice-President John Erbes JD; Treasurer Sandra Hayes RG-NGF; Secretary Gina Rossi RG-NGF; Board Members: Terrance Godbolt JD; Helen Godlewski Brownfield MBA, RG-NGF; Susan Hagrelius MSW, LCSW, RG-NGF; Perry Patterson RG-NGF; Anthony Rothert JD, MSW, RG-NGF; Sharon Rudy JD, RG-NGF; William Scheidemantel JD, RG-NGF; Sue Sherock, Cook Co. OPG.

IGA Committees

The committee chairpersons were introduced at the Annual Conference. You are encouraged to contact them with your questions and suggestions or to volunteer your talents by participating in the important work of the IGA.

Community Education & Training – Ben Brown, benbrown@lollaf.org

By-Laws and Standards – Susan Hagrelius, shagrelius@gac.state.il.us

Legislation – John Erbes, erbes@siu.edu

Finance and Membership – Sandy Hayes, hays@gac.state.il.us

Newsletter – Bill Scheidemantel, bscheidemantel@gac.state.il.us

Website Development – Helen Godlewski Brownfield, hgodlewski@gac.state.il.us

Conference Planning – Gina Rossi, grossi@gac.state.il.us

Board and Officer Nominations – Perry Patterson, perry0441@aol.com

SIGN UP TODAY FOR THE REGISTERED GUARDIAN EXAM!

REGISTERED GUARDIAN COURSE REVIEW AND EXAM

The National Guardianship Foundation is offering the Registered Guardian exam in Chicago on September 13, 2004. Those qualified applicants who pass the exam will be certified as Registered

Guardians. The Illinois Guardianship Association, an affiliate of the National Guardianship Association, will host the NGA Registered Guardian Course Review before the exam on September 13th, from 9:00am to 1:00pm. The Registered Guardian Exam will follow after an hour break, from 2:00 to 4:00pm. Location: 5th floor, Room N-502 of the Michael Bilandic Building, 160 North La Salle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60601. Contact Lori Barbee at the National Guardianship Foundation 520-325-1055, for application and registration information.

Training Committee - Community Education and Outreach

The Illinois Guardianship Association (IGA) offers free guardianship training to human services provider agencies and other groups throughout the state. Nationally certified Registered Guardians and attorneys conduct the training sessions. The training can cover all or some of the following areas:

- Basics of Adult Guardianship
- Types and Scope of Guardianship
- Medical Consents, Mental Health treatment issues
- Estate Management
- Ethical considerations for guardians
- Powers of Attorney, Representative Payeeships, and other alternatives to guardianship
- Record Keeping and reports to the court
- Effective advocacy by guardians
- Question-and-answer sessions

The current chair of the committee is Ben Brown. Please contact him if you would like to host a training event, serve on the committee, or submit questions and suggestions for community education on guardianship issues. Ben can be reached at benbrown@lollaf.org

Websites and other Informational Resources

<http://www.guardianship.org/> The National Guardianship Association official website; provides an excellent overview of national guardianship standards and trends as well as many useful links to other organizations involved in guardianship-related issues.

<http://gac.state.il.us/> The State of Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission makes available on its website a good mix of information for family members, attorneys, and other professionals.

<http://www.publicguardian.org/> The Cook County Public Guardian's official website.

<http://www.illinoisbar.org/> The Illinois State Bar Association official website includes many useful pamphlets on legal rights and processes, including guardianship, for perusal or purchase, as well as a lawyer referral program for persons seeking legal advice or representation.

<http://www.equipforequality.org/> Equip for Equality Inc. is the designated Protection and Advocacy agency for people with disabilities in Illinois. Its website contains a wealth of information on disability rights, guardianship reform initiatives, and resources.

<http://naela.com/> Website for the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys contains links and lists of resources for elder law issues, age-related disabilities, and advocacy.

<http://www.iicle.com/> The Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education publishes guidebooks for attorneys on a variety of legal practice areas, including guardianship.

JOIN THE IGA!

To become a member of the IGA, complete this application or contact Sandra Hayes at 708-338-7500 or shayes@gac.state.il.us
Annual dues range from \$25 to \$150

(Insert IGA application)

GUARDIANSHIP FUNDAMENTALS Q & A

Q. Must a guardian be a resident of the State of Illinois?

A. IGA members are well aware that guardianship for disabled adults, because of its nature as a creature of the legal system, is an area subject to periodic change and statutory amendment. One such issue that has seen revision over the years, and which consistently draws questions from lay persons and professionals alike, is the residency requirement for proposed guardians.

The answer to the question is: No, there is no requirement under current Illinois law that a guardian be a resident of the state. That being said, the court being asked to appoint a guardian - be it of the person or estate or as successor, temporary, standby, limited or plenary - will inquire whether the candidate can provide an active and suitable program of guardianship for the disabled person. Geographic distance and its effect on the ability of the proposed guardian to adequately perform his or her duties is certainly a fair area of inquiry. With the advent of improved means of communication by telephone, fax machine, e-mail, etc., however, residency in another state should not alone prevent the appointment of an otherwise qualified individual.

Likewise, there is no statutory requirement that either agents or attorneys-in-fact under Powers of Attorney and other advance directives, or surrogate decision-makers under the Health Care Surrogate Act, be Illinois residents.

Some members may recall that at one time the guardian of a ward's estate had to be a state resident. This condition was removed by statutory amendment a few years ago, when an increased emphasis on enforcement of the surety bond requirement was seen as more effective protection for the ward and the estate.

The IGA Newsletter is now a quarterly publication. The next issue will appear in September. Send articles, questions and suggestions to Bill Scheidemantel via e-mail bscheidemantel@gac.state.il.us or fax 217-892-4598.

Upcoming Events

REGISTERED GUARDIAN COURSE REVIEW AND EXAM

The Illinois Guardianship Association, an affiliate of the National Guardianship Association, will host the NGA Registered Guardian Course Review on September 13, 2004. The course review will take place in the morning from approximately 9:00am to 1:00pm, and the National Guardianship Foundation Registered Guardian Exam will follow after an hour break, from 2:00 to 4:00pm. Location: 5th floor, Room N-502 of the Michael Bilandic Building, 160 North La Salle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60601. Contact Lori Barbee at the National Guardianship Foundation for registration information 520-325-1055.

2004 NATIONAL GUARDIANSHIP ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

"Reaching New Heights in Law and Aging Partnerships", the 2004 Joint Conference of the National Guardianship Association, the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and the National College of Probate Judges, will be held November 11-14, 2004, at The Broadmoor, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Call the NGA at 520-881-6561 for registration information.

