

National Association for the Support of Long Term Care

Your Advocacy Voice for Quality In Post Acute Care

For Immediate Release
Contact: Cynthia Morton

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(202) 803-2385

NASL Elects New Board at 27th Annual Meeting

NASL Board Reflects Diversity of Membership & Complexity of Issues Ahead

Washington, DC – The National Association for the Support of Long Term Care (NASL) elected a new slate of officers and directors for the association's Board of Directors last week during the NASL 27th Annual Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee. MatrixCare President & CEO John Damgaard was elected by the NASL Board of Directors as the association's new Board president. Mr. Damgaard succeeds Garry Pezzano, MS, CCC/SLP, who is the Senior Vice President, Clinical Practice for Genesis Rehab Services and who now serves as Immediate Past President of NASL.

The NASL Board reflects the diversity of the full membership, which ranges from providers –*i.e.*, rehabilitation companies that collectively employ more than 300,000 individuals including speech-language pathologists (SLPs), physical therapists (PTs) and occupational therapists (OTs) and other provider groups that care for hundreds of thousands of patients – to health information technology developers; suppliers of durable medical equipment, nursing and therapy products and equipment; and clinical laboratories, portable x-ray and diagnostic testing services that operate in the long term and post-acute care sector. This diversity is part of NASL's strength in dealing with complex issues and why the association has earned a solid reputation among policymakers as an honest broker of health policy.

NASL's new officers elected by the Board of Directors are:

- *President:* John Damgaard, President & CEO of MatrixCare
- *Vice President & Chair, NASL Medical Services Committee:* Martha Schram, President of Aegis Therapies
- *Vice President & Chair, Diagnostic Testing Committee:* Alan Morrison, Senior Vice President, Business Development & Government Relations for Trident USA Health Services
- *Treasurer:* Martha Shaker, President of Concept Rehab, Inc.
- *Secretary:* James Pagoaga, Vice President, Rehabilitation for HCR ManorCare
- *Immediate Past President:* Garry Pezzano, Senior Vice President, Clinical Practice for Genesis Rehab Services.

The NASL membership elected new Board members and re-elected others who continue their services on the NASL Board of Directors, including:

- Christine Busby, Signature Rehab Services;

- Cathy de Verteuil, Optima Healthcare Solutions;
- Brian Garner, Medline Rehab;
- Susan Greenly, NTT Data LTC Solutions;
- Lance Hill, The Therapy Center;
- Natalie Hooper, Rehab PRO;
- Tom Jeffers, Hill-Rom;
- Robert Latz, Trinity Rehab Services; and
- Martha Shaker, Concept Rehab.

These newly elected officers and board members join current board members including: Ryan Beddingfield, PruittHealth; Mike Billings, Infinity Rehab; Mike Capstick, Select Rehabilitation; Chris Castel, Accelerated Care Plus; Chuck Czarnik, Brookdale Senior Living; Laura Dennis, Restore Therapy Services; Jim Douthitt, Kindred Healthcare/RehabCare; Judy Elmore, AFFIRMA Rehabilitation; Dustin Freas, Flagship Rehabilitation; Leigh Ann Frick, Heritage Health Care/HealthPRO; Tracy Fritts, Consonus Healthcare Services; Peter Goschy, Paragon Healthcare Group; Peggy Gourgues, Reliant Rehabilitation; Shawn Halcsik, Encore Rehabilitation; Dan Hirschfeld, Genesis Rehab Services; Denise Kelly, Five Star Rehab & Wellness Services; Peter Klug, Direct Supply; Mindy Lankenau, Paragon Rehabilitation; Jane Moffett, Casamba; Michelle Moore-Andrews, Integra Rehabilitation; Carrie O’Connell, Health Care Software; Julie Rettberg, ONR; and Tara Roberts, Nexion Health.

NASL Board members are thought leaders in ancillary care and services for the long term and post-acute care (LTPAC) sector. “NASL is fortunate to have a Board of Directors that not only understands the importance of supporting the host industry, but is eager to partner with Congress and federal government agencies like CMS and ONC,” commented MatrixCare CEO John Damgaard, whose company is one of the largest LTPAC technology providers in the country. “I’ve witnessed the incredible strides that NASL’s made in ensuring that its members are literally “at the table” and truly able to impact the policies that are shaping this sector. It’s because NASL is making such a difference in LTPAC policy that I’m honored to work with this outstanding Board and to serve as the new NASL Board President,” concluded Damgaard.

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NASL is a trade association of ancillary providers of products and services to the post-acute industry, representing its members on Capitol Hill in legislative and regulatory issues that impact the quality of care to patients in the long term and post-acute care setting. If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact NASL, 1050 17th Street NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20036-5558, (202) 803-2385, membership@nasl.org