

**THE STATEWIDE COALITION  
OF PRESIDENTS OF RESIDENT COUNCILS**

**PAST**

In September of 1996, nursing home resident and activist, Carol Rosenwald with assistance from the LTCOP, began the task of organizing residents across the state to form a coalition that would provide a forum in which to work collectively on common problems and challenges faced by Connecticut's 30,000+ nursing home residents.

In September 1997, the Coalition co-convened with the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services the first VOICES Forum - an historical event - where nursing home residents from across the state joined together in Hartford to express their concerns to lawmakers and other public officials, successfully advocating for a much needed raise in their personal needs allowance.

The VOICES Forum has been an annual event ever since. Additionally, the Coalition has been recognized as a long-term care stakeholder and has been appointed to a position on the Advisory Council to the Connecticut Long Term Care Planning Committee as well as other organizations.

**PRESENT**

The SCPRC is committed to reducing the sense of powerlessness and isolation often felt by nursing home residents by raising awareness and insisting that residents be regarded as viable, valuable members of their communities and of society at large.

Regional Coalition meetings bring nursing home Resident Council Presidents together to share common experiences and develop strategies for positive change. The Coalition's legislative agenda is developed based on the concerns and experiences of residents across the state.

The Coalition's Executive Committee receives technical assistance from Ombudsman Program staff and volunteers who are committed to improving the effectiveness of resident councils in Connecticut's 250+ nursing facilities.

**FUTURE**

The future of the Coalition depends on the continuing efforts of all involved to keep the dream alive.

Ongoing and long term goals of the Coalition include: opening communication channels between nursing home resident councils and larger systems such as; elderly services networks, government committees, and the nursing home industry; providing resident councils with the support and assistance they need to be as effective as possible; and continuing to hold annual VOICES Forums as a means of advocating within the legislative process.

Great strides have been made in improving the quality of life and care for nursing home residents since the Nursing Home Reform Act of 1987. The Coalition is dedicated to continuing the trend toward self-advocacy and the reintegration of nursing home residents into their communities.

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, its the only thing that ever does.” - Margaret Mead*

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PRESIDENTS OF RESIDENT  
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**CAROL ROSENWALD, FOUNDER  
1937 - 2000**

“You must hold onto your ideals and always have the courage to speak your mind,” Carol counseled other nursing home residents in Connecticut. As founder of the Statewide Coalition of Presidents of Resident Councils, Carol provided strong leadership in self-advocacy and empowerment of others.

Carol envisioned nursing home residents bringing their “VOICES” forward together “beyond the walls of our facilities” to larger systems. With the founding of the Statewide Coalition of Presidents of Resident Councils Came the impetus for the first “VOICES” Forum in 1997. As a large group of voting constituents, residents were able to speak directly to political leaders and public officials

Dignity and respect for resident’s rights was the central focus of Carol’s efforts to advocate for the improvement of the quality of care and quality of life of her fellow residents. Her contributions to improving care in all nursing homes continued until her death. Carol pressed legislators for higher levels of qualified, better trained and better supervised staff. Shortly after Carol’s death, the bill increasing the hours of required training for Certified Nursing Assistants was passed.

The Long Term Care Ombudsman Program pledges to carry on Carol’s vision “to see that residents in nursing homes have a say in matters affecting them.”

## The Carol Rosenwald Award

The Carol Rosenwald award was established in memory and honor of the energy, commitment and spirit of this unique individual. In order to carry forward Carol’s vision, the Statewide Coalition of Presidents of Resident Councils along with the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program has presented the Carol Rosenwald Award annually at the VOICES Forum to individuals and organizations that work to improve the quality of care and quality of life for individuals residing in nursing homes.

Past recipients of this distinguished honor include: Senator Edith Prague and Representative Peter Villano, the Co-Chairs of the Connecticut General Assembly Select Committee on Aging; the Connecticut Chapter of AARP; State Representative Jeffrey Berger; Weiner Associates; AARP Connecticut Chapter; State Representative Dennis Cleary; Senator Mary Ann Handley; Ms. Barbara Yard of the CT. Department of Public Health; Commissioner Patricia Wilson-Coker of the Department of Social Services; Mrs. Helen Kaddy and Mrs. Delia Potter, founding members of the SCPRC.



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of Presidents of Resident  
Councils*

*“Working toward the  
Self-empowerment of  
Connecticut’s nursing home  
residents”*



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