



Collaborating to
Ensure a Healthy Ohio

MEDIA RELEASE

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**NEW OHIO HISTORICAL MARKER TO COMMEMORATE
100 YEARS OF OHIO HOSPITALS COLLABORATION,
ADVOCACY LEADERSHIP**

*State, National Hospital Industry Leaders Dedicate Ohio Historical
Marker at Cedar Point Hotel Breakers, site of Ohio Hospital
Association Founding in 1915*

Columbus, Ohio (43215) – Representatives of the Ohio Hospital Association, Ohio Historical Society, Cedar Point and the American Hospital Association, along with Ohio hospital leaders and health care advocates commemorated the 100th anniversary of OHA with the dedication of an Ohio historical marker today at the Hotel Breakers in Sandusky, Ohio, the hotel that hosted the founding meeting in 1915.

“OHA has been the united voice of Ohio’s hospitals for a century, representing one of Ohio’s most vital health care industries,” said Mike Abrams, OHA president and CEO. “During that time we have been the leader of substantial reforms and advances in health care delivery and policy. Through many collaboration and partnerships, we have helped shape health care policy in Ohio and the country.”

Rick Pollack, incoming president of the American Hospital Association, delivered the keynote address at the dedication ceremony. The AHA was founded in Cleveland in 1898 and now represents 5,686 registered hospitals nationwide.

“The Ohio Hospital Association has a lot to be proud of because of what and who it represents – the hospitals that are a cornerstone of our society,” said Pollack. “We are here to celebrate and honor the past, and also focus on the future, so that hospitals will continue to play a leadership role in serving our communities.”

OHA, the country’s first state-level hospital association, was founded by a group of 60 hospital leaders at the Hotel Breakers on Aug. 25, 1915. Discussions of formation began in 1914. Dr. Eli R. Crew, superintendent of Dayton’s Miami Valley Hospital, was unanimously elected president at the founding meeting. OHA focused on social and legislative matters critical to hospitals and health care.

During the founding meeting, OHA leaders examined the effects of the Harrison Narcotic Act, a federal statute that became effective the year before. The Act required hospitals to keep records of opium and coca leaf compounds given to patients, register the drugs with the federal government and pay taxes accordingly. OHA developed the logistical and accounting tools hospitals used to comply with the Act.

OHA remains committed to providing 220 member hospitals and 13 health systems a unique opportunity to work collaboratively to address health care delivery challenges. As community and industry leaders, hospitals serve a critical role in providing and transforming health care in Ohio. Since its founding, OHA has represented hospitals’ common interests, crafted health care policy, secured reimbursement for patient care, implemented patient safety and quality improvement initiatives, offered workforce staffing solutions, implemented an unemployment payroll tax program, championed energy efficiency and environmental programs, offered educational events for health care workers and served as the united voice for Ohio’s hospitals and health systems.

“The health care industry is changing dramatically with new delivery techniques, policy reforms and increased consumer involvement,” Abrams said. “The role of hospitals and health systems in our communities is paramount. Faced with these changes, it is critical for us to evolve to meet the emerging needs in health care moving forward.”

In June 2015, OHA launched the [Institute for Health Innovation](#) to evaluate, focus and engage in change activities that lead and enable the pursuit of excellence in safety and quality and in improving the health of Ohio communities.

Today, OHA is leading quality improvement programs statewide, including a campaign to reduce sepsis infection, which affects over 50,000 patients per year in Ohio or 5 percent of all hospital discharges. OHA is also coordinating efforts on the significant population health issue of infant mortality by promoting infant safe sleep, eliminating early elective delivery and promoting breastfeeding.

Located along the mile-long Cedar Point beach, Hotel Breakers opened its doors in 1905

as the “largest and greatest hotel on the Great Lakes.” The hotel recently completed a two-year renovation from the ground up. Along with a new exterior, the modernized hotel has a new entrance portal, classic interior finishes, newly-furnished and remodeled rooms with LCD TV’s, new furniture, bedding and décor, and many other amenities and offerings. Additional enhancements include a new Starbucks and the Surf Lounge bar inside the famous rotunda, widened exterior green space with panoramic views of Lake Erie and an outdoor water play area with zero depth entry and splash features.

For event photos, [click here](#).

About Ohio Hospital Association

Established in 1915, the Ohio Hospital Association represents 220 hospitals and 13 health systems throughout Ohio. OHA, marking its centennial year in 2015, is the nation’s oldest state hospital association. With a mission to collaborate with member hospitals and health systems to ensure a healthy Ohio, OHA is focused on three strategic initiatives: patient safety and quality, advocacy and economic sustainability. Follow OHA on Twitter [@OhioHospitals](#). OHA’s address is 155 East Broad Street, Suite 301, Columbus, Ohio, 43215.

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OHA exists to collaborate with member hospitals and health systems
to ensure a healthy Ohio.