

## Local Lung Assn. chapter breaks with national group

By Gregory Meyer  
May 09, 2007

(Crain's) — The American Lung Assn. of Metropolitan Chicago is cutting ties with the national group and changing its name.

Effective July 1, the association will call itself the Respiratory Health Assn. of Metropolitan Chicago, said Joel Africk, the group's CEO.

The Chicago association, founded 101 years ago, is managed by an independent board. Mr. Africk said the New York-based national organization wanted the Chicago association to sign a new contract making it part of a Springfield-based, multi-state satellite of the national organization.

The Chicago chapter refused and is changing its name and dropping its affiliation as a result.

“What has always worked best was local autonomy and the ability to make sure we were close to the community we're serving,” Mr. Africk said.

The Chicago chapter has a budget of about \$5.5 million, Mr. Africk said.

A message left at the lung association's headquarters in New York was not immediately returned.