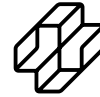




Examiner



hfma™ northwest ohio chapter
healthcare financial management association

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President's Message

A New Year

Yes, it is a new year. And with that comes the usual resolutions to do some things different. On the personal side it could mean a weight loss program, a commitment to exercise more, to drink less coffee, to spend more time with children or to not open internet spam. We should also think about some things we want to do different on the professional side. Here are some things I have committed to that I would like to share.



I am resolving to discontinue the overuse of acronyms in our business conversations. Usually, there are several parties involved in any particular conversation that will not be fully knowledgeable on the exact meaning of the acronym and, therefore, will either be forced to ask for clarification or will sit quietly, not wanting to show their ignorance, and therefore not fully understand the context. For example, "The CBO has recently recognized problems with the ERA from CMS that has created AR issues relating to IME and DSH. Any questions?"

I am also resolving to continue to battle the inappropriate use of e-mail. The e-mail tool can be a very productive tool, but can also be the source of frustration and massive time consumption. On the heels of filling our day with back to back and often time's unproductive meetings, we have added additional time commitment of reading and responding to often times unproductive e-mail conversations. Many times it is more productive to pick up the old fashioned telephone to obtain clarification on an e-mail request for information. Before sending an e-mail, put yourself in the receiver's position and what you are asking in return. If you feel as though the e-mail chain has started taking on a life of its own, pick up the phone or schedule a meeting rather than continue the proliferation.

Finally, I am resolving to make my commitments in a voluntary capacity more meaningful. I have in the past challenged each and every one of you to become more active in our chapter and to volunteer your services. This year I am going one step further and am challenging you to not only volunteer your services, but to commit to making your experience a meaningful one by setting aside time devoted to your service.

I wish everyone a happy and fulfilling new year.

Kim





Certification News

JUST ARRIVED!

We have just received in the 2007-2008 self study manuals for the Core exam, as well as the Accounting/Finance and Patient Financial Services specialty exams! As a Chapter, we will make these self study manuals available to anyone who is interested in studying for the certification exams. Did you know that you can earn CPE credits for using these manuals? It is only available to the first member who uses the self study guides. I used the 2003-2004 self study manuals to get 23 hours of CPE, while Hayley Studer just used the 2005-2006 self study manuals to get her CPE...will you be the first and only one to use the newest 2007-2008 manuals for your own CPE needs? Just let me know.

UNION HOSPITAL HEALTH GROUP

I was in Terre Haute, Indiana on December 20, 2006, to meet with Union Hospital Health Group and their Chief Financial Officer, Wayne Hutson. This was Seneca Medical's first quarterly business review with them as they had started business with Seneca in August 2006. As I handed him my business card, he immediately recognized the "CHFP" designation after my name (which indicates a certified member of HFMA). Wayne wanted to know my background with HFMA, as well as whether Seneca had ever contacted the Indiana Chapter of HFMA about further networking opportunities. As the discussion continued, you could hear the passion in his voice as he spoke about his own involvement with his local chapter...oh, and by the way, on his business card, he had "FHFMA" (a fellow of HFMA, which is one step up from CHFP). That HFMA discussion was an unexpected pleasure.

Todd Howell
Chapter Treasurer and
Certification Chair

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If you have any questions or suggestions for the Corporate Sponsorship program or would like to sit on the committee, please contact one of the following committee members. Char Masters, Chris Rizzo, Larry Kuk, Vince Sheahan, Doug Headman or Sandy Annesser.



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Editorial Policy for THE EXAMINER

THE EXAMINER is published four times per year.

Our objective is to provide members with information regarding chapter activities as well as ideas to help individuals in the performance of their job duties.

Your chapter leadership strongly encourages the submission of material for publication. Articles should be typewritten. Letters should be legible and must be signed. The editor reserves the right to edit material and accept or reject contributions whether solicited or not.

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Opinions expressed in articles or features are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Healthcare Financial Management Association, Northwest Ohio Chapter, or the editor.



Membership News

Happy 2007 to all the members of the Northwest Ohio Chapter of HFMA! Hope all of you had a safe and enjoyable holiday season. We now have 151 members in our chapter, and are excited to announce and welcome the following new members:

- ∅ William S. Krost, Operations Manager, Transport
St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center
- ∅ Darrin Arquette, VP - Finance
Bay Park Community Hospital
- ∅ Jenny L. Furey, CPA
William Vaughan Company

Thanks also to Sharon Swartz and Jane Arnold, who reinstated their memberships since the last newsletter and distribution of our membership directory in early November. Please see the directory for contact information for any new and reinstated members. Look for our new members at chapter programs and events and say hello!

Did You Know...

Our chapter has members in all of the HFMA Forum specialty groups. The most popular Forum group for our members is the CFO Forum, with 22 participants. Next is the PFS Forum with 15 participants. The Compliance Officers Forum has 9, and the Managed Care Forum has 4 of our members as participants.

Membership Directory

Member information is available through the chapter website, www.nwohiohfma.org. Click on the link for "Membership", and then click on "Click Here for Membership Directory". This will link you to the national HFMA website log in page. Once you log in, a member directory search format appears on the screen. Use this search tool to access member directory information.

If you would like to receive a hard copy of the member directory, please contact Chris Rizzo at Christina_Rizzo@mhsnr.org. If you have any questions, or need membership application or member-get-a-member forms, you may find them at the registration table during chapter programs, or contact one of the membership committee members:

Chris Rizzo, Chair:	Christina_Rizzo@mhsnr.org
Scott Fought	Scott.Fought@promedica.org
Aimee Thoreson	Aimee.Thoreson@promedica.org
Dave Wilson	dwilson@ftmc.com

THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN....

MARCH MADNESS and ANNUAL MEETING

**MARCH 15, 2007
MAUMEE INDOOR THEATER**

John Jones and the faithful Program Committee are hard at work preparing for a fun-filled event for the chapter. It's great venue to watch some b-ball and enjoy some refreshments. We will do a short amount of business, and we promise you'll hear a truly good speaker!!

There are also a number of awards being presented. Check the list below to see if you are on it or come support a coworker who is being honored.

Founders Awards

Bronze: Rob Goshia, Amy Gill

Silver: Dawn Balduf, Chris Rizzo, Kim McClure, Todd Howell

Gold: Samantha Platzke

The prestigious Medal of Honor from National is being awarded as well this year. This is a special honor that is given out to very few members. The chapter leaders make a recommendation to National based on: member in good standing, has a minimum of 3 years of service since earning the gold award, and has provided significant service at the chapter or national level in at least 2 of these years.

Come and see who will be joining Bill Waters, Don Phillips, Beth Hickman, and Alan Ganci as our newest Medal of Honor recipient.