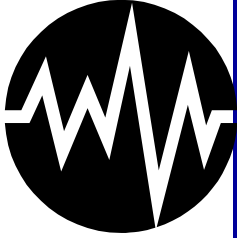


Vital Signs



Spring Issue

April 30, 2005

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Dead Duck

A woman brought a very limp duck into a veterinary surgeon. As she laid her pet on the table, the vet pulled out his stethoscope and listened to the bird's chest. After a moment or two, the vet shook his head sadly and said, "I'm so sorry, your pet has passed away."

The distressed owner wailed, "Are you sure?" "Yes, I'm sure, the duck is dead," the doctor replied. "How can you be so sure?" she protested. "I mean you haven't done any testing on him or anything. He might just be in a coma or something."

The vet rolled his eyes, turned around and left the room. He returned a few moments later with a black Labrador Retriever. As the duck's owner looked on in amazement, the dog stood on his hind legs, put his front paws on the examination table and sniffed the duck from top to bottom. He then looked at the vet with sad eyes and shook his head. The vet patted the dog and took it out and returned a few moments later with a beautiful cat. The cat jumped up on the table and also sniffed the bird from its beak to its tail and back again. The cat sat back on its haunches, shook its head, meowed softly, jumped down and strolled out of the room.

The vet looked at the woman and said, "I'm sorry, but as I said, this is most definitely, 100% certifiably, a dead duck."

Then the vet turned to his computer terminal, hit a few keys, and produced a bill, which he handed to the woman. The duck's owner, still in shock, took the bill. "Three hundred dollars," she cried. "You charged me three hundred dollars just to tell me my duck is dead?"

The vet shrugged, "I'm sorry. If you'd taken my word for it, the bill would have been forty dollars. But with the lab report and the cat scan it all adds up!"

Can I Really Make a Difference?

By Laura Wood

I have stayed active in HFMA for over 11 years because I knew the people, especially those who served on the board, cared about me. I first decided to become a member for personal development. As the years flew by, I realized I really enjoyed the social atmosphere. When first asked to serve on the board, I felt I would volunteer my time because I wanted to make a difference. My first assignment on the board was to compile the membership directory. That was a great job! Serving on the board was a two year commitment and I missed the meeting that second year because I was busy with month end closing. So instead of attending that important meeting, I decided to stay and work at the office. Well, later that day after the meeting was over I got a very scary phone call. I remember Michelle Phinney asking, "We would like you to chair the newsletter committee." Yikes!!! "What else is left?" I asked. Michelle indicated that everyone else grabbed up the other assignments and that the newsletter chair was the only one left. Well, it was the only one left because no one else wanted it! If I had been at that meeting that day, I know I wouldn't have raised my hand to chair the newsletter committee. I would have volunteered to chair the Founders Points or Certification. As I worked on the very first newsletter in August of 2002 I realized it wasn't so bad.

(continued on page 8)

Chapter Officers

2004-2005

Past President

Donita Kuhn
LDS Hospital
Donita.Kuhn@ihc.com

President

Kelly Christensen, FHFMA, CPA
Utah Valley Regional Medical Center
kelly.c.christensen@ihc.com

President-Elect

Barbara Viskochil
Univ. of Utah Hospital
Bviskoch.acs.uhc@hsc.utah.edu

Secretary

Donita Kuhn
LDS Hospital
Donita.Kuhn@ihc.com

Treasurer

Alan Robinson, FHFMA, FACHE, CPA
Logan Regional Hospital
Alan.Robinson@ihc.com

Board Members

Gary Dittmore, St. Marks Hospital - Founders
Janet Malmberg, Eligibility Plus - Region Educator
Roger Autrey, Collection Center, Inc.- Certification
Calvin Price, University Hospital - Website
Michael Weed, McKay-Dee Hospital - Sponsorship
Colin Quincy, Ernst & Young - Membership

Committee Members

Laura Wood – Newsletter
Steve Vance - Newsletter
Charles Birkinshaw - Newsletter
Veneda Bennett-Bruner -Newsletter

Roger Autrey - Program Committee
Boyd Chappell - Program Committee
Janet Malmberg - Program Committee
Joni Nebeker - Program Committee
Trevor Porter - Program Committee
Alan Robinson - Program Committee
David Squire - Program Committee
Barbara Viskochil - Program Committee

Chapter Statistics

As of 04/27/05 our
Utah Chapter
Numbers 165



Presidents Message...

By Kelly Christensen

This year has gone by very fast. As I approach the end of my President year, I just want to thank all those who contributed to making the chapter great. Barb Viskochil and her programs committee have done an outstanding job at providing great educational opportunities for the chapter.

Also, a big thanks is due to Donita Kuhn, who is not only serving on the board as the Past President, but was also willing to take on the responsibilities as the Chapter Secretary when the position became vacant. This position helps keep the Chapter moving forward and compliant with all the requirements set by National.

Also a big thanks to Alan Robinson, who has had to step into new officer positions faster than others in the past, and has a steep learning curve.

We will be losing three board members in May, Mike Weed, Cal Price, and Roger Autrey. Each of them has served well for the last two years and has contributed their talents and time to the success of the chapter. The other members of the board, Colin Quincy, Janet Malmberg, and Gary Dittmore have all been working hard behind the scenes to help make things happen.

The good news is that the incoming officers and board are very well prepared to continue the growth of the chapter. Regardless of the time and effort these individuals put into their responsibilities, they cannot have great success without the members.

Each member needs to find a way to be involved. There are many committees to be filled, and tasks that need accomplishing. Get involved! Be active! Attend meetings! And most of all, Volunteer! If you want to see changes, or if you want to make a difference, the only way to do that is to be involved.

Besides being involved as an officer in the chapter, I have found that HFMA has many things to offer me as an individual. The chance to meet and associate with so many great people is probably at the top of the list. It has offered me a chance to gain a professional certification and develop new skills.

As a chapter, we now have all of the study materials for anyone to use. Take advantage of this opportunity to study for and take the certification exams. It has never been easier in our chapter to make this happen than it is now. We now have a total of 6 certified members in the chapter, and all have expressed a willingness to proctor exams for other chapter members.

Congratulations to the incoming officers and board. I look forward to many more great things in the coming years. See you all on May 20th for the golf outing!

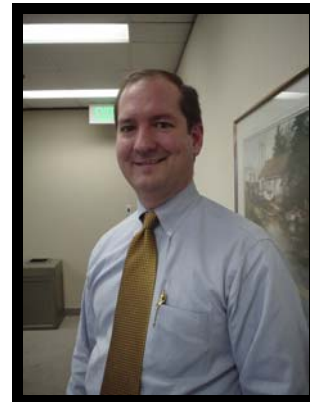
January 28, 2005 Chapter Meeting Review



Ryan Smith, (right) Craig Morley, Mitch Tibbets, Craig Daniels, Gordon Crabtree, Steve Schram and Brent Davis (far left) participated in an CFO Forum. Steve Schram was the moderator.



Michael Hales from the Utah Department of Health spoke to us on the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The CHIP program started in 1997. They operate with an annual budget of \$36 million. 62% of the enrollees live along the Wasatch front. The remaining 38% are scattered across the state. A family of 4 must earn less than \$37,700 to be eligible for the CHIP program.



Doug Smith, IHC CFO for the Urban North Region serves on a board for uninsured clinics. He spoke on billing for the uninsured. 300,00 people in Utah are uninsured. In the Salt Lake Valley, 100,000 are uninsured. The healthcare industry can review pricing/charges for the uninsured, expand sliding scales, take into account all medical debt, offer prompt pay discounts, and account for catastrophic care.

March Alliance Meetings in St. George



Emily Friedman, an independent writer, lecturer and health policy and ethics analyst based in Chicago, spoke to Alliance Healthcare members on March 17th. She spoke on Health-care Policy and Upcoming Changes. She was a very dynamic speaker.



Shar Heikotter, a branch manager with Zions Bank, spoke on Personal Finance. Budgeting, evaluating your insurance needs, estate planning, family advisors, record keeping, medical history and funeral planning were topics she covered.



Brad Myler, a practicing attorney in the area of Social Security Disability Law, Workers Compensation, and Personal Injury, spoke to us on SSI Disability. It takes over two years after application for the average person applying for disability to receive acceptance. The system is extremely backlogged. He helps his clients submit the proper paperwork with the disability application to cut the time it takes to get approved. Most of the disability approvals come at the administrative judge level.

March Alliance Meetings in St. George



Michelle Phinney and Collin Quincy show us their Mardi Gras accessories.



Gail Burke led the group in a motivation activity. Members were put into groups and had to work together to make a poster about Mardi Gras.



Denis Smith and Jeff Howes work on their unique mobile. Show us the money!



Jeff Kinney, Janet Wager and Janet Fields show us their Mardi Gras poster.



This team rolled up their poster and glued masks, money and a pot of gold to it.



Dave Sorensen explains how his team pulled together to make this impressive looking poster.



Deb Wynkoop from Utah Hospitals Association spoke to the group on Friday, March 18th on Utah Legislative Update. Total funding for the Department of Health & Human Services increased by \$159 million. Much of the funding went to address the reduction in the federal match rate which did not grow the programs as much as it expected. (It takes 11 million to just continue current programs) Hospitals were promised a 2% inflation rate but only funded 1.5%. Three million was set aside to cover the CHIP programs and as a result 12,000 more children will receive preventative health care. The good news for children included a rate increase for newborn screening fees, which will add an additional 26 tests to the required four to screen out potentially deadly, metabolic diseases which can be treated.



David Squire from Utah Medical Education Council was our last speaker on Friday. He spoke about Utah's Healthcare Workforce. Utah will be facing a shortage of health care professionals for the next two decades and longer. Specialties serving the elderly population are experiencing high demand. Physicians who practice Gastroenterology, Internal Medicine, OB/GYN, Dermatology, and Oncology are among the specialists who are in high demand right now. There is also a annual pharmacist shortage in Utah.

Congratulations to Dennis Lindsay! He won the grand prize donated by Cardon Healthcare at the Alliance meeting in St. George in March. He won a trip for 2 to Coronado Island!



Can I Really Make a Difference?

(continued from page 1)

I had great mentors from our chapter who sat down with me and showed me the ropes. I was invited to attend Leadership Training Conference in San Francisco where there were breakout sessions on newsletter techniques and tips. I have never taken such copious notes. Mary Walker was our trainer, mentor and lifesaver! Well over eight newsletters later, I am alive and kicking and feeling pretty good about the time I volunteered to be the newsletter chair.

Recruiting for our Utah Chapter volunteer base is a never ending process. We are always in need of great people with great ideas and great follow through. Why should you get involved in our chapter you ask? One reason is the opportunity to network. Don't ever overlook the possibility of doing well by doing good. Volunteering is the easiest way to add new faces to your network, and it feels great. Second, you will make a difference! I never thought I could make the newsletter better than it had been in the past, but eventually I changed both the way it looked and how it was delivered to each member. Third, you will enjoy the social atmosphere. I am reminded of a very social and happy person in our chapter named Roger Autrey. Even before he was a member of our board he was always the person at the entrance of every chapter meeting who greeted each person who entered the room. He was never assigned to do this, but being the outgoing and friendly person Roger is, he just did it!

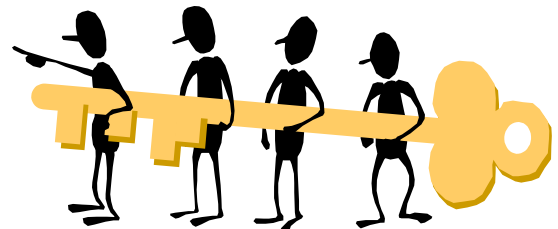
As we begin our new 2005-2006 year this summer our chapter needs committee members. The following are areas that need to be filled by May 20, 2005.

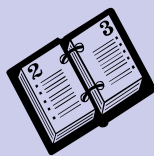
Sponsorship
Website
Social
Regions 10 & 8 meeting in Park City/May 2006
Newsletter
Programs
Certification

This is your time as a HFMA member to get involved in the planning of the upcoming year. If you want a certain topic to be covered sometime in the 2005-2006 year please mention it to Alan Robinson. He would appreciate all the ideas you may have as he is the chairperson for the program committee. If you are great with the computer volunteer for the website committee. If you are new to our chapter and want to get to know members of our chapter volunteer for the social committee. Once you volunteer you will be glad you did! The people you meet and associate while on these committees are incredible! Please contact any of the following people if you would like to share your talents and become more involved!

Barbara Viskochil	Bviskoch.acs.uhc@hsc.utah.edu
Alan Robinson	alan.robinson@ihc.com
Brent Davis	brent.davis@utahtelehealth.net
Laura Wood	laura.wood@ihc.com

Volunteers are not paid because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.





Calendar of Events

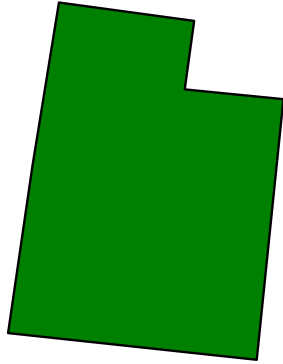


May 20, 2005

Officer Installation, Marlene Joiner—Taking control of Your Life and golf at River Oaks Golf Course

June 27– July 1

ANI in Las Vegas, Nevada



Utah Chapter Welcomes Our New Members

<u>Member Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Randy Day	Community Health Corporation
Keith Erickson	CSI Financial Services
Suzanne Spradley	Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld
Michael Hansen	Epic
Mark Vawdrey	Intermountain Health Care
Lamond Woods	SWIS Insurance Corporation
Brian McMinn	St. Mark's Hospital
Curtis Ogden	Timpanogos Regional Hospital

We look forward to seeing you at upcoming chapter meetings.

“Communication works for those who work at it.”
John Powell



Charles Barkley

Job/Department/Responsibilities/Company I work for: Financial Analyst in the Accounting Department for Intermountain Healthcare. I am responsible for monitoring Medical Necessity, Point of Service Collections, Charge Capture and clinical documentation improvement for the region. I create reports for the Net Revenue Improvement Team. I work on projects to increase Net Revenue for the region.

My family includes: I am just recently engaged to Susie. We met at a friend's birthday party. I have 3 brothers and a sister.

The best part of my job is... Receiving an assignment that covers multiple disciplines and requires research and being put under pressure to deliver.

If I'm not at work, you'll find me... on the motor-cross track.

Hobbies: Motor-cross, scuba diving, golf, rock climbing, snowboarding, wakeboarding, soccer, and the movies.

My proudest moment was.... Completing my MBA

The best advice I ever received : Do your homework, be better prepared than anyone else.

I joined HFMA because: The education and networking opportunities.

My favorite food is: Seafood

A book I would recommend: *When Corporations Rule the World*

Education: Bachelor Degree in Marketing and MBA— Emphasis in Finance, International Business and Entrepreneurship. Both degrees are from the University of Utah

A person may be surprised to know that... I was not named after the NBA star!