



Fall Edition 2013

A Note from Nan: President's Message Nan Woldin



I hope you've had a wonderful summer so far. While the weather has not been as hot as usual, your AAHAM Western Reserve Board is promising some "hot" meetings with "hot" topics to round out the rest of the year. We hope you will make time to join us for all of our upcoming events.

Speaking of "hot" topics, I don't know about you, but right about now I'm feeling overwhelmed. As the implementation of the next phase of the ACA is ready to roll out, the reality of how much work and education there is to do leaves me with a lot of "burning" questions. And, if I have so many questions, imagine how our patients and community feel. Health Care Marketplace.....sounds like a place where it's easy to pick up insurance coverage to put in your shopping cart. Medicaid Expansion....sounds like lots of room for

more people enrolled in the Medicaid program. The reality is that none of this is simple and healthcare consumers are confused. Part of our job as Revenue Cycle professionals will be to help educate our patients and community and to assure that our team is as well prepared as can be. What better way to help our teams along is to encourage, and allow, them to attend our awesome educational sessions? At our Fall Conference, we have presentations on the ACA, Medicare PPS, and how to handle Self Pay Collections in this challenging time. All "hot" topics that staff will certainly be called upon to address with patients in the all-too-near future!

Encouraging staff to obtain professional certification is another way to ensure that they have the education that they need to speak confidently about Revenue Cycle "burning" issues. Please contact any Board Member with questions about educational opportunities and certification.

AAHAM Western Reserve Chapter is committed to helping you make it through the blaze unscathed.

Have a safe end to the summer and I look forward to talking to each of you at the Fall Conference.

Nan

Membership Update:

Diane Murray/First Vice President

September is here and everyone is busy with back to school activities and preparing for Fall!

Don't forget there is still time to register for the **AAHAM Fall Institute, September 26 & 27**, being held this year at the beautiful Glenmoor County Club in Canton, Ohio! Don't miss this Camelot adventure that includes important Education sessions, Wine Tasting, Spa, Golf and more! Go to the following link www.wraaham.org/site2/activities to register now!

Membership for the Western Reserve Chapter of AAHAM has reached 140 members through August 2013. This is compared to 129 members for the same time last year! Thanks to everyone that renewed their membership this year and welcome to the 26 New Members!

Our membership continues to grow as we all reach out to colleagues and friends to let them know about the benefits of Membership. Spread the word among your coworkers and invite them to attend meetings and take advantage of all AAHAM has to offer!

I look forward to seeing you at the Fall Institute!

Diane

**Education Update:
Toni Shamblin, BSBA,
Second Vice President**

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the September meeting. I enjoy getting to catch up with all of our members. I learn so much from everyone, thank you. As you should know very well from the email blast we have some great speakers, plenty of opportunities to network and if that isn't enough...win cash and prizes!!!

The December holiday meeting always comes quickly. Mark your calendar now and be prepared to get your December registration in quickly. For the December afternoon holiday

meeting I have Shelly Peters that will be doing a presentation on legacy systems. Many of our members are currently in the process of updating various computer systems within their organization. But what are your obligations for maintaining the data, accessing the data, securing the data, and many more questions. Shelly can answer these questions for you.

2013 Meeting Dates:

- ❖ Thursday, September 26th and Friday, September 27th @ Glenmoor Country Club, Canton
- ❖ Friday, December 13th @ AGMC Wellness Center – afternoon meeting

Good luck to everyone running for office.

Toni



Join Us in Camelot.....

Secretarial Scribbles:

Ann Buchheit, Secretary

As we prepare for fall, I hope that everyone had a healthy and enjoyable summer. Fall is always a very busy time for healthcare. Regulatory changes, Proposed and Final rules that impact our facilities and keeping them financially sound. This year seems to be especially busy with software changes, upgrades just to name a few. If you are one of those going through such changes, just know that you are supported by Western Reserve AAHAM.

The board members and committees of WRAAHAM are committed to providing you with educational opportunities to help you with your daily responsibilities. I urge you to use the upcoming Annual Institute scheduled for the end of September as an opportunity to share experiences with others in healthcare, obtain some insights into the Affordable Care Act (aka: Obama Care), Medicare Prospective Payment Legislative updates, and our ever growing Self Pay population. Charles Cataline from the Ohio Hospital Association will be providing updates. Charles always provides great insights! Please consider joining us.

On another educational note, the National Annual Institute (ANI) is coming in October. This year it is being held in New Orleans. As one who attended last year for the first time, it was a wonderful opportunity to hear what other states were experiencing. It was

refreshing to see that Ohio hospitals, while experiencing change, were not alone and in fact had fewer problems than other states. I attended a workshop on AAHAM certification which gave me insight into whether I had what it took to become certified. Stay tuned, as I will be pursuing CPAM. This year there, three WRAAHAM members attending; wouldn't it be marvelous to have five or six members attending? Please seriously consider joining Nan, Toni and me in New Orleans.

Ann



Where & When:

Sheraton New Orleans October 16-18

Corporate Sponsor Spotlight



Masters Associates Receivables Management, Inc. is a healthcare consulting firm providing Revenue Cycle management services to healthcare organizations in the Great Lakes Region since 1991. Since our team members have extensive “hands-on” healthcare work experience, Masters Associates is a valuable resource especially in these transitional times. Our goal is to provide patient centered Revenue Cycle solutions for our clients and assist them to achieve their objectives. We share your overall mission to provide outstanding customer service and satisfaction.

Several examples of Masters Associates’ services follow:

- Provide Revenue Cycle Management Solutions

- Outline/Implement Accounts Receivables Reduction Strategies
- Perform Operational Assessments
- Execute Cost Saving Change
- Promote Process Improvements

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