

Officers 2002-2003

Tom Dingus, President
Bob Hinman, President-Elect
Gregg Terreson, Secretary
Eric Teshima, Treasurer
Anne Stallard, Immediate Past President

Board Members 2002-2003

Grant Baumgartner
Annette Edwards
Peggy Figy
Tim Howden
Lee Johnson
Frank Hemeon
Greg Moga
Tom Muller
John Nutter
Deirdre Ridgway

Editorial Policy

Opinions expressed in articles or features are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Washington/Alaska Chapter, the Healthcare Financial Management Association, or the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to edit material and accept or reject contributions whether solicited or not. All correspondence is assumed to be a release for publication unless otherwise indicated.

Publication Objective

The NW Outlook is the official publication of the Washington/Alaska Chapter Healthcare Financial Management Association. Our objective is to provide members with information regarding Chapter and national activities, with current and useful news of both national and local significance to healthcare finance professionals and to serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas and information.

President's Message

from
Tom Dingus



Why Our Chapter is Great and What You Can Gain by Becoming Active

I would like to share some observations from my twelve years of active involvement in the Washington/Alaska Chapter of HFMA. I would like to share why I believe we are such a strong Chapter and what the Chapter can provide to you.

What Makes Our Chapter So Strong?

Chapter officers have the opportunity to attend National and regional leadership training meetings. What becomes very apparent very quickly is that our Chapter is clearly in the top 5 of the 70 chapters in the United States (admittedly a biased and subjective judgment on my part but supported by all chapter leaders that have attended National and regional meetings). I believe our Chapter has achieved this status because of the following:



HFMA Night at the Mariners

see page 6 for details!

The continued active involvement of past presidents such as **Libby Loux, Al Hanson, Julie Meek, Ginger Rhoades** and **Scott Nelson** to name a few. The past presidents have willingly shared knowledge and experiences while allowing the new leaders to innovate. I believe this is a rare situation in a volunteer organization where the past leaders stay active but also allow the new leaders to do their own thing.

continued on next page...

www.waakhfma.org

Contributing Writers

David Cartier
Tom Dingus
Peggy Figy
Tom Muller

THANK YOU!!!

...continued from previous page

The next thing that makes us so strong is the continuity of leadership. Our officers have all previously served on the Board and otherwise been active for several years before becoming officers. We seldom have a resignation from the Board and even less often from the officer roles. The officer and board truly work as a team and are able to capitalize on each person's strengths, experiences, and interests. This sets us apart from other HFMA chapters and volunteer organizations that often end up relying upon very few people to keep the organization going.

The Chapter has become financially strong over the past several years. Proceeds from the Region 11 Symposium, the vendor fair at the February meeting, and the corporate sponsorship program have provided valuable revenue sources that allow us to provide high quality education programs. We do not need to rely upon the educational programs to generate revenue therefore we are able to keep registration fees low. We are able to spend more on speaker fees and travel costs and take risks with higher priced speakers because of our financial stability. Better educational programs attract more attendees and therefore also increase Chapter revenue through more registration fees that can be used in future educational programs.

The last thing (and most important) is the member involvement in our Leadership Councils and Committees (LCC). The Councils and Committees are the groups that keep the Chapter fresh and moving forward. The Committees are responsible for the educational programs and the Councils are responsible for chapter operations. The members that attend LCC contribute greatly to the Chapter by providing new ideas for speakers, topics, corporate sponsors, etc. *Please join us at the next LCC.* The LCCs are held one evening at each quarterly meeting (you get a free dinner that is always very good).

Why Become Active?

Why do I think Chapter members should become more active?
This is why?

- The local educational opportunities we provide each quarter. They are an opportunity to receive quality, affordable education that is tailored to our region.
- The opportunity to develop leadership and other interpersonal skills when serving on a committee, council, or the Board.
- The networking opportunities regardless of whether you are from a healthcare provider or a vendor – we all benefit from knowing our peers and having someone to talk to with similar issues. ■

REAP THE BENEFITS OF LCC PARTICIPATION



by Tom Muller, Membership Services Chairman

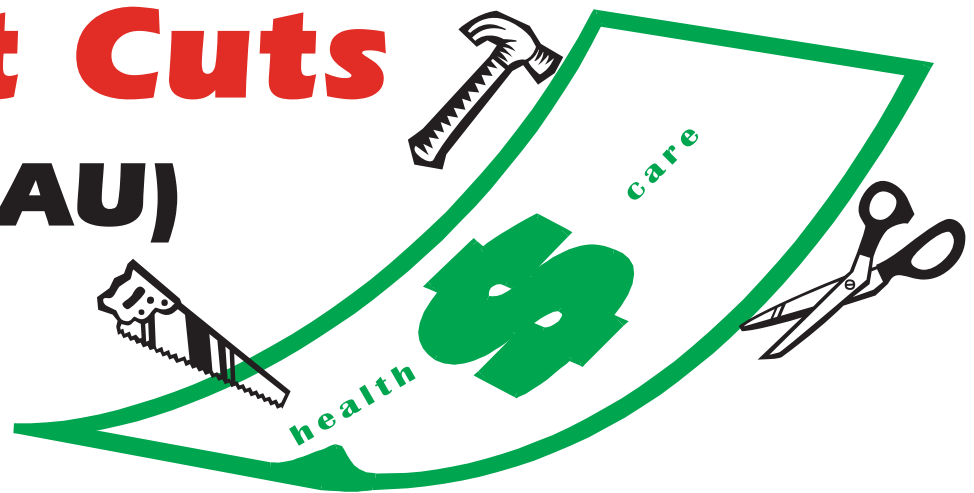
Since Washington-Alaska chapter is a volunteer run organization, it is the members like you that make things happen in the chapter. By participating in the chapter LCC you have a voice in determining the topics that will be on the agenda for future chapter meetings, where and when those meetings will be held, the future goals of the chapter, and the types of recognition the chapter will give to members. In addition, participation in LCC provides an excellent opportunity for networking with other chapter members who are actively involved in the operation of the chapter.

As a token of appreciation, the chapter provides dinner for all members who attend LCC meetings. This dinner provides an opportunity for networking with LCC members from other councils and committees. As an additional incentive, all members attending, except officers and directors, are entered into a drawing. The winner of this drawing receives a prize of \$50. The most recent winner was **Ralph Hill**, Deputy Director of the Washington Association of Community and Migrant Health Centers. Previous winners during the 2002-2003 chapter year were **Ginger Rhoades** from Mount Carmel Hospital, **Bob Jensen** from Providence Washington Service Center, and **Susan Urchin** from Moss Adams. You could be the next winner. But, you must be present to win. The next LCC meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 21st at 5:00 PM at the Davenport Hotel in Spokane. The LCC meeting will immediately follow the Wednesday afternoon workshop.

The May meeting is an ideal time to start participation in an LCC committee or council. At this time each committee and council is outlining its activities for the coming year. However, all of the LCC councils and committees welcome new members at any time of the year. A description of each LCC council and committee and its functions is available on the chapter website at <http://www.waakhfma.org/> ■

Budget Cuts

(MI and GAU)



Washington State is facing a budget crisis through which our most vulnerable patients will be made to suffer the most. Healthcare is being singled out to absorb a disproportionately high percentage of the over \$2 billion our legislature needs to make up. The Governor, Senate and House have all weighed in and none of their proposals are good for healthcare.

Although each of the three budgets provides for restoration of the Enhanced Trauma Payment program, they do not address how hospitals will access the funds for non federal Medicaid patients. The problem is that many trauma patients are not eligible for Federal Medicaid and can only get coverage from the MI program. All three budgets effectively eliminate the MI program leaving many hospitals with no reimbursement for many of their trauma expenditures.

The worst proposal to mitigate the elimination of the MI program is our Governor's. He is proposing only a \$40 million offset. If MI was to continue unchanged, hospitals would get

\$108 million (and other providers \$27 million). The Senate proposal provides \$40 million to hospitals and an additional \$6.2 million to rural facilities. The House proposes to give \$80 million to health care providers (although

All three budgets effectively eliminate the MI program leaving many hospitals with no reimbursement for many of their trauma expenditures.

WSHA believes some of their assumptions on federal matching dollars are wrong). They estimate only about \$53 million of this would end up for hospitals.

There is another cut that will dramatically impact our hospitals and their ability to care for indigent patients. The Senate alone seeks to limit both cash

payments and medical coverage to General Assistance-Unemployable recipients. GA-U provides healthcare and limited income to the incapacitated (unable to work for > 90 days, but < 12 months). The Senate would allow only six months of continuous coverage within any 24-month period and non-citizens would have an 18-month lifetime limit. The Senate budget is seeking more than \$20 million in savings from a population that is by definition unable to work and not eligible for federal Medicaid. The savings will come in the form of increased uncompensated care for our hospitals and mental health facilities. DSHS is supposed to assist permanently disabled applicants (unable to work for > 12 months) apply for SSI. SSI eligibility is an automatic qualification for federal Medicaid. These applicants are eligible for GA-X while their SSI application is processed and would not be subject to the Senate's limitations. ■

David Cartier, Director
dcartier@pacificmedicaid.com
Pacific Medicaid Services, Inc.



Welcome New Members



The Washington/Alaska Chapter is pleased to
announce the following new members

Rhonda D. Reeve
Operations Manager
Group Health Northwest
Spokane, WA

June Durnan
Director PFS
Central Peninsula Gen Hospital
Soldotna, AK

Edgardo G. Jose, CPAM
PFS Manager
Univ of Washington Medical Center
Seattle, WA

Stephanie P. Walter
Financial Analyst
Overlake Hospital Medical Center
Bellevue, WA

Lynn McEneaney
Chargemaster Coordinator
Group Health Cooperative
Seattle, WA

Val J. Martin
Chief Finanacial Officer
Madigan Army Medical Center
Dupont, WA

Gail M. McFaddin
Regional Vice President
Albuquerque, NM

Glenda Hughes
Department Head
Naval Hospital Bremerton
Bremerton, WA

Linda Zigler
Manager
Northwest Hospital
Seattle, WA

Gretchen Hanna
Director Finance
Univ of Washington Medical Center
Seattle, WA

Ralph C. Altomare
Program Manager
XM Logic, LLC
Bellevue,

Jim Chesemore
Vice President
Parker, Smith & Feek, Inc.
Bellevue, WA

Keryl Porter
Fiscal Services Supervisor
Fairbanks Memorial Hospital
Fairbanks, AK

Tim F. Ferraro
Regional Director
Issaquah, WA

Kim Paczesny
Regional Accounting Manager
Providence Health System
Seattle, WA

Penny C. Sweet
Associate Director Hospital
Group Health Cooperative Hosp
Kirkland, WA

Barbara E. Cruz
Reimbursement Manager
Ortho Biotech Inc
Spokane, WA

Vincent R. Bakich
Denials Analyst
DaVita, Inc.
Tacoma, WA

Kim M. Manus
Chief Financial Officer
Pend Oreille County Public Hospital
Newport, WA



hfma washington / alaska chapter
healthcare financial management association

Job Opportunities

POSITION AVAILABLE	ORGANIZATION	LOCATION
Accounting Services Manager	Public Health-Seattle & King County	Seattle, WA
Business Manager	Evergreen Surgical Center	Kirkland, WA
Business Office Manager	Montevista Hospital	Las Vegas, NV
Business Office/Health Information Manager	Barrett Hospital & HealthCare	Dillon, MT
Business Strategy & Finance Leader	Kaiser Permanente	Oakland, CA
Chief Executive Officer	Okanogan-Douglas Hospital District	Brewster, WA
Chief Financial Officer	PacMed Clinics	Seattle, WA
Chief Financial Officer	Fremont Hospital	Fremont, CA
Chief Operating Officer	80-bed for-profit facility	Seattle, WA
Client Financial Services Supervisor	Healthcare service organization	Downtown Seattle, WA
Client Services Account Executive	Argent Healthcare Financial Services, Inc.	Seattle/Tacoma, WA
Compliance Officer	Harborview Medical Center	Seattle, WA
Controller	Harborview Medical Center	Seattle, WA
Coordinator – Government Billing	Healthcare	Bay Area, CA
Coordinator, Outpatient & Prof. Services Revenue	Harborview Medical Center	Seattle, WA
Decision Support Analyst	Kaweah Delta Health Care District	Visalia, CA
Director of Patient Financial Services	Overlake Hospital Medical Center	Bellevue, WA
Director of Patient Financial Services	University of Washington Medical Center	Seattle, WA
Director of Patient Financial Services	Acute care hospital (\$150M Gross Rev)	Eastern WA
Executive Director	Pioneer Medical Center (10 physicians)	Moses Lake, WA
Financial Analyst, Decision Support	Evergreen Healthcare	Kirkland, WA
Financial Executive	Great Falls Clinic	Great Falls, MT
Health Care Auditors	Catholic Healthcare Audit Network, LLC	Spokane & 2 in Montana
Internal Auditor	PeaceHealth (Corporate)	Oregon
Manager	Certus Corporation	Seattle, WA
Manager, Audit and Consulting Services	Catholic Healthcare Audit Network, LLC	Spokane, WA
Medicare Auditors	Premera Blue Cross	Seattle, WA
Medicare Cost Report Coordinator	Harborview Medical Center	Seattle, WA
Patient Accounts Director	Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital	Barrow, AK
Patient Financial Services Manager	HealthServicesNW	Renton, WA
Reimbursement Manager	Legacy Health System	Portland, OR
Revenue Management Coordinator	Harborview Medical Center	Seattle, WA
Revenue Manager – PFS	Seattle Cancer Care Alliance	Seattle, WA
Revenue Support Manager	Apria Healthcare	Lake Forest, CA
Senior Accountant	MultiCare Health System	Tacoma, WA
Senior Auditor	GMAC-RFC Health Capital	Portland, OR
Senior Consultant	Certus Corporation	Seattle, WA
Senior Financial Analyst, Revenue Services	Catholic Healthcare West	Pasadena, CA
Staffing Coordinator-Medical Division	Guidance Corporation (recruiting)	Federal Way, WA
Vice President, Chief Financial Officer	Emanuel Medical Center, Inc.	Turlock, CA

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

...on these listings or to include a listing, please contact

Peggy Figy, (509) 482-2160 or figyp@holy-family.org

See also National HFMA's website (www.hfma.org) for additional job listings.

HFMA/AAHAM JOINT CONFERENCE

The February 2003 Joint HFMA/AAHAM conference kicked off with a very thought provoking presentation by Cheryl Scott, CEO of Group Health Cooperative, "Gazing into the Clouded Crystal Ball... Reflections About the Future of Healthcare Financing." An Honorarium in lieu of speaker fee was donated to the Jerome F. Beekman Memorial Endowed Fund.

IN MEMORY OF RAYMOND RAINES

Dear HFMA,
Thank you so much for your kind donation in memory of Ray. We are so pleased you supported Virginia Mason as it is a fine hospital and the care is superior. Ray so enjoyed his years involved with HFMA. Your generosity is appreciated.

Sincerely,
Ellie Raines

HFMA CERTIFICATION

Study Session and Testing for Certification On-Site!

Take advantage of an on-site study session and testing for HFMA Certification. A 3-hour study session will start at 1pm on **Wednesday, May 21st** and will focus on the Core Exam. If you are interested in taking the Core Exam or one of the Specialty Exams, arrangements for on-site testing can be made. Please email Dennis Stillman at stillman@u.washington.edu to inform him of your desire to be tested. If you have a laptop available to you, please bring it so we have enough for all those interested in taking the exam.

CONGRATULATIONS



Certified Healthcare Financial Professionals February and March 2003

Area of Specialty—Accounting and Finance

Sean M. Douglas, CHFP, CPA
Spokane, WA

Terry D. Litke, CHFP
Moses Lake, WA

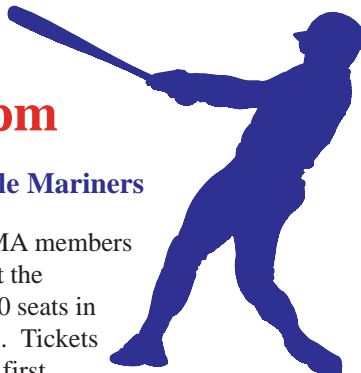
HFMA NIGHT AT THE MARINERS

July 29th

7:05 pm

Detroit Tigers vs. Seattle Mariners

Come join your fellow HFMA members for a fun summer evening at the Mariners game. We have 40 seats in section 321 (above 1st base). Tickets are \$15.25 and will go on a first come basis. Contact Eric Teshima at (425) 688-5149 or eric.teshima@overlakehospital.org if you're interested in attending.

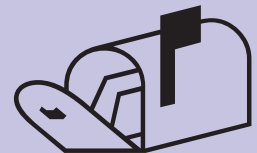


WIN \$100.00



You could win \$100 by writing an article for N.W. Outlook! Share your knowledge & experiences with other HFMA Members. You can help make a difference!

Please send information & articles for upcoming newsletters to:



Ginger Rhoades
Mount Carmel Hospital
982 E. Columbia
Colville WA 99114

Phone:
509-685-2406

E-mail
rhoadev@mtcarmelhospital.org

CORPORATE SPONSORS

The Chapter would like to thank the following companies for 2002 - 2003 sponsorships:

PLATINUM LEVEL

Bennett, Bigelow & Leedom, P.S.
Case Mix Analysis
Merchants Credit Association
Moss Adams LLP
Pacific Medicaid
TIAA-CREF

GOLD LEVEL

Advanced Receivables Strategy/
Perot Systems Healthcare

Michael R. Bell
Clark Nuber
Healthworks
KPMG LLP
Sheryl Kennedy CPA, LLC

SILVER LEVEL

Cambio Health Solutions
Foster Pepper & Shefelman PLLC
LeMaster & Daniels
Protiviti
Provider Advantage
Silberg & Associates LLC
Spencer Kinney
The enVision Group



Spring to Action!

May 21-23, 2003

HFMA
Workshop & Meeting

Davenport Hotel
Spokane, Washington

- Guest Speakers
- LCC Meeting

SEE YOU THERE!

Would you like to check your progress toward a Founders Merit Award.

Individual scoring records for the Founders Merit Award program are maintained for chapter members by LCC Council III.

To receive a copy of your record, please contact

Tom Muller

Telephone: (360) 236-4215
Facsimile: (360) 664-8579
Email: tom.muller@doh.wa.gov

UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETINGS

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION
HFMA Workshop & Meeting	May 21-23, 2003	Davenport Hotel – Spokane
HFMA Workshop & Meeting	September 17-19, 2003	Joint Meeting w/Oregon – Portland
HFMA Workshop	December 4, 2003	Embassy Suites – Seatac
HFMA Region 11 Symposium	January, 2004	Caesar's Palace – Las Vegas
HFMA Workshop, Meeting & Vendor Fair	February, 2004	Sheraton – Tacoma
HFMA Workshop & Meeting	May 18-20, 2004	CDA Resort – Coeur d'Alene
HFMA Workshop & Meeting	September 22-24, 2004	Port Ludlow Resort – Port Ludlow
HFMA Workshop	December 2, 2004	Embassy Suites - Seatac

www.waakhfma.org



Published bi-monthly by the Washington/Alaska Chapter of HFMA

Editor: Ginger Rhoades
982 E. Columbia
Colville, WA 99114-0351
Phone: (509) 685-2406
Fax: (509) 685-2492
e-mail: rhoadev@mtcarmelhospital.org

Inside This Issue:

- President's Message
 - Benefits of LCC Participation
 - Budget Cuts (MI and GAU)
 - Welcome New Members
 - Job Opportunities
 - Miscellaneous News & Announcements
 - Win \$100
 - Corporate Sponsors
 - Upcoming Chapter Meetings
-