

Hawkeye Highlights

Iowa AAHAM Chapter

Photo By: Steph Hultman

Fall 2012

Message from the President.....

Hawkeye Chapter Wins the National Journalism Award

This may be my final letter to all of you as your chapter president. My AAHAM board experience has been phenomenal. As a Hawkeye AAHAM president, I have had the opportunity to travel to Washington DC, Las Vegas and Bonita Springs, Florida on multiple occasions this past two years. I have met so many wonderful people from our state meetings and countless members across the nation. Serving on the national by-laws committee was quite rewarding as I reviewed scholarship applications, dues and CEU waiver requests, and even scored a couple of Chapter Excellence applications. I encourage you to consider this golden opportunity to expand your own horizons and get more involved in AAHAM.



Last month marked my third ANI event in Bonita Springs, Florida. Our Hawkeye Chapter won the Journalism Award for the best chapter newsletter in 2012. Thank you to Stephanie Hultman and Laurie Gaffney for making this possible!! The weather was beautiful, and I had no mishaps at the airport. I attended some great educational sessions, my favorite being comedian keynote speaker Jan McInnis. I would invite you to take 12 minutes of your day and watch the video on her website at www.janmcinnis.com, entitled "Finding the Funny in Change". The next issue of the Hawkeye Highlights will illustrate more formal reviews of the ANI sessions. Our annual banquet was on the lawn where we were served a broad buffet of lobster, steak, jumbo shrimp and so much more (Someone took my survey comment to heart when I stated "you starved us in Vegas"). Just over 500 people attended the event and there were nearly 80 vendors on display with great giveaways.

Exciting news...Mike Dobbs has booked Day Egusquiza for the May meeting! Those dates are May 16th and 17th. If you have ideas for upcoming conferences, please contact a member of the

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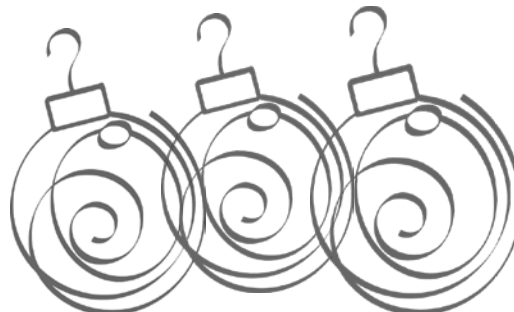
Hawkeye Chapter

Officers - Board Members - Committee Chairs

Tara Spidle	<i>President</i>
Mike Dobbs	<i>Vice President / Program Chair</i>
Connie Dudding	<i>Secretary / Registration</i>
Lisa Quillen	<i>Treasurer / Nominating Chair</i>
Luke Gruber	<i>Chairperson of the Board</i>
Rebecca Gough	<i>Board Member / Certification Chair</i>
Vera Cummings	<i>Board Member / Hawkeye Website</i>
	<i>Audit Chair</i>
Laurie Gaffney	<i>Newsletter Committee Chair</i>
Shari Mitchell	<i>Board Member</i>
	<i>Corporate Sponsorship Chair</i>
Cristie Knudsen	<i>Board Member / Legislative Chair</i>
Sara McClure	<i>Board Member / Hospitality Chair</i>
Luke Gruber	<i>Membership Chair</i>

HAWKEYE HIGHLIGHTS EDITORIAL POLICY & OBJECTIVES

The HAWKEYE HIGHLIGHTS newsletter is published four times annually by the AAHAM IOWA CHAPTER to update the membership regarding chapter and national activities as well as to provide information useful to health care administrative professionals. Opinions expressed in articles or features are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Iowa Chapter. AAHAM, the NATIONAL AAHAM organization or the editor. Reproduction and/or use of the format or content of this publication without the expressed permission of the author(s) or the editor are prohibited. © Copyright 2012.



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board. Cristie Knudsen and Mike Dobbs were quite instrumental in bringing some variety to our agenda in 2012. I would also like to welcome our newly elected board members, Stephanie Hultman, Melissa Puck, and Marcia Taylor. We are very excited to have you serve with us.

Thank you so much to all of you who have made my two year tenure successful. We have maintained great membership numbers within our chapter. Today we have more sponsors than we have ever had before. Both spring and fall meetings were very well attended. Once again, we scored 100% on our Chapter Operations Report...I believe the 4th consecutive year. Each of you has helped make the Hawkeye Chapter successful! ■



Respectfully,

Tara Spidle
President



Corporate Sponsors

The Iowa Hawkeye Chapter wishes to thank its Corporate Sponsors. Their generous financial contributions help ensure our chapter meets its goals and objectives, and allow us to provide educational programs, social functions, training programs for member certification, and the Hawkeye Highlights newsletter.

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HAWKEYE CHAPTER OF AAHAM

BALANCE SHEET

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING: 08/13/2012

ASSETS:

Cash in Bank	\$24,725.78
Certificate of Deposit #30063596	\$6,064.97
Certificate of Deposit #30063430	\$3,220.98
TOTAL ASSETS	\$34,753.98

LIABILITIES:

Payables	\$0.00
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EQUITY:

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$0.00
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OPERATING STATEMENT

REVENUES:

Corporate Sponsors Fees	\$6,865.00
Interest Income	---
Technical Exams	\$480.00
Registrations/Spring 2012	\$9,480.00
Donations	\$1,610.00
Other Revenue	\$46.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$17,126.00

EXPENSES:

Travel	\$3,361.66
Web Design	\$350.00
Spring Conference Speaker Fees	\$2,416.95
Spring Conference Facility/Hospitality Fees	\$4,540.04
Miscellaneous	\$1,409.98
Charity Efforts	\$1,020.00
Insurance Fees	\$500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$13,595.63
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$3,530.37

BEGINNING CASH BALANCE	\$21,195.41
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ENDING CASH BALANCE	\$24,725.78
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Respectfully,

Lisa Quillen
Chapter Treasurer

AAHAM Fall Meeting Recap

Submitted By: Laurie Gaffney

September found us in Des Moines at another great meeting planned by our Hawkeye board.

The first speaker was Tony DiCecco, owner and CEO of The Tony D Connection. He gave us all inspiration to “Making Every Day Count”. He provided great information on what a positive attitude can do for you in many areas of your life. He spoke on *how valuable this is throughout your lifetime; how it can allow you to create healthy relationships with others, and how one’s actions can positively influence others. He also spoke on the value of having a good work ethic and the role it plays in your development as a person. Lastly, the importance of having a passion in life, as it helps motivate you to reach your goals.* You can find him on Face book or at <http://thetonydconnection.com>

Shannon Strickler from IHA gave us updated info to what is going on in Iowa as well as at the Federal Level in regards to healthcare reform and budgeting. The election in November is very important so get out and vote as well as talk to your local legislators.



Our third speaker was Victor Freeman, MD from JA Thomas & Associates. He provided valuable information to take back to your physicians in regards to compliant documentation. Remembering that your documentation must meet medical necessity or the severity of the illness by the coding standards of the Federal Government.



Barbara Person from Baird Holm gave excellent information regarding the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Section 501(r) and how this imposes additional requirements on organizations for exemption under section 501(c)(3). Lots of information on charity/financial assistance requirements.



The end of day one brought Cynthia Swanson from Seim Johnson presenting on compliance. She gave valuable information for your compliance committees in regards to auditing, OIG work plan, challenges with EMR, denial review and much more.

Day 2 found many payers coming in to speak about new things in their arena. United Healthcare reminded us that they will be transitioning the Tricare contracts starting next spring 2013. Wellmark

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Mark Your Calendars

Spring 2013 AAHAM Meeting

May 16-17, 2013

Fall 2013 AAHAM Meeting

September 19-20, 2013

Hilton Garden Inn
Des Moines / Johnston, IA



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spoke on the new pre service review and admission notifications that are starting in December. They are hosting 2-3 more webinars with this information on. Please go online to find info n these new requirements. The Veterans Administration was new to our payer updates. They were able to give some information in regards to authorized verses unauthorized care for veterans. They did state that the Sioux Falls office has had several issues with claims processing and they hope that will improve very soon. They were unable to answer questions in regards to payments for CAH facilities but are hoping to come back in the spring. They would bring someone with more knowledge on that topic. Dennis Grindle did an over the phone training on PECOS or the Provider Enrollment, Chain and Ownership System. This system is where much information is stored for all of our provider numbers/facilities and physicians. Medicaid ended the day with information on Medical Health Homes. They will be rolling this out soon-helping patients manage their illnesses.

Looking forward to another great meeting next Spring. Mark your calendars for May 16th and 17th, 2013 at the Hilton Garden inn in Johnston. Hope to see you there. Thank your board each time you see them for all their hard work in getting all of the great presenters. ■



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Hawkeye AAHAM Board Meeting Minutes

May 23rd, 2012

5:30 pm

Location: Hilton Garden Inn, Hospitality Room

Meeting was called to order by Tara at 5:37pm

Roll Call

Present: Luke, Tara, Mike, Rebecca, Cristie, Vera, Laurie, Sara, Shari, Connie.

Not present: Lisa

President's Report

■ **Recap of Legislative Days**

Tara reported that there was a good group of lobbyists this year. Formal board meeting was on Friday. Paul Miller, our National AAHAM lobbyist wants to come to one of our future meetings. Cristie did publish an article regarding our chapter's DC experiences in the newsletter.

■ **Elections/Ballot Preparation for September**

- List of nominations were reviewed. Ballots will be sent out mid July. Discussion was held on if voting would

increase if bylaws stated it could be done by email. We do not require original signature any longer.

- **Chapter Excellence** due July 31st –Lisa has volunteered to lead this effort again this year. We will include tornado relief donation to Greater Regional Medical Center as community service project.
- **Journal Award Application** due July 31st –
 - Need 3 newsletters submitted.
 - Short application to be submitted.

Secretary's Report

- Approved January minutes as presented.

Treasurer's Report

- Balance at April 30, 2012 was \$25,468- Approved as presented.

Vice President's Report

- Spring Meeting- Agenda Review
- Fall Meeting – September 13-14th
- Agenda Review
- Additional Topics
- UNI Basketball coach
- J.A. Thomas
- IHA-Shannon Strickler
- V.A.

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- Set Dates for Spring and Fall 2013 Meetings
- Check hotel for Spring dates in May 9/10th or 16th/17th.
- Check hotel for Fall dates in Sept 12/13th or 19th/20th.
- Discussion on Keynotes in 2013

Membership

- 103 members as of May 1, 2012.
- It is possible a few more have joined since meetings; there were a few that were very interested prior.

Certification

- Exams-Certifications are down, 12-15 CPAT/CCAT. Rebecca did one study session and should be reimbursed for gas.

Corporate Sponsorship

- Discussion around having sponsors sponsor breaks at the meetings. Instead of having vendor booths a few vendors indicated they would like sponsor the breaks and/or the hospitality room. Discussion was that sponsor would donate money (100.00/sponsor) for the breaks, lunch, and hospitality. This will be included in the letters that go out in the fall to retain/recruit sponsors for 2013.

Hawkeye Highlights

Last edition was packed full of good articles, information, etc. Nice work to all. Next edition will be published August 1st.

- Ideas for publication
- Ask Tony-women's basketball coach to write an article.
- Use Day Egusquiza's newsletter for July newsletter.
- Print scholarship information again.
- Get points for submission of articles even if not published.

Website

- All updated, everything was early, nice work everyone.

New Business

- Discussion of Joint Meetings-Missouri and South Dakota AAHAM, and Iowa HFMA
- Both, Missouri and South Dakota presidents have expressed interest in doing a joint meeting. Missouri thought the casino in Osceola would be a good site. South Dakota inquired about a casino by Sioux Falls as a possibility for a site. This would be in addition to our regular Spring/Fall meetings. Discussion held. Tabled for now.
- HFMA would like to do a payer panel in the fall. We discussed having Day Egusquiza do a program for AAHAM, HFMA and IaHIMA.

Old Business

- N/A ■



Respectfully,

Connie Dudding
Chapter Secretary



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Certification Passed Exams – CPAT and CCAT

Submitted By: Rebecca Gough, CPAM

Congratulations to the following people on their recent certification testing! These folks were successful in obtaining their CPAT and CCAT Certifications. The exams were taken this past October - Congratulations on a job well done!! ■

Passed CPAT Exam in October		Passed CPAT Exam in October	
Lisa Farlinger	Mitchell Co. Regional Health Ctr.	Krystal Nichols	PMD
Audra Ford	Madison County Hospital	Timothy Polk	Avadyne Health
Kim Hickman	Avadyne Health	Elijah Ruirm	Avadyne Health
Michelle Kemp	Avadyne Health	Rosalyn Ruiz	Avadyne Health
Cathy Landis	Madison County Hospital	Sherri Schmitt	Avadyne Health
Linda Miller	Southeastern Renal Dialysis	Kim Stainbrook	Avadyne Health
Dyane Musgrove	Avadyne Health	Shoshonis Brown	Meskwaki Tribal Health Clinic

Upcoming Certification Testing Dates

Spring 2013 Professional CPAM/CCAM Exam Period

April 22-27, 2013

February 2013 Technical Exam Period

February 11- 22, 2013

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Stephanie Stoll Recognized at AAHAM ANI

Submitted by: Tara Spidle



Tara Spidle (Iowa AAHAM President) presents Stephanie Stoll her CCAM certificate for receiving the highest score in the nation on the 2012 CCAM Certification Exam.

Stephanie Stoll, CCAM and clinic billing supervisor at Boone County Hospital, was recently recognized at the AAHAM ANI in Bonita Springs, Florida, for receiving the highest score in the nation on her CCAM exam. Stephanie has been in the healthcare field for 11 years. She feels the CCAM certification allowed her to obtain further education directly related to her job and has also prepared her for possible future advancements in related jobs.

Stephanie feels like her work experience really helped her to answer many of the exam questions. She also gives great credit to the study guide for making her successful and advises others to use it if considering this exam. "What you may think is not going to be on the test is on the test so you need to make sure you know all the materials" Stephanie advises.

When asked what Stephanie enjoys most about being a Hawkeye AAHAM member, she states "I really enjoy the conferences and meetings as I am able to get a lot of information to take back to the clinic/hospital. I also enjoy the ability to interact with other people and make great new contacts." The entire Hawkeye membership congratulates Stephanie Stoll on such a fantastic accomplishment!! ■

Website Alert

The Iowa Hawkeye Chapter is excited to announce our website for members at www.hawkeyeaaaham.org. The site includes:

Chapter officers and board members
Upcoming events-Calendar of events
Chapter Bylaws
Sponsor Information

Membership information
Link to the National AAHAM Website
Current and Past Newsletters
Photos from past meetings

Watch for more information to be added every month. Since the site is new, we are looking for any ideas for additional information from our members. Please contact board member Vera Cummings at vcummings@bchealth.info with ideas.

Legislative Update

Submitted By: Cristie Knudsen

While much of the legislative agenda is in flux while waiting on the outcome of the presidential election, there are other issues of importance that are going forward. There has been legislation introduced in Congress to address issues in the RAC programs (The Medicare Audit Improvement Act, HR 6575). If passed, this bill would accomplish several goals, among them: Establish a consolidated limit for medical record requests; Require Medical Necessity audits to focus on widespread payment errors; Improve recovery auditor transparency; Restore due process rights under the AB Rebilling Demonstration; Allow denied inpatient claims to be billed as outpatient claims when appropriate; and Require physician review for Medicare denials. Our PPS members have all experienced the difficulty and confusion inherent in the RAC process. While many CAH facilities in Iowa have yet to experience the many RAC audits, it is important that we not become complacent and assume that RAC's will never target CAH's. If you are concerned about RAC audits and (actual or potential) effect on your facility, contact your member of Congress now and ask that they support this bill. There will always be benefits to reminding our members of Congress that hospitals take compliance seriously, that we have committed resources to assuring that payments received from Medicare are for medically necessary services only. Members also need to be educated on just how expensive and burdensome the RAC process has become for facilities, a fact that is only magnified when we look at the rate at which denials are overturned on appeal. The American Hospital Association has written a letter in support of this legislation (<http://www.aha.org/advocacy-issues/letter/2012/121016-let-pollack-schiff-rac.pdf>). Text of the legislation can be found at <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/112/hr6575>.

As if RAC audits aren't enough, many of our member hospitals are dealing with new PPACA rules for hospitals exempt under 501(c)(3). We had a very informative presentation at the fall AAHAM meeting from Barbara Pierson from Baird Holm regarding this subject. We look forward to the discussion as facilities work to meet the wide-ranging requirements of this rule.

Remember; never assume that someone else can do a better job of telling your story to your elected officials, either state or federal. If we do not make the effort to educate our legislative personnel, if we assume that a national organization has made a more convincing argument than people representing individual facilities, we will be forced to live with results that may not represent our realities.

2012 President's Awards

Submitted By: Tara Spidle



It has been my pleasure to work with so many fantastic people while serving as president of the Hawkeye AAHAM chapter. This year the Hawkeye Highlights Journalism award was presented to Stephanie Hultman who has attentively taken on the task of publishing the Hawkeye Highlights for many years now, as well as writing and supplying articles. Two Distinguished Service awards were presented this year: first, Cristie Knudsen who has helped with extensive planning of the past three programs and has committed to the role of Vice President in 2013. Secondly, Laurie Gaffney who has remained a committee volunteer even after fulfilling her board position. She has helped to coordinate deadlines, gather committee reports, supply and write articles for the Hawkeye Highlights. This year's 2012 President Award went to Mike Dobbs who took on the role of Vice President in 2012 along with juggling his newly appointed National AAHAM assignment. Mike was instrumental in the program agenda's this past year and has been most helpful to keep me on track with my presidential duties as he has served as a past president in our chapter. ■

New Members in 2012!!

Darla Huisman, Patient Accounts Manager, *Grundy County Memorial Hospital*

Steve LaMere, VP of Business Development, *Professional Service Bureau*

Mary Eason, Business Office Manager, *Ringgold County Hospital*

Ryan Schafer, Regional Sales Director, *Marina Medical Billing Service*

Deb Wilcke, *Wellmark BCBS*

Michele Lefeber, CPAT, *Myrtue Memorial Center*

Bobbie Jo Harrings, Billing, *Marshalltown Medical and Surgical Center*

Janet Miller, CPAT, *Marshalltown Medical and Surgical Center*

Ashley Gritters, Business Office Manager, *Van Diest Medical Center*

Heather Ernst, Business Services Coordinator, *Regional Medical Center*

Liz Baker, *Capital Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine, PC*

Joyce Schumacher, Director of Patient Finance, *Marengo Memorial Hospital*

Jessica Campbell, *Primary Healthcare Inc.*

Mary Cowan, CPAT, Insurance Clerk, *Boone County Hospital*

Wendy Edwards, CPAT, *Boone County Hospital*

Troy Medina, Regional Sales Manager, *Wakefield and Associates*

Angela Brown, Operations Manager, *Avadyne Health*

Tyler Marsh, VP of Business Development, *Wakefield and Associates* ■



Tara Spidle (President) and Luke Gruber (Chair Person of the Board) discussing where Tara's plaque will go!

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Regional Sales Manager
Wakefield and Associates, Inc.
SAS70 Certified Agency
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Hawkeye Chapter Wins the National Journalism Award For Hawkeye Highlights



Laurie Gaffney (Editor) and Stephanie Hultman (Publisher) were presented the 2012 AAHAM National Journalism Award for the Iowa Hawkeye Highlights. The award was presented to Tara Spidle at the recent national AAHAM ANI meeting in October.



Don't Forget AAHAM!

If you've recently had a change to your personal contact information, please let AAHAM know. If we aren't able to contact you, we can't keep you informed of all the great benefits AAHAM has to offer. So please, keep us in mind as your life changes and let us know how to reach you.

To update your AAHAM Records please contact Luke Gruber, Membership Chair by calling 515-225-0525 ext. 3, or by emailing him at lgruber@aamsonline.com.