

**SPRING 2005** 

## President's Message

### Dear AAHAM Member:

y coach always told our team we were only as strong as our weakest player.

Having played sports the majority of my life, I have come to the understanding there really is no weak player. Rather, the team's achievements are the reflection of the coach's ingenuity and ability to leverage individual strengths of average players that build a successful team. It is with this in mind that I look forward to leading the Hawkeye AAHAM "team" over the course of the next two years.

In AAHAM, it is the educational programs that are the core of this organization's team building. However, it is the ancillary benefits, such as networking, that truly build upon this team's strengths and abilities and make our organization successful. With that in mind, mark your calendars for the 2005 Hawkeye Chapter educational programs scheduled for May 18 – 20 at the Hotel at Gateway Center in Ames, and September 14 –16 at the Wildwood Lodge in Clive.

Pam Brindley and Luke Gruber, Chapter Board Member and Vice President, respectively, have paired up to provide excellent programming in 2005. Back by popular demand, the May session will kick-off with round table discussions on Critical Access Hospital (CAH) reimbursement issues, collection policies and charity guidelines, and claims software vendors. In addition, persons interested in becoming certified through AAHAM—or who simply want to learn the benefits of becoming certified—may attend a coaching session provided by Certification Chair and Past

President Liz Baptist. On Thursday, Jeanne Scott will provide an "inside-the-beltway" update from Washington D.C. on Medicare, fraud and abuse, and rural health care issues. That afternoon will wrap up with a Chargemaster program designed to focus on both PPS and CAH issues by Susan Smith with Majesty Healthcare Group, LLC, followed by an Iowa Hospital Association update. The conference will retire with updates from Medicare and Medicaid. The registration brochure is attached with this mailing.

Look for more information on the September program in future issues of *Hawkeye Highlights*.

It is only with your commitment to this Chapter that we will continue to meet your professional needs. If during your membership you have questions or suggestions for improving the Chapter, please do not hesitate to ask me or any of the Hawkeye AAHAM Board Members. A listing of the Hawkeye Officers and Board members is included in this edition of *Hawkeye Highlights*.



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**Hawkeye Highlights** is published three times a year by the Hawkeye Chapter of AAHAM. The statements and opinions expressed represent the attitudes of each author. Readers are encouraged to express their opinions of the written articles. Letters to the editor are subject to editing and condensing.

### HAWKEYE CHAPTER ADMINISTRATION OFFICERS

Secretary

**Heather Olson** President **Board Member** Jean Barker Luke Gruber Vice President **Pam Brindley Board Member** Val Gifford Treasurer Laurie Gaffney **Board Member Larry Howe** Advisory Sara McClure **Board Member** Chairperson of the Board Elizabeth Baptist Julie Wahl **Board Member** 

Lisa Quillen

### **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 local chapter records please contact Kristina Gursky, membership chair, by calling (800) 685-0595 ext. 6987, or by e-mailing kgursky@icsystem.com.

To update your national file, please log on to <a href="https://www.aaham.org">www.aaham.org</a>, click on Members Only, and after logging in, click on "Click Here to Update Your Contact Information." You may also fax your change of information to AAHAM, attn: Debra Fernandez, fax # (703) 359-7562, or you may mail your information to:

AAHAM Attn: Debra Fernandez 11240 Waples Mill Road, Suite 200 Fairfax, VA 22030



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## National Membership Benefits

Don't forget about your National AAHAM Membership benefits!

We all know AAHAM offers great benefits—including informative educational sessions and invaluable networking opportunities—but we sometimes forget about the extra benefits you can receive as a national member.

As a national member of AAHAM, you are entitled to take advantage of discounts and special offers from the following companies:

- Alamo Car Rental
- Congressional Federal Credit Union
- AAHAM MasterCard
- 1-800-Flowers.com
- Gateway Computers
- Choice Hotels (including Comfort Inn, Sleep Inn, and many others!)

To learn more about these benefits, or to take advantage of the offers these retailers may offer, log on to the Members Only section of www.aaham.org.

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## Welcome our Newest Members to the Hawkeye Chapter of AAHAM!

Krystal Christensen is the Business Office Manager for Madison County Health System, where she has been employed for one year. She has 10 years of experience in healthcare

and holds a Bachelor of Science degree. Krystal's family includes her husband Tim and five-year-old daughter Maddy, along with many outdoor pets. In her spare time, she enjoys horses, traveling, scrapbooking, and spending time with her family and friends.

**Diane Condon** has been the PHO Business Office/ Clinic Director for Mitchell County Regional Health Center for two years and recently celebrated her 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the Center. Her accomplishments include being selected to attend Gallup University Program as a Great Manager. Diane's family includes her husband of 22 years, Greg, daughter Bethanie, 19, and son Brett, 15. In her very limited leisure time, Diane enjoys working crossword puzzles, playing Pac Man, and attending sporting events.

Diana Beatty is the CBO Manager for Iowa Health System. She has held this position for 4 months, but has been involved with the healthcare industry since 1989. Diana has received numerous awards and accolades for succeeding in revenue growth and other areas of business office operations. She has two grown children, four grandchildren, and a dog in her family, as well as a fiancée she plans to marry in May. Diana's hobbies include golfing, cooking, and traveling when she can get away, as well as being an equestrian enthusiast. She also likes to read, enjoys her family and life in general, likes to have fun, and remembers to relax.

The Hawkeye Chapter would also like to welcome the following new members, and hope to bring you more information on them in our next issue of Hawkeye Highlights:

- Deb Dumas
- Leonard Grimes
- Larry Forbes
- David Poteet
- Dawn Rodemaker



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# **AAHAM Members Earn Recognition**

## **Henry County Health Center Cited for Transition to New Billing Process**

CFO David Muhs of the Henry County Health Center in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, recognizes the value of a well-trained and experienced staff. Muhs cited the educational courses offered through AAHAM as instrumental in helping his staff maintain a high level of proficiency after recently experiencing a conversion to a new billing system.

"AAHAM has been a tremendous resource for Sara McClure in her work in Patient Accounting. AAHAM and HFMA compliment each other very well in the pursuit of excellence in healthcare financial management," said Muhs.

Maintaining a highly trained and competent staff has literally paid off for the Henry County Health Center. Recently, the Mount Pleasant facility was recognized in a national publication, *Health Management Technology*, for improving the operation and the return realized in their billing service. The article focused on Henry County's process of converting to a new electronic claim billing system and how smoothly the changeover flowed.

Two years ago, four people worked billing from one workstation that only allowed one user at a time. Adequate training and education through AAHAM helped ease the transition into a new billing system. *Health Management Technology* hailed Henry County Health Center's turnaround as remarkable. Eventually, double the claims were processed each month and the A/R days dropped from 80 to 50. All this was accomplished without

AAHAM has been a tremendous resource... AAHAM and HFMA compliment each other very well in the pursuit of excellence in healthcare financial management.

> ~ David Muhs, CFO Henry County Health Center



Sara McClure, Credit Manager/Patient Accounts Manager & David Muhs, Chief Financial Officer

hiring any additional staff.

Muhs said, "The depth of experience in our managers makes us very successful—plus it's a fun place to work."

Muhs, who was the Henry County Health Center CFO from 1992 to 1998, then rejoined the facility in 2002, gives much of the credit for the turnaround to his staff and in particular to Sara McClure. With a background of eleven years' experience in hospital patient accounting, McClure is Henry County's Credit Manager/Patient Accounts Manager.

McClure commented that she enjoys the many challenges of her job and while working in a smaller facility; she wears many hats and does whatever it takes to get the job done. McClure's dedication to her job helped make Henry County's transition to a new electronic claims billing system a smooth and ultimately profitable changeover not only for the hospital, but also for the community of Mount Pleasant.

#### NEWS FROM NATIONAL

AAHAM is breaking new ground this year with its first-ever Legislative Day April 27 – 28. This is an excellent opportunity for AAHAM members to meet with their Congressional Delegation. In addition, the national office is working to arrange a separate meeting with representatives from the CMS central office to address many of your concerns. Luke Gruber and I will be in attendance to represent the Hawkeve Chapter and to bring to members of the Iowa Congressional Delegation issues that are near and dear to our members—for instance: adequately funding Medicare and Medicaid, and urging true standardization of the HIPAA transaction code sets. If you would like to attend Legislative Day, go to www.aaham.org and download the registration form.

Looking further down the road, this year's Annual National Institute will be held at the Fairmont Hotel in New Orleans September 21 – 23. You won't want to miss this ANI! The theme this year is: "Achieving Excellence in your Revenue Cycle...and all that Jazz."

Respectfully, Heather Olson



- First Party Transparent Billing
- Third-Party payer follow –up and Collections
- Insurance follow-up Programs
- Specialized A/R cleanup projects
- Patient liability collections
- Customer service and support

For additional information contact:

Pam Brindley, CCAE Account Executive 515-669-9396



### **H&R** Accounts

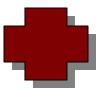
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For additional information contact:

Pam Brindley, CCAE Account Executive 515-669-9396

# Thank You from Red Cross



FYI – We have received a thank-you note from the Cass County Red Cross Chapter for our recent donation, which was collected during the last AAHAM meeting. It says:

"Please convey the sincere gratitude of the American Red Cross to the members of your Hawkeye Chapter of AAHAM for your recent second donation, which you designated to the National Disaster Fund. Many victims like those of the recent hurricanes in the southeastern U.S. will be helped because of your generosity."

# Happy Retirement to Colleen Kimble of Fairfield!

Thank you for your many years of service in the Hawkeye Chapter. We will all miss your contributions and wish you the best.

~ Your AAHAM Friends

# AAHAM Minutes – Strategic Meeting

January 7, 2005, 10:00 a.m.

### **Officer Reports**

### **President Heather Olson**

- **A)** Working on listserv to CFOs to get them involved in AAHAM.
- **B)** Legislative Day/Board Meeting in Fairfax, VA 4/27-30/05. Heather is planning on attending. See if others want to go. Good opportunity.
- C) ANI New Orleans in September. Heather will be leaving on Thursday, January 13 to attend a national board meeting in New Orleans.
- **D)** Membership campaign: 50 new members for 2004.
- **E)** Operations Report. Liz will help Heather, must be done once per year and sent to National. This report helps National see how our chapter is doing and the operation. Must be done before May.

### **Vice President Luke Gruber**

A) May 2005 Meeting. Held at Gateway Center in Ames, IA. Roundtable discussions on Wednesday afternoon. Discussions are hospital systems. Also on roundtable discussions are Critical Access Hospitals - Dave Jensen, Collection Policies and Charity Guidelines - Tracy Warner, and Certification Coaching Session led by Liz Baptist. Suggested three different times so the leaders of the roundtable can go to other sessions. On Thursday Jeanne Scott is confirmed. The afternoon session for Chargemaster review is not confirmed. Pam will check and see if Susan Smith can present. Another possibility is Lois Yoder for Chargemaster issues. Pam will check and update. The Chargemaster speaker should speak about CAH Chargemaster also. We will then have Heather Olson do Legislative updates on Thursday after the

Chargmaster presenter. Need to have Chargemaster speaker discuss supplies. Friday - Have Medicare Update with Linda Wright, and also see if DHS will speak on the transition of IA Medicaid. Also, Wellmark Updates.

- B) September 2005 September 14 16 Wildwood Lodge in Clive. Room rates are \$79 King and queen, no direct bill must use credit card. Tentative Wednesday, listserv questions, coaching. Thursday Day Esquinza. Friday Workers Comp, Medicare Part B, Ken Nelson attorney, 1 hour maybe 1½ hours on Workers Comp issues. Will try to get the insurance Commissioner to speak. Will not need Medicare Part B if Insurance Commissioner can come. Have a lunch to include installation of officers and Awards. Suggested having a longer and nice lunch to incorporate awards.
- C) One day programs in addition to our regular meeting, maybe CAH & PPS issues.
- **D)** Joint Meeting in 2006 with Wisconsin and Minnesota in Wisconsin. Pam will update after her meeting in Feb. Concerned costs to our chapter.
- E) Discussed early registration \$25.00 discount if May meeting is paid by May 1<sup>st</sup>. If cancellation not received by May 15th there will be no refunds. All payments will be sent to Val Gifford, then forwarded to Lisa Quillen. One day price Thursday is higher because of lunch. ½ price for Thursday Only. Cost to be determined by costs of speakers, expenses, etc.

#### **Treasurer Val Gifford**

- **A)** Debit Card The card is a MasterCard also, can be used as a credit card and money will come out of bank account.
- **B)** Tax Exempt Tax If revenue not over \$25,000. This is based on gross revenue.

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(Meeting Notes Continued from Page 7)

- C) CD rates 12 months 1.74%, 9 month 2.33% Larry motioned for 9 month, Jean 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried.
- **D)** Bonding thru ACA will not bond if not with them. National not bonded. Tabled to next meeting.

### **Committee Reports**

- **A)** Certification 30 person sitting for tech exam in February. Suggested one free registration to meeting for non members passing test.
- **B)** Study Guides Liz had old one. Need to purchase new study guide. Larry motioned, Luke 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried.
- C) By-law update. Larry will make revisions and send out to members to vote. Some revisions will be Hawkeye Highlights will be out at least three times per year. Holding same chair twice.
- **D)** Hawkeye Highlights-Julie. Julie must have material by April 1. Brochure of May meeting will be attached. Send corporate sponsor form. Ideas for Articles. HIPPA security. Changes to IA Medicaid.
- **E)** Corporate Sponsors letter went out in June.

#### **Old Business**

- **A)** Signing contracts only two people. President and Vice President.
- **B)** Packets for programs Officers and Board members should be recognized with ribbons, and sponsors. Need pocket folder with welcome letter, Financial Statement, brochure, bio from speaker, attendees and two sheets of paper for Notes. Lisa will organize.

#### **New Business**

A) Website - Tabled to next meeting

- **B)** Elections/Nominations, chairperson not member of board.
- C) Growth of Membership-Possible recognize efforts of others contributing to Chapter.
- **D)** Tsunami India Chapter will email and see status possible collect toward relief effort. Heather will email status.

Adjourned Meeting. Heather motioned, Larry 2<sup>nd</sup>, Motion Carried.

# Spring 2005 Certification Update

By Liz Baptist

The next CPAM/CCAM exams will be offered on May 7, 2005. (The sign-up deadline was March 1.) Because of unavoidable delays, the new Study Guide is not yet available. Once the Guide is for sale, examinees will be responsible for the new material, probably effective for the October 8 exams.

When the new Guide is ready, the Hawkeye Chapter will have it available for borrowing for a \$25 deposit.

We are having a CPAM/CCAM coaching session at the May chapter meeting. Not just any study session—this will be a game of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" and will be a great way to help prepare for the exam, or check out the type of questions asked if you have been unsure about taking the test.

One of the best ways to study is to partner with someone else who is going to take the test. We will be happy to help you with guidelines for study sessions—just ask!

Congratulations to **Cindy Essick** who is now CCAT/CPAT dually certified, and to **Sue Birocci**, **Amy Walsh**, and **Kathy Newberg**, for passing the CCAT. Way to go!

# **Enforcement of HIPAA Administrative Simplification Provisions**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a regulation in the March 25, 2005 *Federal Register* outlining procedures for filing a complaint of non-compliance by a HIPAA-covered entity with provisions of the administrative simplification rules. *Note:* The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services has delegated the Office for Civil Rights as the authority to receive and investigate complaints as they relate to the HIPAA privacy regulations. This rule pertains to complaints with respect to the following regulations:

- Transaction and Code Sets
- National Employer Identifier
- Security
- National Plan and Provider Identifier

The rule states that if a person believes a covered entity is not complying with the administrative simplification provisions, they may file a complaint with CMS. The complaint must:

- Be filed in writing, either on paper or electronically. CMS will not accept a faxed complaint.
- Describe the acts or omissions believed to be in violation of the administrative simplification provisions.
- Provide contact information, including name, address, and telephone number for the complainant and the covered entity that is the subject of the complaint.
- Be filed within 180 days of when the complainant knew or should have known that the act or omission that is the subject of the complaint occurred, unless this time limit is waived by CMS for good cause.

CMS will acknowledge its receipt of the complaint within 14 days either in writing or electronically, and will indicate whether or not it will accept the complaint for processing. If CMS does accept the complaint, it will then ask for additional information from the complainant, if necessary. Failure to respond when requested by CMS may lead to closure of the complaint.

After the initial review, if CMS determines there is a compliance failure, it will work with the covered entity to obtain voluntary compliance. The covered entity will be requested to respond to CMS in writing within 30 days by providing one of the following:

- A statement demonstrating compliance;
- A statement setting forth the basis for its disagreement with the allegations; or
- A corrective action plan.

If the covered entity fails or refuses to provide the necessary information, an investigational subpoena may be issued. If a violation is found, the Secretary will pursue other options, including but not limited to civil monetary penalties.

This rule is effective on April 25, 2005. CMS will not consider complaints before the effective date of specific administrative simplification provisions.

To read the rule in its entirety, visit the *Federal Register* website at:

www.access.gpo.gov/su\_docs/fedreg/a050325c.html, and scroll down to this rule.

To submit complaints related to HIPAA administrative simplification provisions, visit the CMS website at:

www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaa/hipaa2/enforcement/default.asp#complaint.

# NUBC Adopts New Billing Form

At its February meeting, the National Uniform Billing Committee (NUBC), the maintenance organization for the Uniform Bill (UB) version 1992, approved the 2004 version of the Uniform Bill (UB-04) as the successor to the UB-92. The UB is designed for institutional health care providers such as hospitals, hospices, and skilled nursing facilities.

The HIPAA Administrative Simplification legislation designated the NUBC as one of four organizations serving a consultative role in establishing the administrative standards for health care. The UB-04 was designed to align the data set and paper form more closely with the HIPAA electronic claim transaction requirements, including the National Provider Identifier (NPI). The UB-04 will also accommodate ICD-10-CM, should that code set be adopted to replace the currently used ICD-9-CM.

Regarding implementation, receivers (health plans and clearinghouses) need to be able to receive the new UB-04 by March 1, 2007. Institutional claim filers can use the UB-04 beginning March 1, 2007; however, they will have a transitional period between March 1, 2007 and May 22, 2007 where either the UB-04 or UB092 may be used. Starting May 23, 2007, all institutional paper claims must use the UB-04; the UB-92 will no longer be acceptable after this date.

The NUBC planned to have the public comments and NUBC responses, the form, and the beta version of the UB-04 Data Specifications Manual on its website (<a href="www.nubc.org">www.nubc.org</a>) by the end of March. Questions regarding the UB-92 or the UB-04 can be directed to Heather Olson (<a href="mailto:olsonh@ihaonline.org">olsonh@ihaonline.org</a>) or Tracy Warner (<a href="warnert@ihaonline.org">warnert@ihaonline.org</a>) at IHA.

# Training for Providers on the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit

The Medicare Modernization Act created a prescription drug benefit for Medicare enrollees that will become effective January 1, 2006. In order to receive the coverage, individuals on Medicare must make a decision about how to receive their benefit. In addition, people with limited income and resources can get help paying for some of the costs of this program. Those wanting help with their costs can start applying July 1, 2005.

The Social Security Administration and Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) are hosting a free training for professionals who work with people on Medicare. Following this training, participants will be able to share information on the prescription drug benefit, and assist patients and clients in completing the application for the extra assistance for low income individuals.

The training will be held through 19 ICN network sites on May 10, 2005 from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. (noon) and repeated at the same time on May 12. The agenda will include an introduction to Medicare prescription drug coverage, available assistance for low-income Medicare beneficiaries, a timeline and outreach efforts, and a question and answer period.

Registration information is available online at <a href="https://www.shiip.state.ia.us/dtraining.html">www.shiip.state.ia.us/dtraining.html</a>. Materials for the training will be available on the website beginning May 4. Questions regarding the training can be directed to SHIIP staff at <a href="mailto:shiip.registration@iid.state.ia.us">shiip.registration@iid.state.ia.us</a>.

### HAWKEYE CHAPTER OF AAHAM - TREASURER'S REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING 12/31/04

BALANCE SHEET		
ASSETS: Cash in Bank	\$11,538.03	
Certificate of Deposit TOTAL ASSETS	\$7,500.00 \$19,038.03	
LIABILITIES: Payables	\$0.00	
<b>EQUITY:</b>	\$19,038.03	
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$19,038.03	

### **OPERATING STATEMENT**

REVENUES:	
Corporate Sponsors	\$5,050.00
Interest Income	\$35.56
State Dues	\$100.00
Miscellaneous	\$2,195.00
10/31/03 Meeting	\$59.00
ANI Hospitality	\$3,900.00
Spring Meeting	\$6,183.50
Fall Meeting	\$4,354.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$21,877.06
EXPENSES:	
Travel	\$1,999.11
Miscellaneous	\$3,298.84
Spring Meeting Expenses	\$3,176.28
ANI Hospitality Room Expenses	\$3,954.00
Fall Meeting Expenses	\$6,379.63
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$18,807.86
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$3,069.20
BEGINNING CASH BALANCE	\$8,468.83
ENDING CASH BALANCE	\$11,538.03
OTHER (INCREASE OR DECREASE IN CASH) FUTURE PAYABLES	\$0.00
ACCRUED CASH BALANCE	\$11,538.03

Respectfully Submitted, Val Gifford, Treasurer

### Stay Informed!

Check out the position papers and policy models developed by national AAHAM's Government Relations Committee. Go to <a href="www.aaham.org">www.aaham.org</a> and click on Services / Advocacy / Position Papers to view information on the following topics:

- Medicare Secondary Payer (MSP) Screening
- Observation Outpatient Services
- Transfer of an Acute Care Patient To, From and Within the Hospital
- Third Party Billing Compliance
- Third Party Code of Conduct
- OIG's Compliance Guidance for Small Physician Practices
- Charity Care Policy
- Impact of Compliance on Outsourcing, Requests for Proposals, et al.

The Services section of the AAHAM website also contains links to federal government websites, locator services, health care news and managed care websites, and electronic data interchange and health policy resources.

Don't forget about what a valuable resource <a href="https://www.aaham.org">www.aaham.org</a> can be! Take advantage of the tools available to you as a member of this great organization!



### **Corporate Sponsors**

The 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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