

Hawkeye Highlights

Iowa Hawkeye Chapter

Spring 2011

Photo By: Steph Hultman



Tara Spidle
Hawkeye AAHAM President

Greetings Hawkeye AAHAM Members ...

As you're newly elected president, please let me thank you for your membership and participation in the Hawkeye AAHAM Chapter. We finished 2010 with 121 total members! As of April 2011, we have 102 members. Our educational programs in 2010 were very well attended with 58 at our Spring conference and 65 at the Fall conference. Last year marked the first year the Hawkeye AAHAM Chapter sponsored successful vendor fairs at our conferences. Each year I hear how much everyone enjoys networking at the meetings, and more importantly, folks value being able to put a face with a name when it comes to the IHA list-serve that so many of us utilize regularly.

I attended my first national President's meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada on January 18-19. It was a spectacular meeting at the beautiful Wynn resort where it was sunny and 70 degrees. (And yes, I faithfully attended the meetings.) Participating on the national board allows us to share education, membership and certification ideas among other chapters. AAHAM finished 2010 with 2936 national members, the highest number achieved so far. There are 485 professionally certified members and 4,199 technically certified individuals, 631 of them being members. AAHAM promotes LinkedIn as a valuable communication tool available free to anyone willing to set up a LinkedIn account. AAHAM can also be followed on Facebook and Twitter by searching for American Association of Healthcare Administrative Management.

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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 2011.

HAWKEYE CHAPTER ADMINISTRATION OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

Tara Spidle	<i>President</i>
Kristina Gursky	<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 / Audit Chair</i>
Marki Stamatiades	<i>Board Member / Newsletter Committee Chair</i>
Shari Mitchell	<i>Board Member / Corporate Sponsorship Chair</i>
Cristie Knudsen	<i>Board Member</i>
Mike Dobbs	<i>Legislative Chair</i>
Laurie Gaffney	<i>Hospitality Chair</i>
Tyson Seehase	<i>Membership Chair</i>

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March 30-31, Luke Gruber, Kristina Gursky, Mike Dobbs and I attended AAHAM Legislative Days on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. Healthcare Reform continues to be a hot topic in Washington, and AAHAM had approximately 65-75 people make contact with their state representatives. Please look for Mike Dobb's article in the Hawkeye Highlight Summer issue for more information about this spectacular trip.

We have another exciting year planned for our Hawkeye AAHAM Chapter. Our Spring meeting is scheduled on May 26-27 and our Fall meeting is scheduled on September 15-16, both at the Hilton Garden Inn in Urbandale. One important topic of discussion will be preparing for HIPAA 5010 compliance effective January 1, 2012. Rural Health Clinic billing education and our

collection agency panel discussion should be very educational as well. We will also rally for Wellmark to help us survive the new EAPG reimbursement. Please mark your calendars for the 2011 Annual National Institute (ANI) at The Wynn resort in Las Vegas, Nevada on October 5-7. The theme this year is "A Winning Combination, Learn, Lead, Connect." I would love to see several of us go together. Treat yourself to an awesome educational event that will end up being the time of your life.

I am looking forward to another wonderful year as our chapter continues to grow. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I am here to serve you! ■

Respectfully,
Tara Spidle

Website Alert

The Iowa Hawkeye Chapter is excited to announce our website for members at www.hawkeyeaaham.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.

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HAWKEYE CHAPTER OF AAHAM

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING: 12/31/2010

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS:

Cash in Bank	\$20,571.47
Certificate of Deposit	\$7,500.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$28,071.47

LIABILITIES:

Payables	\$0.00
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EQUITY:

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$0.00
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OPERATING STATEMENT

REVENUES:

Corporate Sponsors	\$4,950.00
Interest Income	
Registrations/Vendor Fair 2010 Spring	\$11,335.00
Registrations/Vendor Fair 2010 Fall	\$10,500.00
Certifications	\$1,010.00
Miscellaneous	\$465.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$28,260.00

EXPENSES:

Travel	\$7,168.65
Certifications	26.00
Web Design	\$1,363.37
Insurance Bond and Liability	\$146.00
Spring Meeting	\$5,204.59
Fall Meeting	\$7,853.20
Miscellaneous	\$279.00
Membership Dues	175.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$22,215.81

NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$6,044.19
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BEGINNING CASH BALANCE	\$13,703.00
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ENDING CASH BALANCE	\$19,747.19
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OTHER (INCREASE OR DECREASE IN CASH)	--
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FUTURE PAYABLES



Respectfully,
Lisa Quillen
Chapter Treasurer



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.

Platinum

Avadyne Health
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Gold

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Eagle Recovery Associates
The Hauge Group

Silver

AAMS
The Data Systems Group
General Service Bureau, Inc.

Bronze

AccuReg Software

ANI Update. Mike, Lisa and Luke reported that the sessions were wonderful. Lisa stated that this was a great experience and she wishes everyone could experience this. Key note speaker topic was customer service; Mike stated this related back to all hospitals that are looking at their Press Ganey reports and looking to increase their service. The amount of networking that members experience during this trip creates great connections for everyone. Was discussed that everyone would hope National AAHAM could bring down the hotel costs for this meeting. It was stated that the certification rules may be changing so we will be watching this closely. This change could result as a big concern for rural communities. Pam stated that she will continue on the Communication and Journal Committees at the national level.

Chapter Excellence Award was discussed. Lisa voiced that our chapter should try for this award. It was decided that Lisa would gather the information on what this award would entail; then form a committee to investigate if this would be feasible for our chapter to take on. She will report back at our next board meeting. There was discussion on how National measured the increase in membership.

President's Meeting is being held Las Vegas, Nevada on January 18 - 19. 2011.

Legislative Day is March 30th and 31st, 2011. Discussion was held on if our chapter could afford to send 4 members this year. Mike stated that last year this was very beneficial and gives more people exposure to the legislative process. Shari made a motion to send 4 people to Legislative Day, Connie 2nd, all members agreed. The chapter will be sending the President, Vice President, Legislative Chair and Board Chair.

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AAHAM Board Planning Meeting

November 5, 2010

Located at: AAMS Conference Room

Call to Order: 10:15AM

Members Present: Kristina Gursky, Tara Spidle, Luke Gruber, Mike Dobbs, Shari Mitchell, Connie Dudding. Members present via phone: Marki Stamatiades, Pam Brindley, Stephanie Hultman, Vera Cummings, Lisa Quillen, and Cristie Knudsen.

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Chapter Operations Report is due March 31, 2011. Pam will send Tara the report from last year. This version is on the National AAHAM website and is generally emailed out. We did review the Bylaws last year so review is not needed this year.

Pam Brindley will be an advisor to the board this next year.

Committee Assignments:

Cristie Knudsen will help Kristina with the Spring and Fall education programs.

Membership Chair - Tyson Seehase

Hospitality Chair - Melynda Crawford

Certification Chair - Rebecca Gough

Corporate Sponsorship Chair - Shari Mitchell

Hawkeye Highlights - Stephanie will continue as Publisher and Marki will be Editor. Marki will gather all documents and Steph will do the final layout. We need 4 newsletter communications published every year.

Website Chair - Vera Cummings

Website Editor - Laurie Gaffney

Legislative Chair - Mike Dobbs

All updates for committees should be sent to Marki,

Vera and Stephanie. We also want to mention that any member that would like to help in any way, please contact a board member.

Secretary Report:

Membership Meeting Minutes were approved by Connie and Marki 2nd.

We are hoping membership will stay up for 2011. We will receive the Non-Renewal list from National around the first of February. At that time we will review the list so we can reach out to the people who have been members but have not renewed their membership.

Treasurer Report:

Checkbook balance as of 12/31/2011 is \$19,493.19.

Luke brought up that we may want to begin having State Membership Dues. There was discussion on adding a \$25.00 state membership fee for 2012. It was approved. National needs to be notified of the change in order for them to add this fee to the Iowa renewal for 2012 dues. We will notify members of the change in the December Hawkeye Highlights. This will give members an opportunity to notify a board member if they have concerns.

Vice President Report:

Spring Conference is set for May 26th and 27th, 2011. Payors looking at to ask to speak, UHC/IME/Wellmark/WPS. Thought of asking Wellmark to present on how to access and use Treo.

Contract as been signed with Hilton Garden Inn. Sleeping rooms for 2011 will be \$94.00.

Discussion on if we should look into other hotels for our meetings. Conclusion was Hilton Garden Inn is a great location for everyone and accommodates us very well. In the future, if we decide to make a change the Hilton Garden Inn in Ames may be a possibility.

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An advertisement for General Service Bureau Inc. (GSB) featuring a blue and orange color scheme. The GSB logo is a stylized orange circle with 'GSB' in blue. Below it is a logo for 'Early Out' with a sunburst design. Text on the right says 'Contact Brad Uhlenhopp for a thorough, no-obligation evaluation of your needs and requirements.' and provides a phone number and email address. At the bottom, it says 'It Pays to be Different!' and the website 'gsbcollect.com'.

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 Kristina Gursky by calling 651-481-6533, or by mailing her at kgursky@icsystem.com. ■

2011 AAHAM Certification Calendar

February 14 - 25, 2011

CPAT/CCAT/CCT exams

March 1, 2011

Registration deadline for all April/May exams:
CPAM/CCAM & CPAT/CCAT/CCT

April 25 - 30, 2011

Spring CPAM CCAM exams

May 9 - 20, 2011

CPAT/CCAT/CCT exam period

June 1, 2011

Registration deadline for August CPAT/CCAT/CCT

August 1, 2011

Registration deadline for Fall CPAM/CCAM exams

August 15 - 26, 2011

CPAT/CCAT/CCT exam period

September 1, 2011

Registration Deadline for November
CPAT/CCAT/CCT

October 24 - 29, 2011

Fall CPAM/CCAM exams

November 7 - 18, 2011

CPAT/CCAT/CCT exams

December 1, 2011

Registration deadline for February 2012
CPAT/CCAT/CCT exams



DATA SYSTEMS GROUP

Direct Revenue Cycle Software Solutions

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Kristina is looking for speakers for the Spring conference. Generally we look for low cost/no cost speakers. MedAssets is a possibility for a program. Cristie discussed that a speaker on Rural Health Clinic would be a good topic to have for discussion.

Discussion was brought up on setting a budget for the hospitality room.

Committee Information:

Friends of AAHAM Contributors. Luke indicated Tyson could speak with Scheels and Dahl's for contributions. This will help Kiel with obtaining our "free" gifts early.

Certification:

Melynda Crawford sat for CCAM and Lisa Quillen sat for CPAM.

Corporate Sponsorship:

Discussion on changing corporate sponsorship fee and levels. Shari had many vendors asking what the benefits would be for 2011. Decision was made to have a date that all sponsors will need to respond by for the sponsor fair. We will continue with the Bingo cards. It will also be explain to the membership that the cards do not have to be turned in immediately after the first break.

Levels and amounts for 2011 will stay the same. The higher level of sponsorship the more of a discount for a vendor fair table.

Platinum: \$750.00 with vendor fair fee of \$145.00; plus one free meeting registration

Gold: \$500.00 with vendor fair fee \$155.00

Silver: \$350.00 with vendor fair fee \$165.00

Bronze: \$200.00 with vendor fair fee \$175.00

Motion was made by Luke for the above changes, 2nd by Kristina.

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Hawkeye Highlights: No update.

Website:

Vera will not purge the meeting information as it costs 40.00 to do this at this time. We will also continue putting the meeting information on the website instead of burning CD's.

We will make all our website changes in January when we update the change in officers for 2011 - 2012. This will help to reduce our website expense to make the updates all at one time.

New Business:

- ⇒ We will order AAHAM board member shirts for Lisa, Cristie, Tyson and Rebecca.

- ⇒ Tara will obtain a list of all cell phone numbers for all board members.
- ⇒ Discussion centered around being creative on how we could assist or send more members to go to ANI next year.
- ⇒ Tara will check with the Hilton Garden Inn to confirm what the extra fee is for the table rent. There have been multiple changes within the management of the Hotel.
- ⇒ January Board Meeting will be held after the AAHAM Presidents Meeting in Las Vegas.

Meeting adjourned: 12:45 PM ■



Respectfully,
Connie Dudding
Chapter Secretary

Hawkeye Chapter of AAHAM Spring Conference Highlights

Submitted By: Kristina Gursky

May 26 -27, 2011

The Hawkeye Chapter of AAHAM's Spring Education Conference is set to be held May 26-27, 2011 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Johnston, IA. While all the details are still being perfected and the meeting agenda has yet to be formally published, here's what you can look forward to as a conference attendee:

■ **HIPAA II-Version 5010--Are you Prepared?**

Hear from Ms. Laura Darst from Mayo Clinic on what you need to be aware of, testing...all kinds of "fun" details and activities this is sure to bring to your organization.

■ **Wellmark Updates and Q&A Session**

Have you been impacted by the Wellmark reimbursement strategy changes recently implemented? Do you have questions you'd like to ask? Wellmark has agreed to give us updates and answer your questions, with Ms. Sophia Eckert leading the presentation and additional Wellmark staff members with her to help answer some of your tough questions.

■ **Rural Health Clinic Billing & Cost Reporting Issues**

Join us as we receive information from Mr. Mark Hollan with Independent Healthcare Consultants, LLP as we review some of the billing challenges you are facing with the Rural Health Clinics you help operate in Iowa.

■ **Iowa Hospital Association Updates**

Ms. Shannon Strickler with the Iowa Hospital

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Association will be by to share updates from the IHA perspective, and update us on upcoming important issues that may affect you and the organizations you serve.

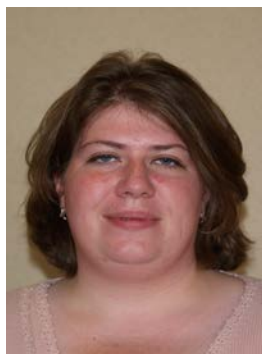
And of course, who can forget about everything else this meeting will offer you including the opportunity to meet and review products and solutions from several vendors allied to the healthcare industry, the networking opportunity you receive with peers facing the same challenges you are, and the wonderful hospitality events after Thursday's meeting sessions?

Please keep a close eye out for your formal agenda and invitation for this fantastic event, to be delivered soon. And as always, be sure to check www.hawkeyeaaham.org for important chapter information.

Your Hawkeye AAHAM Chapter Leadership Team hopes to see you in May! ■

Respectfully,

Kristina Gursky
VP and Program Chair



Another Interesting Year on the Hill

Submitted By: Mike Dobbs

This year's visit to Washington DC may prove to be quite interesting as a lot has happened since last year's visit. The big political shakeup during last fall's election and the fact that a debate is raging on whether or not to de-fund the healthcare bill will make for an interesting mood. No matter what course all this takes, AAHAM's position will remain the same.... "Administrative Simplification" is still extremely important. As we visit with Iowa's Senators and Representatives we will ask that they keep this in mind as they move forward with their agendas. ■



Respectfully,

Mike Dobbs
Legislative Chair

Mark Your Calendars

Fall 2011 AAHAM Meeting
And Sponsor Fair

September 15 - 16, 2011

Hilton Garden Inn – Johnston, IA
Des Moines/Johnston, IA

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 February – Congratulations on a job well done!!

A quick note to everyone, recently there were changes made to the technical certification study guides. Beginning January 1, 2011 the *CPAT/CCAT and CCT Study Guides can no longer be downloaded from AAHAM*. The study guide download has been replaced by a study book now that sells for \$129.00.

Passed CPAT in February	Passed CCAT in February
Matthew Alexander PMD Paul Clinton PMD Maria Dempsey MedPay Kathryn Harvey PMD Jessica Hemann MedPay Melissa Parsons PMD Donna Waggoner PMD	Dee Kirkeby MedPay Gail Linderblood Boone County Hospital Melanie Sayre MedPay Bridget Sheeder PMD April Snell MedPay Crystal Trejo MedPay

If you have any questions; are interested in testing, or would like the order form for the technical study book discussed above, please contact me at rgough@myrtuemedical.org. ■



Respectfully,
 Rebecca Gough, CPAM
 Certification Chair



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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

MAR 11 2011

Administrator
Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Dr. Burgess:

Thank you for your letter regarding the requirement to have laboratory test requisitions signed by a physician or qualified non-physician practitioner. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) greatly appreciates your bringing these concerns to our attention.

In the November 29, 2010, Medicare Physician Fee Schedule final rule, CMS finalized its proposed policy to require the ordering physician's or qualified non-physician practitioner's (NPP) signature on requisitions for clinical diagnostic laboratory tests paid under the clinical laboratory fee schedule (CLFS) effective January 1, 2011. A requisition is the actual paperwork, such as a form, which is provided to a clinical diagnostic laboratory that identifies the test or tests to be performed for a patient.

Subsequent to the final rule, CMS issued a statement on its Web site expressing concern that some physicians, NPPs, and clinical diagnostic laboratories may not be aware of or understand this policy. As such, CMS stated that it would focus its efforts in the first quarter of 2011 on developing outreach materials to educate those physicians and suppliers affected by this policy. CMS stated that these materials would be posted on its Web site, as well as through other channels, to ensure that the information would be widely distributed. CMS also stated that, once the first quarter educational campaign is fully underway, we would expect requisitions to be signed.

In recent weeks, however, CMS has been asked to rescind the policy requiring a physician's or NPP's signature on requisitions for clinical diagnostic laboratory tests paid under the CLFS. CMS policy officials have publicly expressed their support for rescinding the requirement. We are currently researching whether a regulation rescinding the requirement could be published before April 1, 2011.

I appreciate your interest in this issue as we work towards our mutual goal of strengthening the Medicare program for all beneficiaries. I will also provide this response to the cosigners of your letter.

Sincerely,

Donald M. Berwick, M.D.

