

Fall 2006-07

Bama Chatter

The Newsletter of the Alabama Chapter
Healthcare Financial Management Association

President's Message *The Value of Certification*



Dawn H. Walton, CPA, President
Alabama Chapter HFMA

H FMA certification coaching course?
\$300 (but for you it's Free!)

HFMA CERTIFICATION STUDY GUIDE?
\$250 (but for you it's Free!)

CERTIFICATION TESTING FEE?
\$175 (but for you it's Free!)

WHAT BECOMING CERTIFIED COULD
MEAN TO YOU AND YOUR CAREER?
Priceless!

Priceless? Okay, I know that may be overstating it a little bit, but I wanted to get your attention so I could talk to you about becoming a certified member. One of our chapter goals for this year is to increase awareness of the HFMA certification program and get more of you interested in becoming certified members. Why? Because we think certification is important and valuable for our members.

I've heard all of the excuses for not becoming certified – as a matter of fact I've used a lot of them myself.

- ***Some say they haven't become certified because their company won't pay for the test or the study materials.*** We've taken care of that one. It's Free! We'll even give you more than one chance to pass on our dollar.
- ***Some say it's because they don't have time to study.*** We are offering a one-day coaching session – just one day – 8 short hours. Many have passed the exam after attending this same session offered each year at ANI with little to no additional study time.

continued on page 3

inside

Page 1
*President's Message
The Value of Certification*

Page 2
About the Alabama Chapter

Page 3
President's Message, continued

Page 4
*Spotlight On New Medicaid Proof
of Citizenship Requirement
by Mitzi Winters & Julie
Gheintantschi*

Page 5
*Annual National Institute
2005-2006*

Page 6
*2005-2006 Robert M. Coats
Award Recipient
Maron Boohaker*

Page 7
Web Update

Page 8
*2006-2007 New Member
Campaign*

Page 9
*CPAR Fall Certification Testing
Update*

Page 10
*PFS Roadshow Coming To A City
Near You*

Page 11
Thanks to Our Sponsors

Page 12
Upcoming Events



2006-2007

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Courage

IN LEADERSHIP



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PFS Forum	Linda J. Maddox	(205) 249-7260
Compliance Forum	Maron J. Boohaker	(205) 970-3461
Quality	Eric Jeffries	(205) 715-4631

Advertising Information

Quarter page: \$100 per issue—Half page: \$175 per issue—Full page: \$300 per issue
Special discounts for long-term arrangements. Contact the editor for details.

Please consult with the editor for the best way to send your ad electronically. Deadline for publication is shown below. *Bama Chatter* is published quarterly and is posted on the Chapter website at alabamahfma.org for approximately 650 members.

Publication Schedule

ISSUE	DEADLINE	ISSUE	DEADLINE
June (Summer)	May 20th	December (Winter)	November 20th
September (Fall)	August 20th	March (Spring)	February 20th

The statements and opinions appearing in articles are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of HFMA, the Alabama Chapter, or the editor. The editor strongly encourages submission of material for publication. Articles should be submitted to the editor by the 20th of the month preceding the month of publication. The editor reserves the right to edit materials and accept or reject contributions whether solicited or not. Readers are invited to comment on any of the published material. Letters to the editor must be signed and are subject to condensation and editing. All rights reserved.

President's Message *continued...*

- ***Some say it's because they have heard the test is too hard or unfair.*** Attend the study session and see for yourself. You'll soon realize you already know most of this stuff.
- ***Some say it's because their company or their boss doesn't promote certification.*** Maybe it's because your boss doesn't fully understand what certification could mean for you and your future. Maybe it's because your boss isn't certified and thinks your initiative will make him/her look bad. Too, you may not stay in this job forever. Prepare now for your future.

Whatever your reason in the past, forget about it! Shed that old negative attitude and join me on November 15 for the Certification Coaching course. I can't ask you to do something I haven't done myself, but now I am leading by example. The coaching course will be held in conjunction with this year's Fall Institute at the Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham. When you register for the Institute, be sure to sign up for the coaching course. The coaching course is for the core exam and will last approximately 7 hours. Details on time and room will be announced with registration.

In case you need more to convince you, here are my top 10 reasons why you should consider certification:

10. Survey results indicate a strong relationship between certification and career advancement.
9. Meeting the certification requirements helps prepare you for increasingly responsible positions in the healthcare industry.
8. Certified members of HFMA tend to earn a higher annual salary.
7. Certified members of HFMA are more likely to be hired for upper-level positions in healthcare finance.
6. Certified members are respected members of any healthcare leadership team.
5. Certified members of HFMA have proven they are knowledgeable and understand today's healthcare finance issues.
4. Becoming a certified member demonstrates your dedication to professional development.
3. HFMA Fellowship requires you become a Certified Member first.
2. It's time you did something for yourself, not because you have to, but because you want to and you relish a good challenge.

And finally (drum roll please....)

1. You get to wear those cute little tags at the bottom of your name bag at all HFMA Institutes.

OK, so my last reason isn't exactly a legitimate one but whoever heard of a top 9 list? Anyway, I'm looking forward to taking myself to the next level and I hope you join me!



Dawn Walton

Compliance Forum Chairman Now Noted Author

With Jeff Burkhardt's recommendation and assistance, Maron J. Boohaker, our Compliance Forum Chair wrote a chapter on Health Care Fraud and Abuse and Compliance Monitoring for a college textbook being published by Towson University in Towson, MD.

The 23 page chapter, power point presentation and test grid are part of a book titled, *HealthCare Financial Management*. The book will be released in March 2007. The chapter is a brief summary the history of fraud and abuse investigations, the Laws that have been established, and the creation of programs to monitor compliance with governmental and provider policy.

Spotlight On New Medicaid Proof of Citizenship Requirement

by Mitzi Winters, EVP Revenue, Cycle Services and
Julie Gheitantschi, Director of Education and Social Services
MedAssist, Incorporated

On June 10th, the Department of Health and Human Services issued guidelines to the states to implement a new requirement, effective July 1, for persons applying for Medicaid to document their citizenship. American citizenship or legal immigration status has always been a requirement for Medicaid eligibility, however, many states allowed beneficiaries to assert their status by checking a box on a form. The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 requires actual documentary evidence before Medicaid eligibility is granted or renewed. On July 6th, the Department of Health and Human Services released the Interim Final Rules, which announced that if persons are enrolled in Medicare or receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or are a “Qualified Alien,” they are exempt from the documentation requirements. Individuals and interest groups have filed class-action lawsuits in Chicago and Washington, D.C. challenging the proof of citizenship law on the grounds that it will hurt vulnerable citizens who are unable to provide required documentation.

Acceptable Documentation

The guidelines use a hierarchical approach to documentary evidence. Citizenship and identity is sought first from a list of primary documents, and if no such evidence can be obtained, the state will look to the next tier of acceptable forms of evidence. A state must first seek documents from the primary list before looking to the secondary or tertiary

lists. Acceptable primary documentation for identification and citizenship are a U.S. Passport, a Certificate of Naturalization, or a Certificate of U.S. Citizenship. Acceptable secondary documentation to verify citizenship includes a U.S. birth certificate, a final adoption decree, official military records, or a U.S. Citizen ID card. With secondary documentation, an identity document, such as a state driver’s license or state identification card, is also required. For individuals who do not have any of the documents listed above, there are other ways to show proof of citizenship. For a complete listing, visit www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicaidEligibility/05_ProofofCitizenship.asp

Obtaining Documentation in Alabama

Individuals born in Alabama may obtain a certified copy of a birth certificate from the Alabama

Center for Health Statistics for \$12.00 in person or by mail. Online ordering is available for an additional fee at http://www.vitalchek.com/provider_overview.asp?providerid=16516. State identification cards are available for a fee of \$23.00 through the Alabama Department of Public Safety. Visit <http://www.dps.state.al.us/public/driverlicense> for location information.

Sources

CMS-SMDL 06-012
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicaidEligibility/downloads/SMD%20Letter%20Improved%20Documentation%20of%20Citizenship.pdf>

CMS-2257-IFC
Medicaid Program; Citizenship Documentation Regulations
http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicaidEligibility/downloads/Citizenship_Documentation_Final_Regulation.pdf



2005-2006 Annual National Institute

At the Annual National Institute, the Alabama Chapter received a total of nine Awards and Yergers for 2005-2006:

Gold Award of Excellence:

Membership Growth and Retention
New Member Retention

Silver Award of Excellence:

Education

Yergers:

Summer Institute 2005/Stephan Martin
What A Difference A Team Makes/Yolanda Rich
Student Membership/Jeffery Burkhart

Multi-chapter Yergers:

Alabama and Georgia

Recruitment Video/Mitzi Winters
Online Credit Card Processing/Mitzi Winters

Alabama and Tennessee

Dixie Institute 2006



Yolanda Rich accepts Alabama Chapter's Awards of Excellence at ANI (l to r): Richard Rodriguez (HFMA National Past Chairman), Yolanda Rich (AL Past President), Joe Fifer (National Chairman for Alabama Awards)

Photo by RC Photographic Productions



Alabama and Georgia awarded two Multi-chapter Yergers (l to r): Richard Rodriguez (HFMA National Past Chairman), Yolanda Rich (AL Past President), Cathy Dougherty (GA Past President)

Photo by RC Photographic Productions

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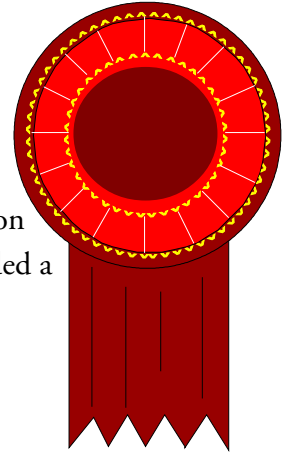
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Alabama Chapter 2005-2006 Robert M. Coats Outstanding Member Award

The Alabama Chapter is proud to be honoring the recipient of the Outstanding Member Award for the 2005-2006 year. This year's recipient is Maron J. Boohaker, the Compliance Audit Manager for HealthSouth Corporation. Maron will be the guest of HFMA to the National Institute of his choice and will also be awarded a plaque at the Alabama Chapter's Fall Institute.



About the Robert M. Coats Award

The Alabama Chapter's Outstanding Member Award was named after Robert M. Coats because of his dedication to his profession, his firm and his industry. Bob was the only person not affiliated with a hospital at the first meeting of the Alabama Chapter-American Association of Hospital Accountants, now known as HFMA. He was a pioneer in providing accounting and consulting expertise to the healthcare industry, as well as, helping make many careers in healthcare. He served HFMA as chairman of the Uniform Accounting and Cost Reporting in connection with Third Party Cost Reimbursement Formulas project in 1962. The results of this project produced a cost reporting system that was a forerunner of the current cost reports and cost studies. He was awarded the Follmer Award in 1969 and the Reeves Award in 1974 in recognition of his active role in HFMA. He also earned the Muncie Gold Award in 1986—only eight other Alabama Chapter members had ever received it. In 1986 the Alabama Chapter voted to name the Outstanding Member Award in his honor. Although he never received this award himself, nearly every recipient was influenced by Mr. Coats. Many recipients worked for him at Ernst & Whinney. Although he easily could have positioned himself to be the outstanding member, he preferred to encourage and support others. That was the kind of man he was and why this award will be known as the Robert M. Coats Outstanding Member Award.

Maron Boohaker

Congratulations to Maron Boohaker, winner of the 2005-2006 Outstanding Member Award. Maron joined HealthSouth Corporation in 2004 as its Compliance Audit Manager. He has helped pioneer three Compliance Departments since 1998 as a "go to" person for the organization on compliance issues. Healthcare has always been a part of his life. From having co-authored an Abstract on Cancer Research to authoring a chapter on Health Care Fraud and Abuse for an upcoming textbook, Maron has found his niche coming from a family of CPAs and Physicians. Maron is in his fourth year as our Compliance Forum Chairperson and has taken a lead in expanding this forum and upgrading it to the level of our other forums. Prior to HealthSouth, Maron was employed by UAB University Hospital and Bradford Health Services. He is honored to be the recipient of the Robert M. Coats Award.



www.alabamahfma.org

Web Update

by Mitzi Winters, IT Chairperson



Please remember to **CHECK THE WEBSITE OFTEN FOR NEW INFORMATION.** You will be able to find the dates of meetings for the upcoming HFMA year along with a lot of other new information and features.

Check It Out

Available on the Home Page is a Video that shows Who and What we are. You will be able to see tidbits from our past meetings that help showcase our chapter to interested, new and of course veteran members. Take a moment and look it over!

Home Page

If you sign onto the Home Page you will notice scrolling in the top right of the screen pictures of our Member Facilities – please email me jpeg files of yours and we can add you to the page. DON'T be left out!



Picture Gallery

Catch up-to-date pictures of the Institutes. If you were there you may see YOURSELF. If you missed the meeting you'll see what your Financial Cohorts were up to!

Tell Us What You Think...

Please feel free to send me your comments, suggestions or other feedback concerning our website. You can reach me via email at mwinters@medassistgroup.com.



The 2006–2007 Alabama Chapter HFMA Membership Recruitment Campaign



“Ride the Wave of Recruitment”

Cowabunga Dudes! It’s that time again. This year’s recruitment campaign is sure to be gnarlacious! We are going to ride the wave of recruitment this year so lets hit the surf and make it mondo. We have some awesome prizes this year. Who will be this year’s Big Kahuna? Let’s get stoked—SURF’S UP!

This year’s prizes include:

For the bro or bunny recruiting the most new members during the first quarter of this year’s campaign:

Four passes to Alabama Adventure Water Park.



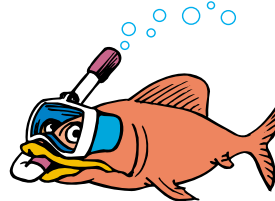
For the bro or bunny recruiting the most new members during the second quarter of this year’s campaign:



Four passes for canoeing at Alabama Small Boats.

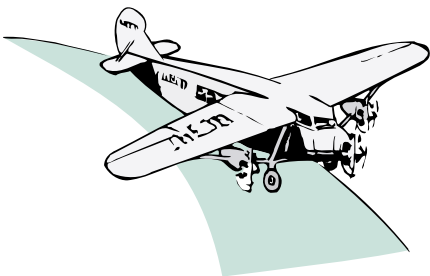
For the bro or bunny recruiting the most new members during the third quarter of the campaign:

Four passes to the Georgia Aquarium.



AND TO THE BIG KAHUNA!!!!

**Two airline tickets to
anywhere in the continental US.**



***Student membership will not count toward this year’s campaign prizes. The person recruiting the most student members will receive a \$250 cash prize.**



CPAR Fall 2006 Certification

Testing

The CPAR test will be held on Saturday, November 4, 2006 from 9:00a to 1:00p. Below you will find a listing of testing sites as well as the site coordinators. The deadline for test registration is October 2, 2006. Feel free to contact a site coordinator for more information. Please be reminded that the CPAR test is pass/fail. Scores will not be released.

The SSI Group

4721 Morrison Drive, Mobile, AL 36609
Dyanne Reagan dyannereagan@mobileinfirmiry.org
Brian Naugher Brian.naugher@ssigroup.com
Phone: 251-435-3511 • Fax: 251-435-5755

Coaching / Study Sessions

- Wednesday, October 4th - 5:30p to 8:30p
- Saturday, October 28th - 8:30a to 11:30a

Testing and Study Sessions: Mobile Infirmiry Medical Center in the Hearin-Chandler Auditorium on campus, not in the hospital.

Northeast Alabama Regional Medical Center

(Conference room of the Women's and Children's Center)
Bruce Turner bturner@rmccares.org
400 East 10th Street, PO Box 1380, Anniston , AL 36202
Phone: 256-235-5860

Coaching / Study Sessions

- Wednesday, October 18th - 5:00p to 8:00p
- Tuesday, October 24th - 5:00p to 8:00p

Marshall Medical Center South

Jo Ann Hudspeth joann.hudspeth@mmcenters.com
Marshall Health System
227 Brittany Road, Guntersville AL 35976
Phone: 256-894-6631 • Fax: 256-894-6643

Coaching / Study Sessions

- Saturday, October 14th - 9:00a to 1:00p
- Saturday, October 21st - 9:00a to 1:00p

Testing and Study Sessions: Marshall Medical Center South • Physician Office Bldg • 2505 US Hwy 431 No • Boaz , AL 35957

Southeast Alabama Medical Center

Miriam Hubbard mhubbard@samc.org
1108 Ross Clark Circle, Dothan, AL 36301
Phone: 334-793-8827

Coaching / Study Sessions

- Tuesday, October 17th - 5:30p to 8:30p
- Thursday, October 19th - 5:30p to 8:30p

DCH Health System

(Willard Auditorium -2nd floor DCH Regional Medical Center)
Michael G. Wilson MWilson@DCHSYSTEM.COM
809 University Blvd East, Tuscaloosa , Al 35401
Phone: 205-343-8500 • Fax: 205-759-6397

Coaching / Study Sessions

- Thursday, October 26th - 4:00p
- Wednesday, November 1st - 4:00p

Grove Hill Memorial Hospital

(Conference Room of Hospital)
Elaine Averett enaverett@yahoo.com
295 South Jackson Street, Grove Hill , AL 36451
Phone: 251-275-3191 • Fax 251-275-4281

Coaching / Study Sessions

- Thursday, October 19th - 5:00p to 8:00p
- Thursday, October 26th - 5:00p to 8:00p

UAB Hospital - Patient Financial Services Dept.

Schenita Frederick sfrederick@uabmc.edu
Liberty National Building Auditorium (located on first floor off lobby)
2001 3 rd Avenue South – Suite 450, Birmingham, AL 35233
Phone: 205-975-5140

Coaching / Study Sessions

- Saturday, October 7th - 9:00a to 1:00p
- Saturday, October 21st - 9:00a to 1:00p



PFS Roadshow

Coming to a City Near You!

The Alabama Chapter of HFMA and the Professional and Financial Services Forum presents Blue Cross Blue Shield Provider Updates as well as an Insurance Panel Discussion. Don't miss out! Register today!

Workshop: PFS on the road to Montgomery

Event Date: Thursday, September 21, 2006

Location: Montgomery AL Noon to 4 pm. Baptist Medical Center South Private Dining room 1 and 2. 2105 East South Blvd. Montgomery, Alabama 36116. If you have any questions, please contact Ann Tellis at 334 273 4520. Bring your own lunch, for your convenience. Chappys Deli is located inside the hospital.

- Sessions:**
- Session 1: Blue Cross of Alabama Provider Updates
 - Session 2: Insurance Panel Discussion

Workshop: PFS on the road to Mobile

Event Date: Friday, September 22, 2006

Location: Mobile AL 9 a.m. to Noon Mobile Infirmiry Medical Center Hearin-Chandler Auditorium 1 Mobile Infirmiry Circle Mobile, Alabama 36607. Please contact Dyanne Reagan at 251-435-3511 if you have questions.

- Sessions:**
- Session 1: Blue Cross of Alabama Provider Updates
 - Session 2: Insurance Panel Discussion

PFS ROAD SHOW AGENDA

- Session 1:**
- Blue Cross of Alabama Provider Updates
- Presenter:**
- J.E. Avrard, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama

J.E. Avrard's experience with BCBS will assist in answering your questions and providing insight for greater understanding into BCBS. J.E. is the Senior Representative at BCBS for both institutional and professional providers in seven counties, including: Shelby, Chilton, Perry, Dallas, Wilcox, Autauga and Elmore counties. J.E. has been a Provider Services Representative for over 15 years. Prior to 2004, J.E. was a Representative for institutional providers for both Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama and the Medicare Part A Program for twenty-six central Alabama counties. While at BCBS, J.E. also has experience as a Dental Claims Manager; Customer Service Representative; Claim Processor; and Major Medical Claims Processor.

Break: 15 Minutes

Session 2: Insurance Panel Discussion

Insurance

Panel: Aetna, Cigna, Blue Cross of Alabama, Medicaid and HealthSpring of Alabama

These payers will be there to answer your questions regarding eligibility, pre-certification and claim edits, NPI and UB04.



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*Mark Your Calendars &
Make Plans To Attend These Events*

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 15, 2006 **DEVELOPMENTS & TRENDS
IN HEALTH CARE LAW 2006** The Wynfrey Hotel
Birmingham, AL
Sponsored by Cumberland School of Law CLE Office: 726-2391
& HFMA 800-888-7454

September 21-22, 2006 **PFS ROAD SHOW** Baptist Med. Ctr. - Montgomery
Mobile Infirmary Med. Ctr. - Mobile
see page 10 for further details

November 15-17, 2006 **FALL INSTITUTE** The Wynfrey Hotel
Birmingham, AL
reserve by 10/18/06 800-996-3739 / 205-987-1600

Keynote Speakers: Jay Barker, Alabama Quarterback & Stan White, Auburn Quarterback

Exhibits by Sponsors Available
Four A&A hours available 11-16-06 at CFO Forum
Certification Study Session on 11-15-06

SUMMER & WINTER INSTITUTE

Format Changed - Education Offered Through Traveling Forums & Workshops

June 4-7, 2007 **ANNUAL "BEACH" INSTITUTE** Sandestin Hilton Beach
Golf Resort & Span
reserve by 5/5/07 800-367-1271

Keynote Speakers: Jay Barker, Alabama Quarterback & Stan White, Auburn Quarterback

Exhibits by Sponsors Available

For details & to register for upcoming meetings, go to **alabamahfma.org**

**Please take advantage of ONLINE REGISTRATION for Institutes,
regardless of METHOD OF PAYMENT.**