

Hello, Region 5! Finally, finally spring is here! My daffodils and forsythia are blooming, and all of your chapters are, too. Everyone's been sharing plans of spring conferences with me. Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan have already met, with Central Illinois and Wisconsin coming in the next few weeks.

Leadership Conference

On April 24th and 25th your chapter leaders traveled to Chicago for two days of workshops with the ASHHRA Board and staff. Jeanene Martin, ASHHRA's President, told us about the strategic direction for 2008 - 2010, while Executive Director Cathy Sewell discussed our 2008 priorities. They include strengthening our web resources, implementing the ASHHRA Leader Institute, promoting the ASHHRA Foundation, introducing a mentorship program, and enhancing and expanding the use of the metrics tool. (More about some of these in this newsletter.)

Marie-Clare, please insert the photo of Julie Mann and Crystal Elliott, President and President-Elect of Central Illinois Healthcare Human Resources Association.

Molly Seals, Immediate Past President, encouraged us to step up and volunteer for leadership roles in ASHHRA, and Amy Schultz, current Board Member, invited us to become mentors for new-to-the-profession members. We heard an advocacy update, shared successes from our chapters, and participated in an interactive exercise about decision-making.

Leaders from AHA and Diversified Investment Advisors also shared important information, and we had both formal and informal opportunities for networking and sharing news of our chapters. It was a wonderful learning event, and we all felt fortunate and thankful to have had the opportunity to participate.

ASHHRA Awards

Now is the time for you to be completing your submissions for ASHHRA awards, which are due on June 20th. Remember that you need to forward your nominations for Outstanding Chapter Officer to me for my signature before they're sent in. I also want to encourage each of you to go to the website at www.ashhra.org and read about the awards and see if there's something or someone you'd like to submit a nomination for. All of us are developing things all the time that would qualify for the Communications Award; we deserve to be recognized for it!

Congratulations, Indiana!

The Indiana Society for Healthcare Human Resources Administration is celebrating its 40th anniversary on June 5th and 6th with a golf tournament and conference in Indianapolis. Congratulations can be sent to President Dianne Potter at dianne.potter@parkview.com.

Please Come to Austin

Bob Walters, Board Member from Melbourne, FL, gave those at the Leadership Conference a reprise of his musical invitation from last fall's national convention to "Please Come to Austin" (sung to the tune of Dave Loggin's "Please Come to Boston"). The conference will be held in Austin, TX on October 11-14, 2008. We were privileged to get a peek at the conference agenda, and it's pretty exciting. There are some great pre-conference sessions, excellent keynote, a whole lot of learning sessions, and the introducing of the ASHHRA Leader Institute, with a new leader track in addition to the other learning tracks based on the HR Leader Competencies. Gary Pastore, Chairman of the Conference Planning Committee, told us that the early-bird conference rate is extended until May 31st, so you have a bit more time to plan, but be sure to get those reservations sent in!

Scholarships

MetLife has again donated to the ASHHRA Foundation to enable one individual from each region to attend the annual conference. The award is for \$1,000 and will cover the registration fee and a portion of the hotel/travel expenses. Applications and additional information are available on the website. Please click on "Foundation."

Region 5 Conference - Final Report

Last, but by no means least, we had a wonderful time in Milwaukee at the Region 5 Conference. One hundred people gathered there to hear Bob Riney, Mark Sasscer, Jim Frain, Yvon Martel, Kevin Sheridan, and Doug Jontz and to attend Body Worlds at the Milwaukee Public Museum. Evaluations were excellent, and it looks like we might do this again in 2010! We even made a bit of a profit, half of which will be shared with your chapters while the rest is in a fund for the next conference.

Marie-Clare, more photos, please. Insert here the ones of (1) Cathy Sewell and Stephanie Drake, Executive Director and Associate Executive Director of ASHHRA, (2) Mark Sasscer, keynote speaker and (3) Jim Frain, Board Member, and Yvon Martel of Halogen, both speakers at the Region 5 Conference.

Again, thanks to the wonderful planning committee of Sue Edminster, Angie Hupf, Julie Mann, Tom McCauley, Jim Graham, Bruce Tisdale, Mary Beth Knake, and Maureen Van Dusen and to the ASHHRA Board and staff for their unfailing support!

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