

Hello, Region 5 and happy 2009! As I'm writing this, it's the end of February, so that means it'll be March before you see this. I can't imagine where the time goes!

Legislative and Regulatory News

I know you've been bombarded with announcements, seminars, webinars, all kinds of information about what's going on in Washington and how it's going to affect hospitals and healthcare human resources.

The FMLA guidelines are now final, and you should have your policies and forms updated. Let me know if anyone needs help. The extension of COBRA benefits goes into effect shortly, as well. Most of you tell me that your insurance company or TPA is helping you with this, but again, if you need assistance, let me know.

The Joint Commission's new Leadership standard on disruptive behavior became effective on January 1st. ASHHRA is collecting policies for its library of policies and white papers, so if anyone has one you'd like to share, please forward it to me.

And then there's EFCA, the card-check act. I know that you're all devoting much of your conference time to hearing attorneys talk about what to expect from that. Last November, I attended OSHHRA's conference at the Cherry Valley Inn in Newark, Ohio, and the keynote speakers were Roger King and Jim Trivisonno, both of whom have spoken often on legal matters at ASHHRA national conferences. They talked about what we can expect from the new Democratic administration and legislature.

www.myASHHRA.org

ASHHRA is in the process of introducing an online community site, www.myASHHRA.com. Most of the chapter presidents and many other members have participated in demos during the past few months that showcase the site and would give us another vehicle to communicate with each other. The beta testing is wrapping up as I write this, and I'm sure you'll be hearing more about this shortly. What a great way to link with other healthcare HR professionals. More info to come.....

Chapter Leader Conference Calls

The Chapter Presidents from all of the Region 5 chapters have scheduled conference calls every other month to keep us up to date on what's happening within our Region so we can share that with all of you and to share your ideas and concerns with the ASHHRA staff. Our next call is scheduled for Thursday, March 19th at 2:00 p.m. CST.

We share program ideas, questions about ASHHRA award requirements, and chapter management suggestions. We're going to talk about strategic planning at our next call.

Met Life Scholarships

Met Life will again be sponsoring a scholarship for participation in the annual conference. This is the third year that one person from each of our nine regions has been able to attend the conference due to Met Life's generosity. Watch your emails for more details about the requirements and to hear the stories of last year's scholarship winners. I hope we have many applicants from Region 5! The winner does not have to be a member of ASHHRA, so share the information with your colleagues.

Member Recognition and ASHHRA Awards

Forms for this year's award have been posted at www.ashhra.org. Please check the website and see what you could apply for and/or consider who you should nominate. The forms for Outstanding Chapter Officer and Outstanding Chapter Achievement must be in to ASHHRA by May 15th, so the Chapter Officer nominations must be to me by May 1st and the Chapter Achievement nominations to your Chapter President also by May 1st.

We have revised the format for the Chapter Management Award, but this year chapters will be permitted to use either the old or the new format. It's been quite a process to update the format; we are anxious to hear your comments. Whether you use the new or the old format, your submission must be sent to Regina Stoker at ASHHRA by June 5th.

News from your Chapters

Central Illinois Society of Healthcare Human Resource Administration

As of November, CISHHRA membership totaled 84 active members representing 70 diverse healthcare organizations throughout Central and Western Illinois. Many are also ASHHRA members.

Our 2009 Membership Drive begins in January. We ask all members to contact at least one colleague in their area to introduce CISHHRA and explain the benefits of membership. The goal for this grass roots approach is to attract at least two new member organizations for 2009.

Southern Illinois Healthcare Human Resources Administration

No report.

Indiana Society for Healthcare Human Resources Administration

In March 2008, the Indiana Chapter celebrated our 40th anniversary with a special evening at the Indianapolis Museum of Art. We were delighted to have 11 past and present ISHHRA presidents in attendance!

With three conferences per year, our Indiana Chapter is very busy. Our last conference was held October 24, 2008, and we are now preparing for our annual spring conference, which will be held March 12-13 in Indianapolis. We will have another conference in June.

We recently developed an ISHHRA Advocacy Task Force and will be providing regular legislative updates at our meetings as well as via our web site and e-mails to our members. Speaking of our web site, we are continually looking for new information and links that will drive more of our members to the web site. We do have some very involved vendors who have partnered with us to help us expand and improve our web site!

Our board leadership will be changing in March, at which time Karen Sagar will become our new ISHHRA President. We are very fortunate as we always have someone who is willing to step up to the plate and become the President Elect. We look forward to Karen's Leadership as our chapter continues to grow and evolve!

Michigan Healthcare Human Resources Administration

No report

Ohio Society of Hospital Human Resources Administrators

The Ohio Society of Health Care Human Resources Administrators (OSHHRA) finished 2008 in first-rate condition. The Ohio chapter was awarded Star 4 status from ASHHRA in 2008, and will again be applying for Star 4 in 2009. The Chapter Management Recognition Program has presented the opportunity for the chapter and its members to be more pro-active in the promotion of healthcare and human resources in our communities and our state, and to more effectively manage the Chapter.

The Fall Conference was a success in getting valuable information to the members, and a financial success as well, enabling the Society to continue to offer worthwhile conferences in the future. OSHHRA members are gathering benefits information for the second year of a Benefits Survey, offering participants comparative benefits information. OSHHRA will be having their Spring Conference on March 12-13 at Quest Business Center in Columbus. The Board is finalizing the 2009 budget and 2009-2010 strategic goals, and looking forward to a prosperous New Year.

Wisconsin Society of Healthcare Human Resources Administration

A recent change to our Constitution resulted in appointing an attorney to be an ex-officio member of our Board. Dan Dennehy, who wrote many of Wisconsin's wage and hour laws, was welcomed to our December meeting.

We recently finalized our 2008-2009 strategic plan, which sets goals to strengthen the 5 districts within the State. District meetings provide an excellent avenue to network with colleagues from your respective geographical area of Wisconsin.

Preparation for the annual conference at the Abbey Resort in Fontana, WI are progressing nicely. The conference will be held April 22-24, 2009 and the theme is "Attaining Accountability." WSHHRA has chosen to use ASHHRA's Leadership Model in developing its educational agenda.

Calendar of Events

- 3/12 WSHHRA Board Meeting
Aspirus Hospital, Wausau, WI

- 3/12 - 3/13 ISHHRA Spring Conference and Annual Business Meeting
Sheraton Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN

- 3/12 - 3/13 OSHHRA Spring Conference
Quest Business Center, Columbus, OH

- 3/19 Chapter Presidents Conference Call

- 3/20 CISHHRA Meeting
Bloomington, IL

- 4/22 - 4/24 WSHHRA Annual Conference
The Abbey, Fontana, WI

- 4/29 - 5/1 CISHHRA Conference
St. Charles, MO

- 5/1 Awards nominations due to Chapter President and/or Regional Consultant

- 5/6 - 5/7 ASHHRA Leadership Conference
Knickerbocker Hotel, Chicago, IL

- 6/5 Chapter Management Award applications due

Contact me!

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