



## President's Message

### March 2016

Happy 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary AAHAM Florida Sunshine Chapter # 03! Let us celebrate this great milestone, a beautiful Spring, and our good fortune. AAHAM was originally named the American Guild of Patient Accounts Managers (AGPAM) until May 1998 when we became AAHAM. Our AAHAM chapter is the second largest with a membership of 303 on 12/21/15. Last year we won the Chapter Excellence Award for large chapter category and The Leslie A. Hampel Award for the most CRCS certified members in a year.

Here we are with a great Spring conference and awesome speakers, Dr. Murray, Joe Mull, and John Currier just to name a few. Our new year has been busy with one day joint workshops at provider locations with HFMA; one in North Florida and two in South Florida. Now a great conference in Palm Coast Florida. We have three more workshops before June ends, and an August 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> conference on Clearwater Beach. The world's best beach!

Our Board of Directors and Committee members have worked hard to bring the best education programs to our members and organizations. The support we receive from our Corporate Partners is so valuable; these partners are the best ask any member. Reach out to them and use their services. Many of our speakers volunteer time and knowledge to help us help our providers and members. AAHAM is a great way to find out about the latest educational topics, industry changes, and benchmark with others in our industry. We work with other organizations like HFMA and FAHAM to do some of our joint workshops-together we reach more people, share great experience, and knowledge. At the March conference we learned more about our CMS relationship.

John Currier our National President has announced his theme "**Raise the Level**". He has challenged the membership to excel in all areas. We would like to reach his goal by adding 36 new members this year at the state level and nationally to exceed 3,500 members. Increasing National Certification levels is another goal.

### **National Certification Activity as of 12/31/15:**

- ▣ 478 CRCE certified members. We have 26 people testing in March.
- ▣ 220 CRCP certified members. We have 74 testing in March.
- ▣ 4572 CRCS certified individuals of which 1,096 are members. We have 643 people testing in March.
- ▣ 76 CCT certified individuals; we have 35 scheduled for testing in March
- ▣ 25 CRIP certified individuals; we have 10 scheduled for testing in March.

The 2016 Legislative Day will be held at the [Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill](#), Washington, D.C. from April 25-26, 2016. This is our 12<sup>th</sup> year visiting Capitol Hill. We will meet with elected officials and staff to bring two important topics we support to reform healthcare billing and RAC audits; The Medicare Audit Improvement Act and the Hospital Improvements for Payment (HIP) Act. And the key word is IMPROVEMENTS hospital people and healthcare professionals are bogged down in RAC Audits and the Two Midnight Rule. You need to go with us to Capitol Hill! I know how well grass roots lobbying worked AAHAM in the past. AAHAM is a big presence. We helped improve the TCPA regulations which helped providers immensely and the courts have ruled in our favor as well. LEG DAY [Download the registration brochure](#). We urge you to be informed and join us in Washington. Members can bring others from their organization as well for the membership cost. Hospitals really need these reforms it is costing us millions of dollars with the present operational challenges. I am working on the LEG DAY committee Government Relations so reach out if you have questions. Kathy Reep from the Florida Hospital Assoc. is our



State AAHAM Government Relations- Director if you have a state level concern reach out to her. She is a knowledgeable resource there to help Florida hospitals.

Education from Florida AAHAM has been praised by many attendees at our workshops. We listen and we help providers and members learn the latest trends and developments. Staying on the cutting edge of educational needs is critical. We love coming to your organization and sharing knowledge.

Look at our web page to see our Officers and Committees that help our members' everyday:

<http://www.floridaaaham.com/officers.html> I hope you enjoy the newsletter as well which we publish bi-monthly with surveys, educational pieces, CMS updates, and profiles on our Corporate Partners. Your input and articles would be appreciated; this is your organization get involved.

Lastly a few details about your new Florida AAHAM President- who I am: AAHAM member for 25 years; attained my CRCE certification in 1996 as a healthcare vendor. I graduated from Eckerd College. I edited college textbooks for Elsevier Publishing. I have written and published professional papers/academia. I currently support my community as a precinct lead at the most active voting precinct in my county. As a part of the AAHAM National Board I serve on the Government Relations Committee. I love traveling. London and Paris are my favorite cities. Washington is very cool as well; I love art and history.

I have been in healthcare for over 35 years, in many managerial roles. I joined BayCare Health Systems in 1996 shortly after attaining my CRCE certification (it helped). Today I am the PFS Auditor, my department monitors three CBO's, Registration areas, and a multitude of ancillary business lines and physicians groups. BayCare Health System is a network of over 24,000 employees, 3,491 beds, and fourteen not for profit hospitals. We deliver over 34% of the healthcare services in Tampa Bay area.

AAHAM membership helped me in a multitude of ways. So I repay my good fortune. I give back to my membership by sharing my knowledge and vision. I have proctored a few hundred AAHAM exams and taught many educational sessions. In my day to day role I educate, research, and write policies as well as auditing. I 'm always helping with other roles as many of us healthcare professionals know is needed. The more you learn the more you earn!

I congratulate you all on being a part of AAHAM; there is much to learn from one another. Our speakers bring great knowledge so spend your valuable time learning. Your Board of Directors are all volunteers with careers, a commitment to AAHAM, and our future generations. If you have a need, AAHAM and our Corporate Partners are here to help. We have a vision of what AAHAM stands for. AAHAM members work hard. Our times together help us cope with the challenges we face in healthcare. Make it a great year by joining us at our workshops, LEG DAY, our conferences, and let your State and National officers know if you need our help. By the way the two LEG DAY topics we are taking to Capitol Hill really could improve the day to day workloads for Physician/Hospital Billing and Denials/Appeals management.

Paying it forward one step at a time.

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