



President's Message

June 2016

Hello AAHAM Members,

We are celebrating a great year; the 35th Anniversary of AAHAM's Florida Sunshine Chapter. We are the second largest AAHAM chapter. I am happy to report we exceeded our enrollment of 12/31/15 of 303 members. Our chapter as of 5/31/16 had **307** members; including **52 new members**. Only Maryland has a larger chapter with **386** members. Our chapter is well organized with a great board and lots of dedicated AAHAM members.

Our annual 2015 Chapter Operations Report was accepted by National with a **100%** rating in all areas. As the year goes on we hope to win more awards. Last year at the October ANI we won the coveted Chapter Excellence Award for large chapter category and The Leslie A. Hampel Award for the most CRCS certified members in a year.

Thank you all for being a part of AAHAM and contributing to the vision of being the organization that revenue cycle professionals can count on to educate, network, and improve government relations. Inviting others to our AAHAM events gives us the opportunity to share knowledge. I hope I represent you well as your president, but it takes us all working together to be great. After 25 years of being a member and being friends with many of you I feel it is an honor to be an AAHAM officer. I wouldn't be the expert I am today without AAHAM and all my mentors. Each of you must do your part as well, stay informed, get regular education, stay abreast of industry changes, plan a career path, check out new technology, and use certification levels to increase your industry knowledge. Regular education events can be a morale booster too.

Since January our chapter has organized **six** educational workshops, some with HFMA and one with FAHAM. Our common goal is education. AAHAM Florida has two yearly conferences as well. The Palm Coast Spring Conference was a hit; the location and speakers was praised by our attendees. So we are going back there next spring. I was a speaker for the HFMA May Conference on PFS Compliance. Just remember education for all your teams is invaluable use these resources.

Our **August 2016 conference** promises to be a great educational venue; **Insurance Institute** with FCSO Medicare, Florida Blue, and a multitude of great speakers. Go to our web page at <http://www.floridaaaham.com/index.html> for the agenda. **Clearwater Beach** is a wonderful location. Our committees have planned some great events. Many of our corporate partners will be exhibiting. Our conference is a great way to check out new products and meet new potential business associates.

Did you know AAHAM membership is 75% providers? John Currier our National President's theme, "**Raise the Level**" challenges us to become a greater force in healthcare. **Dwight Tillman our Education Chair has started a great Membership Campaign just a few more days before it ends. You have a chance to win, check it out.** We would like to reach his goal by adding **36** new members this year at the state level. You can reach Dwight via e-mail at bacenjordan_tillman@msn.com if you have questions.

National Certification levels is another goal we should work to increase. How many retiring veterans will you need to replace in the next two years? Their valuable knowledge leaves with them. AAHAM offers the opportunity to educate the next generation and keep them up to date. The government regulators expect you to know; ignorance is not accepted as an excuse when violations occur. What will be your return on investing in timely certification/education? Contact our Certification Chair Linda Catino if you have questions or need help with resources her email is Linda.Catino@orlandohealth.com

The 2016 Legislative Day was a success! Hope you enjoyed the pictures in our spring newsletter. We were there April 25-26,

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2016; our 12th year visiting Capitol Hill. AAHAM brought two important topics to our elected officials. We supported reform in healthcare billing and RAC audits; The Medicare Audit Improvement Act and the Hospital Improvements for Payment (HIP) Act. Happy to report we are seeing positive movement with Medicare Reform bills. In just the past few days Rich Lovich presented on the TCPA Modernization effort before a congressional committee in D.C. TCPA has been modified but we ask for more changes. Bottom line is healthcare is changing; if we don't seek positive changes then deal with the alternative. The national committee Government Relations is working for you. See our web site for the Special Edition Buzz (June) newsletter for the legislative update and the coalition we just joined. At the state level we are doing more reporting. Our **AAHAM Florida Government Relations** Chair is Kathy Reep from the Florida Hospital Assoc. She writes for our newsletter as well. Whether it be a national issue or a state issue someone can help. If you would like to contact Kathy her e-mail is kathyr@fha.org

The AAHAM members are on this healthcare journey together. Your national office and AAHAM Officers/Board of Directors consists of members who wholeheartedly support the organization and membership. Look at our web page for our local Chapter Officers and Committees for support <http://www.floridaaaham.com/officers.html> reach out to us; we are here for you. Our ANI theme is "Working Together Wins", simple but true. I hope we are keeping you informed either by list serves or social media like Facebook or LinkedIn. We have group pages and individual pages. Friend us we will keep you in the loop.

I hope you have a wonderful summer. See you in August on Clearwater Beach with a tan and a big smile. After all Clearwater Beach has been named the world's number one beach! I have great memories of Clearwater Beach summer concerts and the beach hangouts. And I still love the same things; but education first and fun later. If you can't make it to Clearwater Beach consider the October ANI in Las Vegas. I think AAHAM members learn more, earn more, and enjoy great relationships working together.

Paying it forward one step at a time.

Marty Lassiter

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Clearwater Beach looking toward Pier 60



Las Vegas ANI Theme

