



## President's Message

September 2016

Hello AAHAM Members,

Good Day as we recover from Hurricane Hermine and the flooding. Fortunately it was a lesser storm; our first direct hit in 11 years. AAHAM Florida is having a great year it is the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AAHAM's Florida Sunshine Chapter. We are the second largest AAHAM chapter still. Our membership in Florida is currently at **325** members. Only Maryland has a larger chapter with **404** members. Our August Insurance Institute on Clearwater Beach had lots of great speakers from the big payers including First Coast. If you missed it you can find the speaker presentations on our web page under the Education tab. Pictures from the event will be posted shortly. Share with your teams the contacts are great help and the material is up to date.

Our annual 2015 Chapter Excellence Report was accepted by National before the deadline so here's hoping we have a chance at winning that award. Great job to Renee Jordan for handling this committee. At the October 5-8<sup>th</sup> ANI Conference in Las Vegas the winner of the award is announced along with several other national awards. ANI is at Cesar's Palace a great venue consider going the speakers, networking and technology visits are worth the trip. Looking for a new vendor/technology they are all in one place waiting to speak with you.

We hope our AAHAM Chapter is providing meaningful information and connections. We are continually trying to improve our local chapter. On our web site we are adding new services- check out the Certification/Study Sessions page at [www.floridaaaham.com](http://www.floridaaaham.com) there is now helpful links, study tips, and a place to pose questions to our Certification Committee. Our committee members did a wonderful job. Thank you to Linda Catino-Chair, Ruthe Gantt, Felipa Daley and Cindy Sims for developing the tools and helping our members prepare for certification exams. Also remember to thank your study session and proctor volunteers they do a great service as well. Knowledge is key in our business.

In June and July we had a **Membership Contest** with the first place prize being a \$350. Gift Certificate for bringing in new members. Ruthe Gantt, from BayCare Health Systems won the contest. Boy was she surprised at the August Conference. Thank you to Dwight Tillman and his committee for their hard work. We have the most new members in AAHAM. Our vision of being the organization that revenue cycle professionals can count on to educate, network, and improve government relations is growing. Inviting others to our AAHAM events gives us the opportunity to share knowledge. It takes us all working together to be great; 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.

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** was 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** was a wonderful location. Our committees planned some great events. Many of our corporate partners exhibited. Our conferences are a great way to check out new products and meet new potential business associates.

# Florida Sunshine Chapter



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](mailto: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](mailto: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, 2016; our 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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**

