

ACFHA Newsletter

FOCUSED ON PROVIDING SUPPORT AND OPPORTUNITY FOR
FEDERAL HEALTHCARE MANAGERS

A publication of the American College of Federal Healthcare Administrators
A specialty group of the American Academy of Medical Administrators

LT Stefanie Wheelbarger, Editor

Spring 2006



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2006 ACFHA LEADERSHIP

ACFHA Board of Directors

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Maj Jeff Henderson

COLLEGE PRESIDENT DAWN HARDIN, LIEUTENANT, MSC, USN, FAAMA



Dawn Hardin, LT, MSC, USN, FAAMA

Hello, it is an honor and pleasure being your President this year! The 2005 AAMA conference held in Las Vegas, NV last fall was a total success thanks to the hard work of the committee members and volunteers. We tried a new program by holding a morning of sessions for all Services. This

was a showing our true team aspect and what we all share no matter what service we are in; that we have the same goals and objectives in our Healthcare Administration background. We had a fabulous luncheon honoring our Young Federal Health Care Executive, Maj John Mammano, and also presented the Levandoski Award to Maj JB Barber. They deserved those awards through their hard work to their service and the Academy. The big change came through the afternoon breakout sessions held separately for each service and also a pre-conference speaker for the services not large enough to have their separate sessions. I attended the Navy Session and felt many objectives were accomplished and from the feedback received on the surveys it was an overall success. Speaking of the surveys, thank you all for your candid and honest feedback that you provided to us during the conference. We have read each and every one of them and are using them to shape and mold the upcoming conference. Many of you should have been contacted by a committee member to join a committee if you volunteered for one. You, the volunteers, are what make the committee chairs successful in pulling off the many tasks ahead.

I was asked on several occasions by other members about how I got to the position of President. The only answer I can give you is that it is by working hard and being involved in the Academy and in the American College of Federal Healthcare Administrators (ACFHA). There are so many opportunities to get involved whether it is with the Academy, ACFHA, or other six Colleges within AAMA. We have five committees within the ACFHA, each with a Committee Chairman and Committee members, this could be you by expressing your desires to volunteer and participate and just putting a little work into the involvement. Your ACFHA Board is working on the upcoming conference in Atlanta, GA. At anytime, you can contact me with questions or suggestions. You can also contact your Service Representative who also has an article in this newsletter. Get involved!

AIR FORCE SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE



James T. Fish, Lt Col, USAF, MSC, CHE, CFAAMA

Greetings from sunny New Mexico! First and foremost, let me thank each and everyone of you for your dedicated military service to the Air Force and our great nation. As you well know, this is a critical time in our nation's history. With tens of thousands of our military comrades in harms way in the fight against terrorism, your role as an Air Force healthcare professional has never been more important. Again, from the bottom of my heart, thank you for your continued service and sacrifice...you are all real American heroes.

Vital Link™ is now online! What a great communication tool...all you have to do is sign up for the colleges and special interest groups that interest you and you are hooked up. Not only can you locate AAMA members but you can ask questions or pose problems and any member that is signed up can respond. I see this as a real opportunity to tap into the wealth of knowledge, expertise, and experience of our AAMA membership. Another benefit for military members is that this connectivity moves with you. All you need to do is update your profile after your PCS and you're back in touch! Please take a moment today to sign up for Vital Link.

During my tenure as your Air Force representative, I've had the opportunity to personally speak to dozens of your colleagues and communicate via email with many more about membership in AAMA and ACFHA. One question that I often get when talking to Air Force folks considering AAMA membership is "What does AAMA and ACFHA offer me as a junior Air Force Health Services Administrator?" A full answer to this question would be much too long so I'll just address one reason here...one very important thing that AAMA offers to Air Force MSCs is the opportunity for board certification. Make no mistake, for an Air Force Medical Service Corps officer, this is an important credential. I hear many junior officers say that there is no need to be board certified until after promotion to Major because board certification is currently masked at the Major promotion board. But, did you know that board certification is not masked for the Professional Military Education (PME) board, which is held shortly after the promotion board? Board certification could be that one qualification that sets you from your peers for PME selection.

For those of you looking for more value in your AAMA and ACFHA membership, I would submit to you that the major thing that you can do to enhance your membership in AAMA is get involved! There are so many ways to get involved...from volunteering to serve on various committees, writing articles for college newsletters, presenting at the AAMA conference, or creating informative poster boards on healthcare topics. Serving the Academy is a great way to broaden and deepen your knowledge of this complex business of healthcare, both Federal and civilian. Your interactions with seasoned AAMA federal healthcare professionals like Y.C. Parris (VA), Col Pat Lewis (USAF), CAPT Pat Alford (USN), and LTC Scott Tanner (USA) will strengthen you both academically but practically as well. My advice to you is to get involved.

Finally, I'd like to ask you to spread the word to your Air Force colleagues about joining AAMA and ACFHA. I believe one of the biggest reasons people don't join AAMA is that they are not asked to!

I look forward to seeing each of you at the annual conference and communicating with you via Vital Link™. Take care and may God continue to richly bless you.

ARMY SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE



Clint W. Schreckhise, Maj, USA, CFAAMA

This is my first submission to the Newsletter as your new Army Representative and let me just say thank you for the opportunity to represent all of you. LTC Scott Tanner did a superb job the past two years and I will do everything I can to keep us moving in the same direction. In an effort to keep you informed of what AAMA and the ACFHA are doing, I will publish notes from each meeting and send them out via e-mail. To that end, I ask all of you to please keep your profiles updated and stay current with dues. Several persons still need to pay their annual dues and I ask you to take a look and ensure you are up to date. I will be sending notes to follow up with those who are delinquent. If you change your e-mail account, please update me directly so I can ensure you stay in the information loop.

As we get started in this New Year, I will continue to push membership as an important part of making the Army a more vocal participant in the larger AAMA organization and certainly within the ACFHA. Thanks to outstanding leadership by LTC Scott Tanner, and inspired efforts by several Army members, we have dramatically increased the representation of the Army within AAMA and the ACFHA. While current members realize how the AAMA and ACFHA can benefit us in our daily duties, we still have many more to enlighten. Please continue sharing the word as you interact with your military and civilian counterparts and offer them a chance to experience the organization first hand. AAMA Certifications are now recognized by the AMEDD and may be posted to your ORB and ERB to show professional competencies. This is just one more way to set yourself apart from your peers showing your dedication to your profession.

Last October we had a fantastic conference in Las Vegas. Maybe it was the location, but it was one of the larger Army turn outs I can remember in some time. Looking forward, I encourage all of you to plan on attending the meeting this year in Atlanta, GA. If you would like to actively participate either in the conference planning or in general, please let me know. Getting involved is the best way to get the most from your organization. If you have suggested speakers for the conference, please send me the information as we are attempting to finalize the invitees. The intent is to bring in topics relevant to all services and build upon the joint concept. With BRAC actions affecting most of us, we are looking forward to some insightful panel discussions that will demonstrate how the three services are working closely to structure the future of the Military Health System.

In closing let me say again, I am looking forward to another great year of growing Army membership. I encourage all of you who wish to be active participants to contact me and I will make sure you have an opportunity to serve on a committee and be a voice for action. Above all else, I want to thank everyone for their dedicated service to the nation. Each and every day as I walk the hallways of Brooke Army Medical

Center, I see the sacrifices being made by our Warriors. All of you are an integral part to maintaining the force, and some are forward deployed delivering care on the battlefield. Thank you for your service.

NAVY SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

Jeanmarie Patnaude-Jonston, CDR, MSC, USN, CFAAMA

Several of the goals I would like our Navy members to consider this year are: passing the AAMA credentials exam, working towards advancement within our Academy and recruiting additional members from Navy Healthcare. With our everyday busy lives, it is so easy to get distracted with work, family and other obligations we find ourselves involved with. Please consider doing something different this year by placing your professional advancement first. The purpose of this College is to promote the advancement of medical administration and to foster the professional well-being, needs and development of its members within its specialty of medical administration.

The second goal is getting the word out to seek advancement within our Academy. The process is very easy and the Academy and fellow members are standing by to assist you with this achievement. Please go to www.aameda.org for more detailed advancement criteria. If you are a Member, strive to advance to Fellow, if you have already advanced to Fellow, strive for Diplomate status. We had 21 members advance to Fellow during the AAMA November 05 meeting and 3 Fellows advance to Diplomate status. Let's get your names on these lists in 2006.

The final goal is to actively recruit new members to be part of this great Academy. We all need to be recognized for our skills, knowledge and professional accomplishments and this is your starting point. Help those other officers by explaining what this affiliation means to you. **Start spreading the word!!!!**

Professional affiliation denotes a commitment to lifelong learning. To be career enhancing, however, an officer should be an active, participating member who is seeking advancement within the affiliation. Get involved with **Your Academy NOW!!!**

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE



KIRSTEN WARWAR, CDR, USPHS, MHA, CAAMA, RD

I am a Commissioned Corps Officer of the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) assigned to the Division of Immigration Health Services (DIHS) in the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). I work as the administrator of an ambulatory care clinic that provides health screenings and necessary health care services to illegal aliens detained by the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). There are 14 ICE medical clinics similar to the one I am assigned which are managed and staffed by DIHS. Prior to this, I served 8 ½ years in the United States Air Force as a registered dietitian and healthcare administrator. I was recently appointed as the USPHS representative for the American College of Federal Healthcare Administrators (ACFHA). As such I am a voting member of the committee and participate in meetings held every other month.

I would like to provide you with a brief background of the USPHS. It has a unique and rich history. It was started in 1798 by passage of an act that provided for the care and relief of injured and sick merchant seamen. Today, the mission of the USPHS Commissioned Corps is to provide highly-trained and mobile health professionals who carry out programs to promote the health of the Nation, understand and prevent disease and injury, assure safe and effective drugs and medical devices, deliver health services to Federal beneficiaries, and furnish health expertise in time of war or other national or international emergencies. As one of the seven Uniformed Services of the United States, the USPHS Commissioned

Corps is a specialized career system designed to attract, develop, and retain health professionals who may be assigned to Federal, State or local agencies or international organizations to accomplish its mission.

Public Health Service officers are assigned to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, the Indian Health Service, the National Institutes of Health, and many others. As well, Public Health Service professionals are assigned to other Federal programs, including: Federal Bureau of Prisons, Environmental Protection Agency, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, US Coast Guard and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Lastly, LCDR Jean Pierre Debarros has now stepped up as the PHS Service Representative. It has been a pleasure being your Service Representative. Thank you for all your support.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

1. The Education, Nomination, Membership, Strategic Focus, and Communications Committees are looking for volunteers. If you are interested in being a member of any of these committees, please contact the appropriate committee chairman.

COMMIITEE

Education/Nomination

CHAIRMAN

Maj Jeff Henderson

jeff.henderson@patrick.af.mil

Membership

Maj Al Flowers

alfred.flowers@pentagon.af.mil

Strategic Focus

CDR Mark Posvistak

mark.posvistak@usmc.mil

Communications

LTJG Stefanie Wheelbarger

s.wheelbarger@nhtp.med.navy.mil

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Maj Jeff Henderson, USAF, MSC, CAAMA

You spoke, we listened! Thanks to all who provided outstanding feedback on the 2005 Federal Day Survey. We received some great ideas for this year's conference and they include: Homeland Defense, Base Realignment and Closure Commission and its relation to the Joint Command, and Joint Operations in the Theater. The afternoon breakout sessions will also be filled with interesting topics and dynamic speakers. If you have any further questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Maj Jeff Henderson, USAF, MSC, CAAMA

It's that time of year again to start searching for the brightest stars in the American College of Federal Healthcare Administration. There are two awards that help us separate the top leaders within our own organization. The Young Federal Healthcare Executive of the Year Award recognizes young leaders in the Federal healthcare system for outstanding contributions and achievements in healthcare management. The Levandowski Award was developed in honor of CAPT Levandowski for his significant leadership in expanding the Academy's Federal membership component and developing the framework for the Federal Council, now called the American College of Federal Healthcare Administrators Board. This award recognizes an American College of Federal Healthcare Administrator member for outstanding service. Award criteria and deadlines are due 01 June 2006, so get those pens ready!

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE



Maj Al Flowers, USAF, MSC

ACFHA's membership is still strong within AAMA. We comprise 32% of the overall membership and looking forward to increases in 2006! The AAMA Board named membership development and retention the #1 priority during an end of the year retreat. ACFHA members are key to a successful campaign so we encourage all members to be our advocates. The Membership Committee is launching a campaign to contact members who have not renewed their 2006 membership. AAMA Bylaws require those who are unpaid as of April 30 to be dropped. In addition, we will formally welcome new members and advocate recertification. Also, if you have any suggestions or comments, feel free to let me know.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE



LT Stefanie Wheelbarger, MSC, USN

Communication is a powerful tool to share information between our membership of all the military services! If you like to organize and increase communications within your organization, consider being a member of the ACFHA's Communications Committee. The Communications Committee is responsible for publishing quarterly ACFHA newsletters to enhance communication among our membership. We also seek out articles for both our quarterly newsletters and the AAMA's quarterly *Executive* publication. We welcome new members and any recommendations or suggestions.

2. If you would like to share an article with your fellow ACFHA members and have it published in the ACFHA quarterly newsletter, please contact LT Stefanie Wheelbarger at s.wheelbarger@nhtp.med.navy.mil.

AAMA NEWS

1. Plan now to attend [49th Annual AAMA Conference](#), scheduled for Wednesday, 1 November 2006 through Friday, 3 November 2006 at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia.
2. If you earned your CAAMA in 2003 or recredentialed in 2003, you must recredentialed in 2006. For our deployed members, the CAAMA Committee will allow you to submit a Request for Waiver to delay recredentialed. The waiver will allow you to keep your CAAMA designation until you are able to earn the points necessary to recredentialed. If you have questions about requesting a waiver, contact Vanessa Canterbury at (847)759-8601 or vanessa@aameda.org.
3. Set a goal to become a GAIN-1 Champion! Tell your colleagues about the benefits of being an AAMA member and earning the CAAMA credential. One benefit of becoming a GAIN-1 Champion is being eligible in receiving rewards, such as being entered in drawings for a complimentary AAMA conference registration, free 2007 membership dues, and academy gift certificates. Complete GAIN-1 details are located on the AAMA website.
4. Special Membership/Exam Combo Offer! The AAMA invites healthcare administration professionals to join the Academy and take the prestigious CAAMA exam for just \$325. This offer is available only to new members who join AAMA by 7 July 2006. It is the perfect opportunity to enhance your resume with AAMA membership, confirm your expertise by passing the CAAMA exam, and save \$120 at the same time.

5. To strengthen the AAMA website as provider of valuable member resources, an agreement has been signed with Mediwire Network to provide free syndicated professional medical content. This service is available at www.aameda.org (bottom right corner). Mediwire Network is a brand of Advanstar Communications (mediwirenetwork.com, advanstar.com). They are the second largest medical publisher in North America and a leading distributor of peer-reviewed clinical and business information reaching millions of healthcare professionals monthly. They publish 27 prestigious medical journals like *Contemporary Pediatrics*, *Contemporary ObGyn*, *Urology Times*, *Managed Healthcare Executive* and *Medical Economics*. Each journal is written in-house and is peer-reviewed, "balanced and unbiased." The "co-partnership" provides free dynamic web content compiled from their journals, refreshed with new articles every two weeks.

6. AAMA urges you to take advantage of [Vital Link™](#), the members-only website. You should have received your login information via e-mail. If the Academy does not have an e-mail address for you, the login information will be mailed to you. Vital Link™ features: Searchable online directory of AAMA members, with addresses and e-mail contact information, advanced search functionality, enabling identification of colleagues by name, company, title, state, specialty, etc. Sign up for the ACFHA listserve, available to allow you to freely communicate with fellow ACHFA members. You also have the ability to update your personal profile and/or block your information from being viewed. New features and functionality will continue to be added, making Vital Link™ a frequent stop on you web surfing agenda.

American College of Federal Healthcare Administrators

A specialty group of the American Academy of Medical Administrators

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