

CPAHIMSS Newsletter

FALL 2014

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Save the Date:

What: Workforce
Health IT
Development event

When: 8:30 a.m. to
3:30 p.m.

Where: Harrisburg
University of Science
and Technology

As the end of my term as chapter president draws nearer, I reflect on how our CPAHIMSS chapter has grown since its creation in the fall of 2010. The chapter was founded by a number of dedicated leaders committed to establishing a forum for collaboration, learning, and support. While the CPAHIMSS board and committee volunteers have grown, they remain committed to provide excellent service to our Central Pennsylvania membership and state legislators.

October 1 will also mark the end of Ron Cowan's board chapter leadership. Ron is our founding chapter

President and will end his two year Outgoing President term. We are grateful for Ron's leadership and experience that guided and supported the board and committee leadership of our maturing and vibrant chapter.

We will welcome our new third chapter President, Marie Roof as I assume the Outgoing President role. Marie is also one of our chapter founding leaders. We will also elect our next President-Elect and four new directors. The President-Elect will be selected among eligible board members and serve for two years until becoming our fourth chapter President. The four new directors will come from general membership and have at least one-year CPAHIMSS active membership.

While this is the busiest time in my career, it is also my most involved professionally. I admit that there is no way that I could keep up with changes and make strategic decisions if I were not actively trying to become informed and learn from industry thought leaders and colleagues. HIMSS involvement provides me these resources. I encourage you to consider a chapter leadership role for yourself personally and professionally as well as for other Central PA HIT professionals and our communities.

Submitted by Edith Dees



I like the old adage, if you have something that needs to be done, ask a busy person. There is no one in health care information technology that is not over their heads busy supporting an industry transformation.

Save the Date

Pennsylvania's health care system is becoming more technologically advanced and those providing care will require a skilled health IT workforce to support the implementation and use of electronic health records as well as to support health information exchange projects. The Central Pennsylvania HIMSS chapter will hold its first annual Student Workforce Health IT Development event on November 7th from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Harrisburg University of Science and Technology. The program will include presentations by national, state and

local leaders to help attendees understand the current state of health IT workforce issues and what is happening to support health IT workforce development. Please plan on attending to join the discussion on this very important topic. More information will be available at the CPA HIMSS website.

2014 PA HIMSS Health IT Advocacy Day

On May 7, 2014, a dozen HIMSS members representing all three Pennsylvania chapters met at the Capitol in Harrisburg to engage in meetings and dialog with State Senators, Representatives and their staff in the 2nd annual virtual PA HIMSS Health IT Advocacy Day (and 5th overall). The goal was to raise awareness among legislators of the importance of health IT, and to ask for their support for a series of policy priorities developed by HIMSS members from across the Commonwealth. Joe Miller, Advocacy Chair for Delaware Valley HIMSS, headed up the “Ask” Committee, which solicited and distilled input from PA HIMSS members to come up with the four (4) requests or “Asks” which were presented to Legislators and their staff. The “Asks” included: 1) Full funding for the PA eHealth Partnership Authority as requested in Governor Corbett’s Budget; 2) Improving the secure sharing of health information by aligning Pennsylvania with the HIPAA privacy standards of other states; 3) Improved transitions in care through reimbursement for in home remote monitoring for recently discharged patients from a facility; and 4) Continued support for training of the HIT workforce to improve effective HIT adoption.

At the conclusion of the legislative meetings HIMSS leaders convened in the Senate and House Chamber balconies to be recognized and to commemorate the resolutions passed by the Legislature designating Wednesday, May 7, 2014 as “Pennsylvania Health Care

Information Technology Awareness Day.” Immediately following ceremonies with the House and Senate, the statewide Advocacy Day webinar began with presentations by State Senators Randy Vulakovich and Scott Hutchinson, the past and current Chairs of the Senate Technology & Communications Committee. The webinar also featured a keynote by Pa eHealth Partnership Authority Executive Director, Alix Goss, and presentations by Tom Keefe and Julie Brown from HIMSS national, as well as a panel discussion regarding the legislative meetings themselves featuring Robert Sheesley of Western PA HIMSS, Dr. Tom Boyd of Delaware Valley HIMSS and John Kravitz from CPAHIMSS. Nearly 90 additional HIMSS members participated in the webinar from across PA by WebEx.

For this year’s event – and for the first time, PA HIMSS engaged the services of an event planner to support the work of the

committee. Lani Dixon of Beelievants, who has assisted Western PA HIMSS and the PA eHealth Partnership Authority prior, did an excellent job managing event logistics, and scheduling the legislative meetings. And finally, in part out of recognition for its excellent work in holding the first virtual HIMSS State Health IT Advocacy Day, the Central PA HIMSS chapter on August 7th was awarded the Advocate Level in Advocacy by HIMSS National. We thank HIMSS national for its continued support, and particularly want to extend our appreciation to Tom Keefe, who retired as HIMSS Director of State Government Affairs earlier this summer.

Submitted by Mark Stevens

