



Alabama HIMSS 98-99

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Winter Seminar: December 3, 1998

The Alabama HIMSS Winter Seminar has been scheduled for December 3, 1998 at the Sheraton Perimeter (I-459 and Hwy 280) in Birmingham. Program title is ***“The Future of Health Care- Y2K and Beyond. Are Our Systems Ready?”*** As the evolution of our Health Care Delivery system continues, the needs for the underlying Information Systems will continue to change. This seminar will focus on the anticipated future changes in Health Care and how the available Information Systems and vendors are positioned and/or will need to be positioned to support this unknown future.

Registration and continental breakfast are from 8:00 to 8:30, with the program beginning at 8:30 am. Speakers and their topics include the following:

- ◆ **Art Keegan**, Director of Strategic Planning for HBOC, *“The Future of Healthcare: Will Our Systems Support It?”*
- ◆ **Wiley Sloan**, of Shared Medical Systems, *“The Changing Look of Healthcare”*
- ◆ **John Brooke**, Director of Healthcare Strategy for PeopleSoft, *“Healthcare Business Intelligence”*
- ◆ **Del Goebel**, Healthcare Client Consultant, Hewlett Packard. *“Integrating Information Systems”*

Brenda McSheehan, *President, Alabama HIMSS*, and **Randy Hester** *President - Elect, Alabama HIMSS* will also present the Alabama HIMSS Status Report.

What's Inside . . .

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Officers (Continued)

President's Message

As the new president of Alabama HIMSS, I would like to welcome you to the chapter and introduce you to our first newsletter. Our field - health information and management systems - continues to evolve and provides many exciting opportunities and challenges. I believe that through a collaborative sharing of knowledge, Alabama HIMSS can help us transition to the new millennium.

One of the chapter's goals for the upcoming year is to increase the level of member involvement. There are several ways that members can participate:

- A) Alabama HIMSS newsletter - the newsletter's primary objective is to allow members to share information with others. The newsletter will be published twice per year and we will be soliciting your contributions such as articles, happenings, and job openings. Items should be forwarded to Debbie Flint at dflint@uabmc.edu. Debbie is from UAB Hospital and has agreed to be responsible for the newsletter for the coming year.
- B) Seminars - we are planning two seminars annually - one in the Fall and one in the Spring. We need volunteers to help secure informative speakers and assist in other seminar related activities such as registration.

If you would like to become involved, I can be reached at 256-864-4500 or via e-mail at brendam@is.hhsys.org.

Looking forward to an exciting year!!!

Brenda McSheehan

Members at Large

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Membership Information:

**Membership dues are for
July to June**
Membership \$35.00
**Student Membership
\$20.00**
**Corporate Membership
\$250.00**

Member's Column

We welcome articles submitted by our members. This newsletter's "Member's Column" comes from **Eddy Stephens**, Director of Information Systems at Mobile Infirmery Medical Center, Mobile, Alabama. If you have an article or viewpoint you would like to submit, please submit to Debbie Flint in a Word document at "dflint@uabmc.edu".

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How's Your Vision?

In the early days of my career, the traditional information systems professional expressed the attitude - I know what's best for my users. Through the years, as both the users of information and information providers have become more enlightened, this relationship has enjoyed a great spirit of true teamwork. This concept fostered a vision of what information technology could accomplish in the healthcare environment. Healthcare has seen many dynamic changes during the past several years. Information systems professionals are constantly called upon to do more with less. Days are filled to overflowing, stress levels are continually rising, and willingness to cooperate seems to be diminishing.

While dealing with change in the healthcare arena, information systems professionals may have lost their vision. Vision problems take on many forms. It could be that we are nearsighted, causing difficulty in projecting plans for the future because of concern for the present. In planning for the future farsightedness can be a problem - always talking about what is going to happen but not accomplishing anything today. Is our vision blurred making us appear unconcerned? Many people may only see issues from a narrow, inflexible view. These individuals are suffering from a malady known as tunnel vision. Finally, some people have totally lost their vision. They have closed their minds to opportunities, unable or unwilling to embrace new methods or ideas. As leaders in information technology, we need to constantly have our own eyes examined for the early stages of the above mentioned diseases. Our attitude should be that of George Bernard Shaw - "Some men see things as they are and say why? I dream things that never were and say why not?"

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