



Alabama HIMSS

ALABAMA CHAPTER / HEALTHCARE INFORMATION AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS SOCIETY



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I know what you're thinking. Probably something along the lines of "Gee, I didn't know there was an Alabama Chapter of HIMSS" or maybe "You mean, my dues don't just go into a black hole?" or perhaps even "Great! A chapter of HIMSS right here in my own state. I'd really like to volunteer some of my time with that organization!"

Okay, maybe the last statement was wishful thinking. Despite some turnover within the Alabama HIMSS Board membership in the past year, some planning activity has occurred. During its board retreat last April (see Alabama HIMSS Goals, 2002-2003, page 4), the HIMSS Board set a number of short-term and long-term goals. Increased communication with members was a recurrent theme among many of the goals. This newsletter represents a first step in the Alabama HIMSS Board's commitment to reconnect with our members.

Another communication opportunity comes December 5 at the Alabama HIMSS Winter Conference at the Mountain Brook Inn in Birmingham. Featured speakers at this event include an associate from Computer Associates (CA) addressing the state of healthcare security and a HIMSS Advocacy Committee member who will address HIMSS' participation on issues such as mandated electronic health records and mandatory reporting of medical errors. In addition to the traditional networking lunch, this season's conference will also offer breakout sessions on topics such as CPHIMS Certification, and a "best of" the recent I Love HIPAA meeting and others.

I would like to close with a reminder that your Alabama Chapter dues help drive and support our meetings and publications. We're very interested in

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...FROM THE PRESIDENT

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finding out what topics you would like to see featured at future meetings or in future publications. All contributions will be considered - so send those ideas to any of the HIMSS board by going to the Alabama HIMSS website at www.alabamahimss.org.

We look forward to hearing from you and helping make your local chapter of HIMSS a worthy one.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Dorsey
President

SAVE THE DATE!!

ALABAMA HIMSS WINTER CONFERENCE

December 5, 2002 , 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Mountain Brook Inn

Flyer to be e-mailed to all HIMSS Members

STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

HIMSS will sponsor the First Annual Student Symposium at the Annual Conference in San Diego. It is designed to introduce HIMSS programs and services to student members and should be a great place for students to network with potential mentors and employers, exchange career ideas, and sit in on a special career-oriented session. The Symposium will be held on Wednesday of the annual conference. For further information, e-mail Randy Hester at randy.hester@lawson.com.

THE SPOTLIGHT IS ON...

Rick Moore, AL HIMSS Student Liaison, who is one of five recipients of the 2002 HIMSS Foundation Scholarship. The award will be presented at a black tie event on Tuesday, February 11, during the annual HIMSS Conference in San Diego, California. Congratulations **Rick Moore** on receiving this prestigious award.

If you know of others whose accomplishments you'd like to spotlight in the AL HIMSS Newsletter, submit their names and an explanation of why you believe this person should be featured in the spotlight section. Please submit the information to adorsey@phoenixhealth.com



ADVOCACY AND YOU!

“The expertise and knowledge of healthcare information professionals should frame and lead healthcare legislation, regulations, policies, standards and practices”

HIMSS Strategic Plan 2003-2006

HIMSS advocacy efforts leader and direct healthcare issues and policy related to healthcare information and management systems professionals. Begun in January 2000, HIMSS advocacy initiatives now span the entire United States and include activities at both the federal and state levels of our government.

Under the leadership of Committee Chair Randy Thomas, the eleven members of the HIMSS Advocacy Committee work on multiple initiatives including:

- analyzing current legislation proposed by the U.S. Congress and regulations and policies proposed by the President and assessing its impact on our profession;
- crafting and recommending official Society positions on key legislative and policy issues;
- actively involving Society members through outreach to our Chapters and their leaders;
- educating members through educational sessions at our annual and summer conferences;

- publishing the Advocacy Dispatch – an indepth analysis of breaking developments in Congress, regulatory agencies, and select State initiatives
- authoring Journal of Health Information Management (JHIM) and HIMSS Newsletter articles
- leading the industry in five critical areas: Bar-coding, Computerized Physician Order Entry (CPOE), HIPAA, National Healthcare Information Infrastructure (NHII), and National Preparedness & Response
- framing debates on key topics such as:
 - Should the federal government mandate an electronic health record?
 - Should medical errors reporting be mandatory or voluntary?
 - Should the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) allowing medical information that is HIPAA compliant to be transmitted via the Internet?
- providing verbal and written testimony and research to key federal decision makers

The Advocacy Committee has already hosted speakers for the Southern California, New England, Central Florida and National Capitol Area Chapters. Is your chapter interested in hosting an advocacy program? If yes, please contact Larry Schoff, Advocacy Committee Chapter Outreach Subcommittee Chair at 1-616-459-8105 or lschoff@iwantdoyen.com



AL HIMSS GOALS

Conduct at least 2 all day educational seminars for professional growth of members – March/April and October/November.

- Promote as regional effort – invite National & chapter members from neighboring states – FL, GA, MS, TN
- Investigate reciprocal membership list exchange with GA
- Rotate location of seminars – possibly beach in Sept (avoid Aug/Oct)
- Thursday night happy hour
- Solicit student volunteers for assistance with seminar planning
- Offer CEUs to attendees
- Door prizes at conclusion of seminar (Ex: registration fee to National HIMSS)
- Solicit email addresses on registration forms
- Attendees to complete evaluation tool each meeting, including suggested topics for future seminars

Goal: Improve board member communication through bi-monthly board meetings.

- Meetings to be held on 2nd Tuesday of May, July, Sept, Nov, Jan, and March, beginning on May 14, 2002, from 4-5 pm.
- Standing agenda items to include:
 - Approval of minutes from previous meeting
 - Progress report from each member and committee chair
 - Status of upcoming seminar planning
 - Status of upcoming newsletter
 - Old business or outstanding issues
 - New business

Goal: Improve member communications through quarterly newsletters. Post newsletters on web site.

- Standardize template for printed newsletters and web newsletter.
- Include message from Board Member in each quarterly letter
- Include conference announcement advertisement in printed newsletter



AL HIMSS GOALS

- Actively solicit email addresses of members
- Each newsletter to contain 6 basic sections:
 1. Message from Board
 2. Application for membership
 3. Conferences
 - Planned conference announcement & registration form
 - Previous conference highlights
 4. Individual member, facility, or vendor spotlight (solicit member contributions)
 5. National HIMSS article
 6. Job opportunities
- Solicit vendor sponsors to print newsletter, while maintaining standard format and consistency
- Distribute via email & print

Goal: Improve/upgrade chapter website.

- Conduct member survey on web (alternatively via email)
- President's message
- Notify members of website – include URL on all member contacts
- Members only site
- Email pointing to newsletter on website as newsletters published
- Solicit sponsors for website – avoid vendor ad domination
- Solicit member contributions for highlighting members
- Increase links to other organizations: HFMA, AlaHA, AAHIM, ACHE, JCAHO, etc.

Goal: Increase membership and member participation. Measurement to be recommended by membership chair and committee.

- Increase student and faculty involvement
 - Student scholarships
 - Wave seminar registration fees for hrs volunteered
 - Sponsor National HIMSS attendance for hrs volunteered

AL HIMSS GOALS

- Increase corporate involvement – identify contacts at each healthcare vendor and hospital
 - Develop list of positions to target for contacts
- Effectively market benefits of AL HIMSS
 - Networking/contacts
 - Education – CEUs
 - Certification preparation
 - Information/experience sharing
- Develop member recognition program (create subwork group to further develop criteria)
 - Rewards
 - Outstanding professional
 - Outstanding student

JOIN AL HIMSS

Interested in joining HIMSS? All you need do is complete the membership application and submit your dues. Membership dues are \$110 for regular members, \$30.00 for Chapter Local Service Members and Full-time student members.

All memberships expire annually on June 30. Credit for unused months is applied to renewal the following year. Dues are non-refundable and non-transferable. When you apply for membership, be sure to select the local chapter with which you want to be affiliated. You can complete your application for membership in one of four ways:

1. On line at <https://www.himss.org/HTML/HIMSSMembershipApplication>;
2. From the above URL by downloading the PDF file;
3. By contacting the HIMSS Office at (312) 915-9215 ;
4. Or by requesting an application via e-mail at membership@himss.org.

REGISTER NOW!!

**AL HIMSS CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM
DECEMBER 5, 2002, MOUNTAIN BROOK INN
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA
10:00AM-2:00PM**

NAME:		TITLE:	
ORGANIZATION:		PHONE:	
ADDRESS:		E-MAIL:	
CITY/STATE:		ZIP:	
Registration Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Member Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Student Member <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member <input type="checkbox"/> Student Non-Member	\$75 \$25 \$100 \$40	Total Registrations: Member Regular Student Member Non-Member Student Non-Member	Amount Enclosed _____ _____ _____

**MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO: AL HIMSS
SEND YOUR CHECK TO: RANDY HESTER
ADDRESS: 1305 BIG COVE ROAD
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35801**