



Six Rivers CHAPTER CHATTER

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

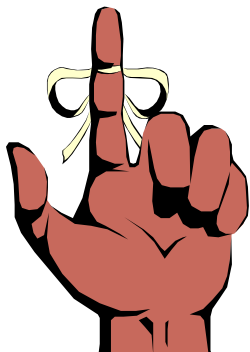
SPRING HAS SPRUNG!!

The winter is finally over and just as life renews itself during this time, it is our time to refresh too. Lab Week (April 21-17) was a great opportunity to celebrate and recall why we choose to do what we do! Whether you took the opportunity to celebrate with candy, food, parties or gifts, I hope everyone found some time to enjoy life!

Part of that renewal is also a rededication of our commitment to our profession. Now is the time for YOU to get more involved! We are looking now for candidates to run for 2 year terms as Board Members and President Elect. For only a few hours a week, you can be a part of our winning team. Why not consider joining the Board as we celebrate our accomplishments during the past year and anticipate all that we can do in the next?! We have completed our application for the 2002 Chapter of the Year Award (winner to be announced at the National CLMA convention at the end of June). We are hoping to be honored with that award this year, but even if we don't we are proud of our Six Rivers Chapter and all that we have done. You, too, can be a part of our leadership team!! Just call me at 513-584-1794 or email at skidmodb@healthall.com. We would love your help!

Don't forget about the National CLMA Conference and Exhibition in New Orleans in June! What a great opportunity to network with fellow laboratory leadership from CLMA as well as ASCP! There are also educational tracks sponsored by CAP and COLA. I guarantee you will return to your job re-energized! Register now and join in the fun!

Thank you for caring enough to be involved!
Dorothy Skidmore



Don't forget nominations for the Board for next year. Elections are in the fall. You can nominate yourself or another member. All are welcome to get involved with our profession!

**Six Rivers Chapter
Officers & Board Members**

PRESIDENT

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PRESIDENT ELECT

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COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Communication

Jenny Murray

Membership

Liz Maxwell

Education

Joyce Dicks

Healthcare Policy

Paul Labbe

Strategic Planning

Kathy Good (513) 872-6034
kgood@shrinenet.org

Visit our chapter web site for all
the latest info!

www.sixriversclma.org

Membership

A warm welcome to our newest members of the Six Rivers Chapter! They are:

Seth E. Bothwell Manager Diagnostic/Therapeutic Svcs.
Mercy Memorial Hospital

Edward J. Firgau, II Sr. Tech
Childrens Hospital Columbus

Sharon Kopcynski Patient Service Center Team Leader-
Compunet Clinical Laboratories

Wanita Ruppert Patient Service Center Team Leader
Compunet Clinical Laboratories

The entire Board and Membership would like to
welcome these new members.

The Six Rivers Chapter currently has 131 members. We have just finished a recent project in contacting membership to be sure all demographic information is current. We are updating the email address listing so that the newsletters can be sent via email vs. mail delivery wherever possible. If you have any changes, please let us know.

We are currently looking for nominations for those members interested in running for the Six Rivers Chapter Board. If anyone is interested in running or nominating another member, please send your responses to Liz Maxwell, maxwell902@aol.com or Dorothy Skidmore at skidmodb@healthall.com. Elections will be held this summer.

Just a reminder to remember to send in your renewal to CLMA and chapter dues if your expiration date is near. Every member is very important to the success of our chapter.

CHAPTER CHATTER- published quarterly, usually in February, May, August and November as an educational service to members. The deadline for material for publication is the 15th of the month preceding the month of issue. Articles are welcome!

Contact:

Barb Keehn, (937) 297-8303

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Committee Reports

Health Care Policy Committee Update

Much has been written recently about HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) and the changes that have taken place since the original guidelines have been proposed. HIPAA privacy compliance is still alive and well for medical practices, while discussions occur about providers obtaining signed consent forms from patients before using or disclosing health information for treatment and payment. The HIPAA privacy standards remain complicated regulations, and it will take a sustained health care team effort to achieve seamless compliance. National CLMA along with other professional organizations will continue to participate and have active dialogue with the regulators to ensure the ultimate goal of patient privacy is achieved without hindering the health care process. Let your voice be heard by contacting the HCP Committee through the web at www.clma.org or Katharine Ayres at kayres@clma.org

Legislative activity has been very active lately on HR 3391: Medicare Regulatory and Contracting Reform Act of 2001. Not only does this improve some reimbursement issues for the clinical laboratory, but also allows for integrating new technology in the clinical laboratory fee schedules.

On May 10th, there was an open door forum with CMS (Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services) in their Baltimore, MD office on ESRD and Clinical Laboratory issues from 1 - 2 pm and was available through conference call-in.

The Advanced Beneficiary Notice (ABN) continues to be a logistical challenge, with CMS reinforcing the need for the clinical laboratory to maintain the ABN on file for billing purposes, even though the ordering physician is obtaining the signed document.

The latest hot button is the proposed continuation of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) freeze on laboratory prices for Medicare services which was due to expire at the end of 2002, but is now suggested to continue for an additional three years! Again, our voices need to be heard at the federal level, either by telephone or mail/e-mail to your House Representatives!

The new www.sixriversclma.org web site, once re-activated will have a listing of all pertinent contact information as it relates to the fast changing health care policy process.

“Meeting the HIPAA Challenge”

On Tuesday June 18, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will be presenting a video entitled “Meeting the HIPAA Challenge: Implementing HIPAA Standards and the Administrative Simplification Compliance Act.” The video will air via satellite broadcast and simultaneous webcast, 2:00 – 3:30 PM, and will include opening remarks from the CMS Deputy Administrator, Ruben King-Shaw. The video will include:

- How to develop implementation plans for the extended compliance date of October 16, 2003
- How to request an extension to the compliance date

For more information and how to register, go to <http://hipaadvisory.com/news/index.htm>

"REACH FOR THE STARS"

If you missed the Ohio River Valley Chapters of CLMA/ Ohio River Valley AACC joint meeting in Indianapolis in March, you missed a great opportunity for continuing education and FUN! The conference committee assembled a constellation full of shining stars with sessions that included management, personal development, technical and AACC-focused issues. In addition we tried several new things this year. Pre-conference industry workshops were featured on Wednesday morning. A poster session was presented featuring four posters of exceptional quality. Wednesday evening the group enjoyed an opportunity to see the night sky of downtown Indy. Our trip to Jillian's proved to be lots of fun and an unusual networking event.



General Sessions and Breakouts



Sandy and her team assured smooth registration.

Dr. Humor gave us some great ideas

There was great vendor support and lots of door prizes



**DEARBORN COUNTY HOSPITAL
RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST/MEDICAL LAB TECHNICIAN
INTERNSHIP**

DEMOGRAPHICS AND SCOPE OF SERVICE

Dearborn County Hospital is a 144-bed hospital in Southeast Indiana on the 275 loop around Cincinnati. We are about 15 minutes from the Northern Kentucky / Greater Cincinnati Airport. It takes approximately thirty minutes by interstate to reach downtown Cincinnati. The hospital is organized as a county hospital and has no alliances with other hospitals. We manage a separate corporation of nine primary care physicians in five area offices.

DCH has one remote imaging center in Harrison Ohio. Outreach Services serve ten nursing homes and fourteen physician offices in seven counties of Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio.

THE NEED

Dearborn County must compete with the Cincinnati hospitals for trained technical personnel. The schools of Radiological Technology, Medical Laboratory Technician, and Medical Technology are inside or nearly inside the 275 beltway. Students often come from the city or near suburbs and are absorbed into the Cincinnati hospital system upon graduation.

OUR SOLUTION

Prior to implementing our program in 1999 we met with the high school principals and guidance counselors of area high schools to solicit their cooperation and to gauge their perception of the need for new technical students. At the same time we presented our proposed program to the Program Directors at Northern Kentucky University and Cincinnati State Technical College. We wanted to know about their expectations and entrance requirements for new students. Armed with this information and some personal contacts we sent the first letter to the homes of third year (Junior) students in August of 1999. The first letter was addressed to the students themselves and offered a four year-plus program to attend Northern Kentucky leading to ARRT registration and licensure as a Radiological Technologist. The students would work sixteen to twenty hours per week at a variety of hospital assignments beginning in the Spring term. Assignments included work in Housekeeping, Dietary, and clerical areas as well as Radiology. Emphasis would be on radiology duties. Summer employment continued the rotation but expanded to 20 to 40 hours per week. By the fall term of the senior year, students would work 16 to 20 hours per week with emphasis on patient care areas – weekends were required. At this time the student would be accepted to the Radiological Technologist program for the fall term at Northern Kentucky. Summer employment then became 30 to 40 hours per week with virtually all of the student's time spent in Radiology. This then lead to full time student status, DCH pays for all tuition and fees at NKU. Summer employment is provided, 30 to 40 hours per week after the first year of school. The student completes the program in the second year and begins full time employment at DCH with a two-year obligation.

THE SELECTION PROCESS

1. Letter to student, but addresses "Dear Parent" in September. The letter describes the program and offers employment at the hospital and tuition and fees to either the Radiological Technology or Medical Laboratory Technician program. An application is included with a detailed description of requirements. The application is returned through the guidance counselor by the end of October.
 2. The description of the program also offers further paid training in specialty imaging areas of CAT scan, MRI, Ultrasound, or Medical Technology upon completion of the internship program. (This is our Tuition Reimbursement Program available to all employees)
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3. Selection to be based on:

- Completion of application
- High School attendance record
- Grade Point Average (3.0 +)
- Curriculum (Science and Math)
- Successful completion or progress of Core 40 courses
- Commitment to successful completion of Core 40 and other recommended courses
- Faculty recommendations (2)
- Clear statement of education and career goals
- Employment/volunteer history
- Commitment to employment assignments at DCH including weekends
- Reliable transportation to DCH
- Parental commitment and support of student's participation

Students were interviewed with at least one parent.

OUTCOME

In 1999 we selected two students for a trial program based on the criteria listed above. One of the students decided that she did not want to pursue a career in health care and went toward a totally different career path. The second student will complete her studies at NKU this spring and begin work as a registered radiological technologist. In 2000 we expanded the program to include one medical laboratory technician and two radiological technologists. All three are in the program working in our hospital at this time. For 2001 the program further expanded to five students, two radiological technologists, one Medical Laboratory Technician, and two nursing prospects that will begin their duties this spring. Students are paid a minimal wage of \$6.00 during their internship. They are not eligible for part time benefits but receive annual merit adjustments. The Laboratory students are promoted when they reach co-op student status in the MLT program. This is somewhere around \$10.00 per hour.

Upcoming Meetings

CLMA-ASCP-CAP Annual Conference & Exhibition, June 26-30, 2002, New Orleans, LA

Six Rivers Chapter Fall Conference, Deer Creek, 10/10/2002

ASCP Workshops for Lab Professionals, Indianapolis, November 19-21, 2002

Ohio River Valley CLMA/ Ohio Valley AACC Spring Meeting, King's Island Conference Center, April 30-May 1, 2003.
