

# NORTHEAST

## NOTES

2002/2003 ISSUE FOUR

### Investing in the HFMA CHFP Certification Program

by Randy O'Donnell

How would you like to earn an additional ten, fifteen, or twenty thousand dollars annually for the rest of your career? Would you be willing to invest \$170 and as little as 36 hours of your time to achieve such a return? All this and more is possible through the HFMA certification process. Certification as a Certified Healthcare Financial Professional (CHFP) is achieved by completing one year of HFMA membership before passing two exams and then meeting the remaining certification requirements which are described below.

The certification exams are given on the Internet by each local HFMA chapter on scheduled dates. The exam fees are \$100 for the core exam and \$70 for each of the specialty exams. All exams are graded immediately upon completion of the exam even before the applicant leaves the site.

Certification requires the successful completion of the core exam and at least one of the four following specialty exams: Accounting and Finance, Financial Management of Physician Practices, Managed Care, and Patient Financial Services. The four hour core exam and one two-hour specialty exam must be passed within 24 months of each other to meet certification requirements without having to re-take an exam.

HFMA offers self study courses to assist in preparing for the exams. The courses “contain a series of guided readings” followed by essay questions. Local chapters frequently offer coaching or other

educational activities to assist members in their efforts to pass the exams. Our chapter offers scholarship monies to reduce the exam fees.

Applicants must also meet the following requirements to become certified: complete 60 college semester hours or earn 960 alternative education points, earn 40 Founders points over a maximum of three years with at least 20 points earned by participating in HFMA activities, provide favorable references from an officer of your chapter plus your employer, complete two years of experience in

(con't on page 4)

#### In This Issue...

President's Message .....	2
Mark Your Calendars .....	2
New Members .....	3
Founders Points Article .....	4
2002 Holiday Party & Pictures .....	5
Kudos .....	6
General Newsletter Information .....	7
Sponsors .....	8
Newsletter Contest .....	8





## President's Message

*from James E. Hutchinson*

### HFMA – PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

One of the main challenges of a member association is succession planning and ensuring the future of the organization by continuing to develop new leaders. The questions that we face at HFMA involve identifying and nurturing the next generation of financial professionals.

I didn't intend to specialize in healthcare when I first got out of college. It was decided for me when the best job I could find was in a hospital accounting department. In Northeast Ohio, it seems like every other person works in healthcare or a related field. That's where the opportunities were then — and still are to a great extent.

So what do we do to find and develop our leaders of the future? Our Chapter is working with universities to develop long-term relationships with professors and students. The Chapter sponsors and encourages members to take the HFMA certification examinations so members can demonstrate their knowledge and expertise to employers.

Our committee structure promotes involvement and leadership opportunities. Each of the committees has two co-chairs, allowing newer members to offer their fresh insights while retaining the experience of more senior members. Officer and board positions are also rotated, bringing new ideas to the association.

If you are a long time member of HFMA, I urge you to continue to stay involved. Your knowledge of the real world is invaluable for mentoring the next generation of leaders. For those of you new to HFMA, please take the opportunity to become involved. Your enthusiasm and curiosity is what is needed to change HFMA (and that real world) for the better.

## Mark Your Calendars

Listed below are the dates, events, and times for the 2002/2003 program year. Be sure to mark your calendars for these events!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
March 27, 2003	Current Healthcare Issues	Hilton South, Independence
April 29, 2003	Post-Acute Care	Hilton South, Independence
May 27, 2003	Medical Group Practice	Hilton South, Independence
June 2003	Past Presidents and Volunteer Appreciation	TBD
July 2003	Program - Topic TBD	TBD

## HFMA Northeast Ohio Welcomes Its New Members

**David P. Acciarri**  
Cleveland Clinic Health System

**Tanya L. Bosko**  
Akron City Health System

**Tina M. Buckenmeyer**  
Ernst & Young

**Christopher Cusimano, JD**  
Ernst & Young, LLP

**Jaymie Davis**  
Fenner Consulting

**Karen DePaul**  
Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield

**Martha S. Dougherty**  
University Hospitals Faculty Services

**Karen Fifer Ferry**  
QualChoice Health Plan

**Patricia J. Gheen**  
VA Medical Center

**Betti Harper**  
Cuyahoga Falls General Hospital

**James Hayes**  
Safamore Informatics Inc

**Paul M. Helmick**  
Dephinitive Systems, Inc

**William D. Jones**  
Humility of Mary Health Partners

**Alfred M. Kelly**  
Cleveland Clinic Foundation

**Michael D. Leslein**  
Laurel Lake Retirement Community

**Laura F. Manno**  
Akron General Medical Center

**Michael J. Minnaugh**  
Cleveland Clinic Foundation

**Patrick J. Morris**  
University Hospitals Health Systems

**Jeff A. Omslaer**  
Lake Hospital System

**Robert G. Pelosi**  
Aultman Hospital

**Debra L. Plant**  
Akron General Medical Center

**Matthew T. Rish**  
UHHS/CSAHS Cuyahoga Inc

**Michael E. Sabelli**  
Michael E. Sabelli & Associates

**Betty Ruth Shear**  
St John West Shore Hospital

**Thomas M. Skinner**  
Allen Medical Center

**Deborah Sparrow**  
The MetroHealth System

**Matthew A. Stewart**  
Aultman Health Foundation

**David J. Studt**  
Cuyahoga Falls General Hospital

**Georgianna Umbel**  
Lake Hospital System

**Richard G. Waldron**  
Medical Mutual of Ohio

**Seth M. Wolf**  
Roth, Rolf & Goffman Co., LPA

## Founders Merit Awards

by Cyndee Shirk

The Founders Merit Awards were officially launched in July 1960 with the creation of the Follmer Bronze Award. This award is named after William G. Follmer, who is credited with the creation for the American Association of Hospital Accountants (AAHA) now called HFMA.

The second stage within the Founders Awards, the Reeves Silver Award, became effective in June 1967. Robert H. Reeves, an organizing member of the AAHA, was elected president of AAHA in 1956 and was instrumental in creating the structure of AAHA.

The Muncie Gold Award, the third and final stage of the Founders Merit Awards, was established in June 1969. This award honors Frederick T. Muncie, an organizing member of the AAHA, and the first president of the association (1947-1949). Muncie also assisted in the organization of the first AAHA chapter (First Illinois). Only individuals who have received both the Follmer Award and the Reeves Award are eligible for the Muncie Award.

The Founders Medal of Honor was added in 1986 and is conferred by nomination of the Chapter Board of Directors. This prestigious award recog-

nizes an individual who has been actively involved in HFMA for at least three years after earning the Muncie Gold Award, has provided significant service at the chapter, regional and/or national level in at least two of those years, and remains a member in good standing. A chapter may nominate members for this award at any time during the year.

HFMA encourages continuous active participation at the local and national levels. Therefore, the point system and award levels have been established to promote participation. The point system permits 40 points per fiscal year to be allotted to the Founders Merit Award Series. Chapter members are responsible for informing their chapter founders' contact of their attendance at meetings by signing in before you participate. This ensures that all accumulated points are reported accurately to HFMA National. Go to the National website at [www.hfma.org](http://www.hfma.org) to view your Founders Points. Log on at the "Members" tab using your email address and your last name. For a more detailed description of the point system, visit the HFMA National website at: [www.hfma.org/members](http://www.hfma.org/members).

### **Investing in the HFMA CHFP Certification Process...** (cont'd from front page)

healthcare or financial management; and complete two years of HFMA membership.

The HFMA certification site estimates that certification is worth an additional \$21,000 per year for a CFO and \$17,000 annually for a Patient Service Director. The site also advises that an experienced healthcare manager may need as little as 20 hours

to prepare for the core exam and 16 hours for each specialty exam. For additional details on HFMA certification, please visit the HFMA site at [www.hfma.org](http://www.hfma.org) under "careers" and "certification" or contact Eric Pohjala, chairperson of the chapter's Certification Review Committee, at [epohjala@medinahospital.org](mailto:epohjala@medinahospital.org).

## HFMA Northeast Ohio Hosts A Grand Holiday Party and Awards Ceremony

by Lori Mitchell

HFMA Northeast Ohio hosted a very unique December meeting and holiday awards presentation on December 12, 2002. The event was held at the Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens in Akron, Ohio and consisted of dinner, an engaging motivational speaker, the annual awards presentation and a mansion tour.

Stan Hywet Hall (Old English for “Stone Quarry”) was built between 1912 and 1915 by early industrialist and Goodyear co-founder F.A. Seiberling and his wife, Gertrude. The mansion was decorated for the holidays as it looked in 1923. One of the Seiberlings’ daughters was married during the 1923 holiday season and the

decorations included remembrances of the wedding. Dinner was scrumptious and was followed by the annual awards presentation where members are recognized for their time and talents that they give to HFMA Northeast Ohio. A big thank you to the Networking Committee for organizing such a great event. Special thanks goes to Mary Jayne Reedy and Unicare Corporation for the beautiful invitations and to Steve Rybka and United Collections who provided the wonderful harp music for the special evening. Following is a list of award recipients. Congratulations and thank you to all!

**Medal of Honor:**

William Keckan  
Kathy Much

**Muncie Gold:**

Anthea Daniels  
Michael Szubski  
Richard Wisniewski

**Reeves Silver:**

Annette Emery  
Dennis Jancsy  
Allen R. Tracy  
Michael Vehovec  
Sandra Wolfskill  
Maureen Wood

**Follmer Bronze:**

John Beirne  
Anthony Granito  
Karen Joyce  
Richard Robinson

**CHFP Certification:**

Ms. Cindy Dormo



## Kudos...

Kudos and congratulations goes out to **Robert Matitia**, Senior Manager of Financial Reporting at University Hospitals Health System. Robert passed both the Accounting and Finance and Core HFMA Certification Exams. He is now a member of the Certification Review Committee and is earning points towards achieving Fellowship Status. The current Chapter scholarship fund helped Robert finance his exam fee.

Kudos also goes to **Laurie Hammer-Rausser** who has accepted the position of Client Service Manager with JP Recovery Services. Laurie was formerly a

manager with St. Vincent/St. John Westshore in their PFS Department.

Have you accepted a new position, published an article or received an award? Let your colleagues know what you're doing! Send YOUR news by email, phone, fax or letter to [lori.mitchell@eclipsys.com](mailto:lori.mitchell@eclipsys.com), phone (440) 285-2565 or fax (440) 285-3113. Mail address is Lori Mitchell, Eclipsys Corporation, 12070 Country Oaks Trail, Munson, OH 44024. Please include your name, title, employer and phone or email address. Remember KUDOS is YOUR news!

## Holiday Party Pictures... (cont'd from page 5)



**HFMA  
Northeast Ohio**

**Chapter Officers 2002-2003**

**President**  
James E. Hutchinson

**President-Elect**  
David T. Kilmer

**Vice President**  
Barry L. Franklin

**Secretary**  
Frank M. Klaus

**Treasurer**  
Susan R. Flaherty

**Chapter Coordinator**  
Kathleen A. Much

**Board of Directors  
2001-2002**

**Chairperson**  
Richard J. Fox

William J. Bogdan  
Christopher Milligan

Lori A. Mitchell

Michael A. Scocos

Suzanne Marie Tschetter

Maureen A. Wood

**Visit HFMA National at:**

[www.hfma.org](http://www.hfma.org)

**Visit HFMA Northeast Ohio at:**

[www.neohfma.org](http://www.neohfma.org)

**HFMA Northeast Ohio  
Newsletter Committee 2002-2003**

**Co-Chairpersons**

Lori Mitchell

Cyndee Shirk

Susan Dwyer

Gina Dyke

Robert Kaliszewski

Brian Nestor

Randy O'Donnell

Kim Pytlak

Joe Rigler

Betty Royce

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**PUBLICATION SCHEDULE 2002-2003**

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline for Articles</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>
One	August 6, 2002	September 7, 2002
Two	October 11, 2002	November 15, 2002
Three	November 27, 2002	December 23, 2002
Four	December 20, 2002	February 1, 2003
Five	March 28, 2003	April 30, 2003

*Northeast Notes* strongly encourages submission of material for publication. Articles should be typewritten and double spaced, and submitted to the editor by the deadlines listed above. The editor reserves the right to edit materials and accept or reject contributions whether solicited or not. HFMA Founders points are granted for any articles published in *Northeast Notes*.

## The Number Formation Puzzle Contest

Enter our Number Formation Puzzle Contest! One lucky entrant will receive a \$25 American Express Gift Certificate. By placing an operator between the numbers in each group, turn these three groups of numbers into three separate equations whose solution is the same. You can use addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and parenthesis. Can you figure out what the equations would be? All correct entries will be included in a drawing. Good luck!!!!

**Group 1: 24, 19, 15**

**Group 2: 30, 36, 11**

**Group 3: 20, 22, 36**

### *Congratulations...*

to Brad Barlow from MedCentral Health System for correctly answering the contest that was featured in 2002/2003 Issue Three of Northeast Notes. Brad received a \$25 American Express Gift Certificate. Keep sending in those entries! You could be our next lucky winner!

**Example:**

Group 1: 17, 12, 25

Group 2: 25, 23, 12

Group 3: 28, 22, 15

**Solution:**

Group 1:  $17 + 12 - 25 = 4$

Group 2:  $(25 + 23) / 12 = 4$

Group 3:  $28 / (22 - 15) = 4$

Send or fax your answer to:  
 HFMA Northeast Notes, Lori Mitchell, Eclipsys Corp.  
 12070 Country Oaks Trail, Munson, OH 44024  
 or Fax: (440) 285-3113



## Chapter Sponsors

### *Platinum Level*

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