

# Local Notes

Central New York HFMA Chapter

## Corporate Sponsors

### **GOLD**

- ❖ **Fust Charles Chambers LLP**
- ❖ **KeyBank**

### **SILVER**

- ❖ **The Bonadio Group**
- ❖ **First Niagara Risk Management, Inc.**
- ❖ **Franciscan Management Services, Inc.**
- ❖ **Kopp Billing Agency, Inc.**
- ❖ **Laboratory Alliance of CNY, LLC**
- ❖ **M&T Bank**

### **BRONZE**

- ❖ **Alliance Bank, N.A.**
- ❖ **Bailey, Haskell & LaLonde**
- ❖ **Blumberg Ribner, Inc.**
- ❖ **Costello, Cooney & Fearon, PLLC**
- ❖ **Provider Consulting Solutions, Inc.**

To get your company name listed here  
Contact John O'Connor at  
[John.OConnor@sjhsyr.org](mailto:John.OConnor@sjhsyr.org)

## Get Involved!

We have several committees that are looking for people to volunteer for. If it sounds like something you might be interested in, feel free to contact the chairperson. We try to keep the commitment small since everyone is very busy. Most of these committees only require 1-2 hours a month of your time.

**Membership:** This committee tries to get more people like you to join our organization. They also are concerned with issuing the annual membership directory – coming to a mailbox near you – and welcoming new members. If you would like more information, please contact Melissa Phelps at [mphelps@fcc-cpa.com](mailto:mphelps@fcc-cpa.com).

**Newsletter:** You are looking at it! This publication gets issued four times a year. If you think that you would like to be creative for a few hours a quarter, contact Michele Mecomonaco at [Michele.mecomonaco@sjhsyr.org](mailto:Michele.mecomonaco@sjhsyr.org).

**Sponsorship:** Our organization runs on support from the sponsors that you see listed on this page. This committee plans and coordinates our annual sponsorship process. The goal is to enhance our chapter so that we can continue to bring you great social and educational events. If you would like more information on joining this team, please contact John O'Connor at [John.OConnor@sjhsyr.org](mailto:John.OConnor@sjhsyr.org).

There are many other great committees that are strictly run on a volunteer basis and we would love your help. You can learn more about them from our website at [www.cnyhfma.org](http://www.cnyhfma.org) or look for their descriptions in the upcoming Membership Directory that should be coming to you soon!

## *A Word from our Chapter President*

Dear Fellow Members,

Once again, I want to thank all of my Board Members, Committee members and each of you who volunteer your time to make our Chapter a successful one. Without the time and dedication each of you provide, we could not offer our quality education and the fun, social events we have come to enjoy over the years. As always, our primary goal is to provide excellent education sessions that are practical, timely and relevant.

We just completed our Region II event. This was, once again, highly successful. Thank you to all who participated and attended to make this happen. This took place on October 7-9, 2009 at the Turning Stone Casino in Verona, NY. Our National Chairman, Catherine A. Jacobson, FHFMA, CPA opened our sessions. She spoke about the ways in which, as her theme for this year has been, we can make it count in times of change. She spoke about the Forces of Change, the Impact of change on providers and how HFMA helps us deal with these changes as well as being a source of change in and of itself by participating in some of the government regulatory issues, writing white papers, having councils that meet with our officials, etc. She spoke of how we need to cultivate a culture of innovation and change, invest wisely for greater efficiencies and improved outcomes and much more.

For our featured speakers we had two members from an organization called the “Afterburners”. This is a group of trained fighter pilots who have gotten together and put their learned ‘mission principles’ into a form in which any ‘mission’ (any type of facility/business) can use to accomplish their goals and be successful. There is a strategy involved in which they call “Flawless Execution” (Plan, Brief, Execute, Debrief and Win), which if followed, will result in a ‘completed and successful mission’. Among the many relevant sessions in the Region II were: Fiscal Year 2010 IPPS Update, Achieving Physician Integration, Macs versus Racs, Managing CMI Begins in the Emergency Department, Patient Access and effective Cash Flow, and Medicaid Update and Reform information. The total CPE credits received, if you attended all your sessions, was 11.0. This is a great way to invest in your profession as well as receiving your credits to maintain your professional license or your Fellow status in HFMA, etc.

I want to reiterate that while attending any of the educational sessions, whether the chapter’s day or half day sessions or the Region II or even ANI, each of these events present a wonderful opportunity for networking in our profession. In our current times of cutting back, shrinking staff etc., professional contacts are so important to create and foster to help each other with issues in our facilities.

On another note, the chapter surveys were sent out to chapter members on October 21<sup>st</sup> from National. I am sure they have sent a reminder and probably will once again. This information is very important to the operations of each chapter and the results are built into our scorecard, how we are doing as a chapter. So, please, if you have not completed this, take the time to do so as soon as you are able. If you have not received one, please contact Chapter Relations at National and they can get you one. This survey is only sent out every two years, so it is very important to see what you, our valued membership, have to say. Are you receiving what you expect from your membership? If not, how can we improve to ensure that we do meet your expectations?

As always, thank you for the opportunity to serve you as President of our chapter. Let’s continue to strive for being the best we can be.



Linda O'Donnell  
President, CNY Chapter of HFMA

## In the news...

Used with permission from HFMA News; for more news, visit [www.hfma.org/hfmanews](http://www.hfma.org/hfmanews).

### Survey Finds Growing Consumer Concerns About Healthcare Affordability

A monthly consumer confidence survey conducted by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation found that 33.4 percent of respondents are worried about losing their health insurance at some point in the next 12 months, up from 29.0 percent in August. When the survey began in April, 21.6 percent of respondents reported worries about losing insurance. Other [survey highlights](#) include the following:

- More than three-fourths of respondents (76.1 percent) believe healthcare reform will improve their personal finances. Additionally, 62.2 percent believe that reform will improve the country's finances.
- More than half of respondents (53.2 percent) are worried that they will not be able to pay for their future healthcare needs in the event of a serious illness. And nearly half (48.2 percent) are worried that they will not be able to afford all of the routine healthcare services they need.
- More than two-thirds (67.4 percent) of respondents believe that access to health care for the nation will improve or stay the same under healthcare reform. Additionally three-fourths (74.5 percent) believe that their personal access to care will improve or stay the same.



The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Care Consumer Confidence Index is a monthly survey that evaluates consumer confidence in American health care. The RWJF Index is created from data collected by the Surveys of Consumers, a monthly survey of 500 households conducted by the Survey Research Center at the University of Michigan. Analysis of the data is provided by the University of Minnesota's State Health Access Data Assistance Center.

### House Reform Package Includes Public Option, Broad Medicaid Expansion



House speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) today unveiled an \$894 billion reform bill that would provide insurance to up to 36 million people by expanding Medicaid and offering subsidies to moderate-income Americans to purchase insurance privately or through a new public plan option.

As proposed, reimbursement rates in the public plan would be negotiated between providers and federal health officials; they would not be based on Medicare rates.

The bill would expand Medicaid eligibility levels to 150 percent of the

federal poverty level for all adults, a higher level than in earlier drafts of the legislation.

The bill would impose a new income surtax on individuals earning more than \$500,000 and couples earning more than \$1 million. In this respect, it differs from the measure under development by Senate majority leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.), which would impose a tax on high-cost insurance policies in lieu of a personal income surtax.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, the House bill would reduce future federal deficits by about \$30 million over the next 10 years.

### CMS Publishes Medicare Premiums, Deductibles, and Coinsurance for CY10

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced the inpatient hospital deductible and the hospital and extended care services coinsurance amounts for services furnished in CY10 under Medicare Part A, effective Jan. 1, 2010.



The CY10 inpatient hospital deductible will be \$1,100. The daily coinsurance amounts for CY10 will be: (a) \$275 for the 61st through 90th day of hospitalization in a benefit period; (b) \$550 for lifetime reserve days; and (c) \$137.50 for the 21st through 100th day of extended care services in a skilled nursing facility in a benefit period.

CMS also announced the standard monthly Part B premium rate of \$110.50 for CY10 and the annual deductible amount of \$155.00 for CY10. The standard premium rate of \$110.50 for next year reflects an increase of \$14.10 over the CY09 rate of \$96.40.

Read the CMS notices about Medicare [Part A](#) and [Part B](#) in the Federal Register.

---

# Education and Events

Mark Your Calendars...

**ICD-10 Readiness, Tuesday November 17<sup>th</sup>, 8-12:30 pm**

**Loretto Health and Rehabilitation Center, Auditorium**

**700 E. Brighton Ave.,**

**Syracuse, NY 13205**

**Free for Members! Contact [KarenCarter@LACNY.com](mailto:KarenCarter@LACNY.com) to register.**

# Welcome to the Chapter!

Anne-Marie Kohler  
Controller  
Laboratory Alliance of CNY

Susan Truglio  
Finance Director  
North Country Children's Clinic

Craig Shaffer  
Vice President  
Commerce Bank

Elise Gonzales

