



November 2005



A Newsletter for the South Florida Chapter of HIMSS Membership November 2005 Newsletter

First Statewide HIMSS Meeting – A Success!!!

September 21-23 – Palm Beach Garden, Florida was the place to be. HIMSS Florida chapters partnered with the Florida chapter of HFMA to host the first joint Statewide meeting. The HIMSS track, sponsored by ClearCube Inc, included ten exciting presentations 48% of the total programming. The HIMSS track was well attended by HFMA and HIMSS members.

The HIMSS chapters contributed and worked very hard to insure that the presentations were timely and presented by well qualified speakers. For your convenience we have posted some of the presentations on our website www.sflhimss.

This meeting was such a success that the Board has already begun planning next year’s meeting. Stay tuned for upcoming announcements.

Our First *Gold* Sponsor



AAJ Technologies
Business Solutions through Technology

AAJ Technologies holds a prestigious position within this Chapter as its only Gold sponsor.

Sponsors



Chapter Standards - Annual Report

The Board had its annual planning meeting and completed the self-assessment as required by HIMSS. Our chapter has made significant improvements during the past year. We have increased membership, improved financial statements and improved the quality and depth of our educational programs.

- The chapter has remained fiscally sound. Our budget numbers were met and the chapter is financially stable.
- Meeting attendance has increased by 50%. High quality, relevant programs, coupled with a change in venues for the education events has had a significant impact on program attendance. Our program venues were expanded and included locations in the three major counties of South Florida, Miami Dade, Broward and Palm Beach.
- The chapter won 3rd place in the first national chapter membership drive! The trophy was presented during the annual chapter leadership symposium in Orlando
- The chapter coordinated the first state-wide HIMSS meeting (September 21-23, 2005). We offered 12 sessions for a total of 13 credit hours of high quality timely topics. Our first state wide meeting was very well received and we have already begun planning next years meeting.
- The chapter restructured its sponsorship program to include tiered sponsorship opportunities.

Call for Board Nominations - Next year many of our board member terms will expire. We will need to determine who wishes to remain on the board and begin recruiting new board members.

Calendar of Events

RHIO Teleconferences Offer Education at Your Desk

Find out more about regional health information organizations – or RHIOs – at the remaining two teleconferences offered by HIMSS and the Scottsdale Institute. Participants will receive an email with the teleconference phone number the day before the conference with links to associated documents. Admission is \$75 for HIMSS members and \$95 for non-members. The teleconferences have been approved by HIMSS for 1.2 CPHIMS and CHS/CHPS contact hours, retroactive to 1/1/04. Contact [Diane Rifkin](#) or call 1.952.545.5880 for more information. [Register](#) online. Registration closes 24 hours before the session begins.

Each session is scheduled for 1-2:30 p.m. CDT.

Nov. 9

VistA : Past, Present and VistA-Office EHR Future

Don Meehan, Project Manager
DSS Inc.

2006 Annual HIMSS Conference and Exhibit

February 12 – 16 2006

San Diego, California

Go to www.HIMSS.org for details

Make Plans to Attend HIMSS 2006 - Registration Open

Be part of the 2006 Annual HIMSS Conference & Exhibition, scheduled for Feb. 12-16 in San Diego, Calif., for the latest industry intelligence and solutions. The conference offers more than 300 educational sessions, an exhibit of 700+ leading health IT vendors, continuing education credit and certification opportunities.

[Registration](#) is now open. [Early bird registration rates](#) are available through Dec. 5.

[Hotel room reservations](#) should be made early and can be confirmed *prior to* registration through Ambassadors, HIMSS' official housing and travel bureau. Reserve your hotel room online or call 877.517.3038, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m., EST.

[The HIMSS Web site](#) also offers current details about HIMSS 2006 that include:

- Views from the top presentations
- Pre-conference seminars

- Exhibit floor plan
- Exhibitor list
- Interoperability showcases on exhibit floor
- Networking opportunities with 20,000+ Health IT professionals

Call for Sponsorship Opportunities

We are now accepting applications for interested sponsors for the 2005/2006 Chapter year. Sponsoring the South Florida Chapter of HIMSS will give your organization exposure to our entire membership and prospective membership base through acknowledgment in our Newsletter, chair communications and our chapter web site. Our membership includes healthcare information technology executives and leaders, management engineers, healthcare consultants, vendors and students.

The South Florida Chapter membership serves over 20 counties located in the southern sections of the state of Florida, Puerto Rico, the Caribbean and South America!!! Your valuable contribution and sponsorship will underwrite the cost of chapter educational event, facilities, rental of AV equipment and refreshments for the chapter membership.

Interested organizations should contact either Guillermo Moreno at GMoreno@cerner.com or Joe Wagner at JWagner@nbhd.org to obtain information about sponsorship levels.

Learn More About HIMSS Member Advancement

HIMSS strongly emphasizes and encourages professional development and contributions to the healthcare industry for its members. As such, national members have the opportunity to be recognized for their dedication to the Society and the industry by applying for senior member or fellow status. HIMSS national members are chosen for advancement after meeting several criteria based on professional capability, experience, leadership and service to their profession. To view current HIMSS fellows, visit the [HIMSS Web site](#). Individuals who have advanced to senior member or fellow status are leaders within the Society, implying not only recognition for past contributions, but also, the expectation of continuing participation and contributions to HIMSS and the healthcare community. Read more information on [HIMSS member advancement](#) and/or contact, [Erin Thornburg](#), member advancement coordinator.

Call For Award Nominations

*Chapter Leader of the Year
Distinguished Fellows Service
Outstanding SIG Member*

HIMSS is currently seeking nominations for the Chapter Leader of the Year, Distinguished Fellows Service, and Outstanding SIG Member Awards – three awards that honor the dedication of the Society's volunteers.

The **Chapter Leader of the Year Award** recognizes an individual who demonstrates significant leadership, extraordinary contributions to HIMSS chapters, the Society and a commitment to the health IT industry.

The **Distinguished Fellows Service Award** is presented to a fellow HIMSS member(s) who, in the judgment of the HIMSS fellows, has made significant, commendable and long-standing contributions to the Society.

The **Outstanding SIG Member Award** is presented to a member who has made significant and commendable contributions to a HIMSS Special Interest Group (SIG).

Nominations must be submitted by Nov. 15. [Nomination requirements and details](#) on other awards can be found on the HIMSS Web site. Contact [HIMSS](#) via mail or at 312.915.9276

State Legislators Scheduled For HIMSS 2006

Up to 15 state elected leaders from around the United States will join HIMSS at the 2006 Annual HIMSS Conference & Exhibition in San Diego, Calif. Working in collaboration with the National Conference of State Legislatures, HIMSS will host these officials in San Diego so they see first-hand the challenges and opportunities currently available in the transformation underway in healthcare. Local volunteer members of the 42 HIMSS chapters will be matched with legislators to attend educational and roundtable sessions, tour the exhibit floor, and discuss local issues involving health IT back home. Known as Project HITCh (for Health Information Technology Champions), this new effort brings together HIMSS members and elected officials to move forward the transformation of healthcare.

Senators Clinton/Obama Introduce Patient Safety Legislation

Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-IL) and Barack Obama (D-IL) have announced that they would introduce legislation called the National Medical Error Disclosure and Compensation Act (MEDiC) of 2005 that takes a novel approach to improving patient safety and the quality of health care while protecting patients' rights, reducing medical errors and lowering malpractice costs. The act will encourage physicians, hospitals and health systems to adopt an innovative model that provides liability protections for physicians who disclose medical errors to patients and offer to enter into negotiations for fair compensation. The National MEDiC program will build on current efforts underway at the local level by encouraging adoption of this model across the country and providing grant money and technical assistance for doctors, hospitals, and health systems to help them implement the program.

Proposed Bill Mandates EHR For Federal Health Program

Representative Jon Porter (R-NV), Chair of the House Government Reform Committee's Federal Workforce and Agency Organization Subcommittee, announced last week that he plans to introduce legislation to mandate the creation of an electronic health record (EHR) for every person covered by the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program. According to Chairman Porter, if this legislation is passed, the FEHB program would become "the largest [health information technology] demonstration project in the country." The program covers about 4 million current and retired federal employees. The bill will be called the Federal Family Health I.T. Act and will provide for reductions in liability insurance premiums for physicians who use health IT systems. Subcommittee General Counsel, Chad Bungard, recently addressed the HIMSS Government Relations Roundtable on key aspects of this new legislation.

Contact HIMSS Vice President of Government Relations [Dave Roberts](#) with questions on either pieces of legislation.

SFHIMSS Newsletter – Accepting Advertisements and Job Postings

Our news format is open to include your advertisements. The introductory cost is \$25 for a quarter page ad per issue. Our newsletter is published 4 times per year. Please submit your ads and all inquiries to Newsletter Editor, rsimpson-steele@nbhd.org

Update Your HIMSS Membership Information

Make sure your contact information is up-to-date. Login at http://www.himss.org/asp/member_login.asp and make changes. Or email your information to membership@himss.org. A HIMSS username and password are required for login. The username is usually your first initial and last name, and password is usually your HIMSS membership ID number.