



AFFILIATE OF



The President's Corner

Greetings!

It is with great pleasure I announce the election of **Patti Williams, PHR, of Brown Lumber** and **Karen Schultz, SPHR, of Distribution Solutions (DSI)** as the President and Vice President for 2004-06, and the appointment of **Carol Kasper, of NMC** to the position of Secretary for 2004-05! **Marsha Wheaton, of Northwestern Bank** will continue to serve the second year of her term as Treasurer.

Four years ago, we changed our bylaws to include staggered two-year terms for the four elected positions. While this represents a large commitment from our volunteer leaders, many of you have commented that this has made a significant contribution to the improved quality of the organization. We have also received recognition by the National Society for our increased quality.

For the first time in TAHRA's 27-year history, we have been awarded the **Superior Merit Award**. This pursuit began under Bill Hendry's leadership, when the groundwork for this accomplishment began, by utilizing the Chapter Achievement Plan (CAP). 2000 was the first year the CAP was submitted, and in four short years we have achieved this high honor. This is largely due to the increased involvement of our volunteer leaders.

Some of our accomplishments:

- Development of our Website (Brenda Ransom)
- Faster approval process for membership, and an increase in membership (Karyn Oncu, Bill Hendry, Marsha Wheaton, Brenda Ransom)
- Diversity Programming (Jennifer Hull, SPHR)
- Quality Programming that has led to an Increase in attendance at regular meetings (Carol Kasper, Patti Williams, PHR, Marilyn Pecott)
- Increased involvement with School to Work Initiatives (Karen Schultz, SPHR, Lori Kerlin)
- Increased attendance of local College Students (Bill Hendry, SPHR, Amy Lein, PHR)
- Improved visibility in the community (Laura Mitchell, Bill Hendry, SPHR, Carol Kasper)
- Creation of our Website www.tahratc.org (Brenda Ransom)
- Balanced Budget (Marsha Wheaton, Kate Greene, SPHR)
- Increased legislative involvement (Chris Davis)

It has been a great honor to serve as your President these last two years. Thank you for this terrific opportunity.

Warm regards,

Cutting Through the Marketing Haze and Agent Jargon

June's TAHRA Program

By Jennifer Hull

In June, TAHRA will be presenting a unique opportunity for employers to get the **straight scoop** from health care insurance providers and administrators on the products they offer – and what products might be best for your organization and save you money!

Often times it is frustrating because “you don't know what you don't know” since our knowledge of insurance products is often filtered through a broker or agent. For instance, “What is the difference between PPOM and a PPO?” “Does Priority Health have any other offerings other than a HMO?” “Is there a network of docs that rivals Blue Cross'?” “Can a small company of 50 have a self-insured program?”

At the June meeting, we will have representatives from Blue Cross, ASR, Priority Health and PPOM talking about each of their organizations, what type of products they offer, and what make each distinctive from the others. They will discuss how their programs work and what type of companies should be considering each of the different product lines.

The format for the meeting will be small-group round table discussions with the health insurance suppliers changing tables at scheduled intervals. This will give everyone an opportunity to meet all of the providers, hear about their different offerings, and have any questions you might have answered. The goal of the program is to give each of us a toolbox full of facts so that we can make informed purchasing decisions.

In addition, we have asked a provider of Health Care Spending Accounts to also be part of the discussions to learn more about this product and how it might work with each of our schedules of benefits.

So, even though the weather in June is full of sun and summer fun, put June 8th on your calendar as a “must attend.” In addition, this might be a great meeting to bring those persons who help in the healthcare purchasing process so that your entire team is informed.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
www.tahratc.org

*It's not the load that
brings you down, it's the
way you carry it.*

School to Work News

Karen Schultz, School to Work Coordinator

Thank you to all of our Mock Interview participants at East and West Junior High. This has been a fantastic program, which TAHRA members look forward to participating in, as well as the Mock Interview coordinators and students being very grateful for our participation.

Impacting our students this year were:

EJH

Karyn Oncu

Patti Williams

Bill Hendry

WJH

Jane Cavender

Chris Davis

Brenda Ransom

Jane Cavender

Laura Mitchell

Patti Williams

Cristal Guinan

Lori Kerlin

Lynn Hagen

Karen Schultz

Barb Howard

Casey Fisher

“There is nothing wrong with nothing to say, as long as you don’t say it out loud.”

Some great Comments shared by the students we interviewed!

“I think this is great to do...it helps you think outside the box.”

Very intense...seems like the real thing, even the smell!”

“She was very positive and cheerful when I walked over, and that gave me a major boost of confidence.”

“This experience helped me to know more about how interviews work and made me feel more comfortable about my next interview.”

“He let me know that my leadership qualities were important.”

“He made me feel confident about what I was saying.”

“He said I had a good chance off getting hired. I was surprised at how down to earth the interviewers are, I did not feel on the spot.”

Junior Achievement

The following TAHRA members presented the Junior Achievement program to students in Traverse City Schools.

Sandy Robertson, Janet Yankee, Barb Howard

This is such a great opportunity for students to make strong school to work connections.

We look forward to having more of you consider these and other school to work opportunities next year!

TAHRA

TAHRA 2003-2004 Leadership Board

President	Kate Greene, SPHR
Vice President	Bill Hendry, SPHR
Treasurer	Marsha Wheaton
Secretary	Brenda Ransom
Programming V.P.	Patti Williams, PHR Carol Kasper
Membership V.P.	Karen Oncu, PHR
Foundation Chair	Amy Lein, PHR
HRIC Chair	Open
Legislative Chair	Chris Davis
Student Chapter Chair	Open
School-to-Work Chair	Karen Schultz
Diversity Chair	Jennifer Hull
Marketing Chair	Laura Mitchell

June 8th TAHRA Program

Straightscoop – from health care providers and administrators

Hosted by:

BCBS, ASR, PPOM, Priority Health, Corporate
Benefit Strategies

Waterfront Inn Conference Center

11:45 – 12:00 Registration

12:00 Lunch begins

12:20 - 12:45 Business Meeting

12:45 – 2:00 Program

RSVP to Carol Kasper at ckasper@nmc.edu or
(231) 995-1362 no later than 6/3/04
Guests welcome with a \$30 fee

Newsletter Articles

The TAHRA Newsletter is a bi-monthly publication. Members interested in submitting articles for the newsletter or for press releases should contact Laura Mitchell at litchell@waynewire.com. Deadlines for submission are the 8th day of the month. TAHRA encourages its members to submit articles, information, or successes they've had that they feel others may find interesting. TAHRA reserves the right to alter submissions for space purposes. If you would like to be removed from the newsletter mailing list, please email a reply letting us know.

The May/June 2004 is the last newsletter for this season. We will resume again in September/October 2004.

This is the last program for the summer – see you next fall!

Welcome New TAHRA Spring Members

Anita Moreno
Eagle Picher Automotive

Nancy Bonczyk
Eagle Picher Automotive

Al Muma
Little River Casino Resort

Lynn Hagan
Progressive Personnel Services

Barbara Turner
Physicians MSO

Patrick Elshaw
Fawcett/Dopke Agency

