



WSAHQ

Washington State Association for Healthcare Quality

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2005

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Total WSAHQ Members
118
As of November 2004

Encourage your
Colleagues to Join at
www.wsahq.org

President's Message

By: Patricia Terry
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The Washington State Association for Healthcare Quality (WSAHQ) is the professional organization of choice for healthcare professionals who devote themselves to quality healthcare in our state. Our membership draws from a number of disciplines, nurses, medical record professionals, information technology specialists and government/regulatory compliance experts, to name a few. Some of our members work in quality improvement departments, others specialize in utilization review and case management and there are those who work on a broader scale in population management and provide oversight for statewide programs. This diverse group has one thing in common. At some time in their personal history as a healthcare professional, they made a decision to devote their time and talents to the discipline of quality improvement. WSAHQ exists to provide education and support to those who have made that decision.

As President of the 2005 Board I would like to begin this New Year by thanking the outgoing members of the 2004 Board: Karen Hackett – Treasurer, Bonnie Suminski – Secretary, Nadine Wiswell – Treasurer-Elect, Marsha Prescott – Eastern WA Liaison, and Linda Reeder – Past President. Their many hours of hard work are greatly appreciated and their dedication and humor will be missed.

The returning members of the 2005 Board are Julie Hamilton – Past President, Martin Benning – Communication Liaison, Rosa Johnson – Education Chair and yours truly as President. We are very happy to welcome the new members of the board, Heather Zuzel – President-Elect, Jill Wright – Secretary, Jerilyn Anderson – Education Chair-Elect, Sharon Brooks - Treasurer and Robin Cook – Treasurer-Elect.

In the year ahead, the 2005 Board will work toward maintaining the successes of the previous year:

- WSAHQ had a 25% increase in membership in 2004;
- WSAHQ has restructured the education committee that will provide more continuity from one year to the next;
- WSAHQ was the lead state in the development of the Western States Quality Alliance. We are very proud of this accomplishment and have received recognition from the National Association for Healthcare Quality (NAHQ).

New Projects:

- The 2004 Board proposed the establishment of scholarships for our members that will reimburse their costs for the CPHQ examination. These costs go up every year and there are employers who do not reimburse their employees for this. Our goal is to grant 5 scholarships in 2005 that will be paid for through a variety of fund-raising activities. The 2005 Board will establish the criteria for eligibility;
- We are planning on changes to the WSAHQ website that will make it more user-friendly and visually interesting, stay tuned for more details;



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- WSAHQ will join forces with the Oregon Association for Healthcare Quality by co-hosting a spring education session. Discussions are already in progress;
- We will continue to look for ways to enhance our members' experience by seeking feedback throughout the year and incorporating this information in planning all WSAHQ activities.

It's an exciting year ahead for WSAHQ and I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve the healthcare quality community as President of this wonderful organization.

Patricia Terry BSN, RN, CPHQ

Interview with Patricia Terry, WSAHQ President 2005

By: Julie Hamilton

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Describe yourself briefly including current work/school, hobbies, etc.

Tricia is a Registered Nurse who specialized in critical care nursing. After 14 years at the bedside, Tricia transitioned to a regulatory compliance job, working for the County of Los Angeles as a Medicare Long Term Care inspector for about four years. A native Oregonian, her goal was to return to the Pacific Northwest. She moved to Portland, OR in 1996 and on to Seattle in the spring of 2002 where she where she worked for Community Health Plan of Washington (CHPW).

Tricia started graduate school at Seattle University in the spring of 2003, initially as a part-time student and now attends school full-time. She is pursuing a Master's in Public Administration, which is primarily for individuals interested in working for the government or in the private sector where it is important to have a deep understanding of the way government works. Since leaving the hospital, much of Tricia's work has been on behalf of underserved populations, people who are often victims of shortsighted budget decisions of the lawmakers who control their fate. Tricia's goal for this degree is to position herself at the front end of policy decisions (perhaps as a policy analyst/advisor). Tricia feels that her real-life perspective will be an asset to those in positions of power. She states that this has been an especially interesting year to be in this program due to both the national and state elections.

Tricia has been married to husband Mike for 10 years and has two stepchildren (Shannon & Bridget) who are both studying in Europe right now. Shannon is in England working on a dual program in Psychology & Legal Studies. Bridget is studying for an MBA and has just relocated to Vienna, Austria for an internship with the U.S. State Department. Tricia has three cats she adores, loves music, and singing.

What interested you in becoming a Board member?

Tricia's initial interest in the organization came from wanting to serve as a delegate/alternate for WSAHQ at the annual NAHQ conference. She was part of a corporate membership through CHPW. She was contacted by the WSAHQ Board in September 2003 during the election process and asked if she would consider running for a Board position. Since she had recently moved to Washington, she thought it would be a good way to meet new people. She initially thought about running for Secretary. However since there was a need for someone to run for President-Elect, she decided to throw her hat into the ring.

What are your future ideas for the organization?

Tricia has many ideas about ways to grow the organization and make it beneficial to our membership and our State. Here are just a few:



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- Establish working partnerships with other WA State organizations. She would like the to Board to explore the idea of joint memberships between comparable organizations so that people do not have to choose which organization they want to join.
 - Looking at different kinds of memberships such as a lifetime membership and a student membership level. WSAHQ currently has 1 year, 2 year, and corporate membership levels. The student membership could be important in grooming the next generation of quality professionals e.g. by partnering with schools of nursing.
 - Using the website to do online surveys of the members.
 - Working with the Board to complete a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) and use this information as the basis for the organization's strategic decisions in the year ahead.

Tricia is a very creative and energetic individual. She brings a lot of enthusiasm to the Board and will accomplish great things over the upcoming year. Thanks for taking the time to learn about our new WSAHQ President. If you would like to ask her any questions or make any suggestions about the organization, her email address is pterry_cphq@yahoo.com.

WSAHQ Upcoming Events

Compiled by: Martin Benning
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The Education Committee is meeting on January 27 to solidify the educational activities for this year. The dates and locations will be published after that time. Keep checking www.wsahq.org for updates.

Career Opportunities

Check out our website for current career opportunities www.wsahq.org. Click on the [Directory](#) link to navigate to the appropriate page.

If you have events, news or other content that members may find useful, please email them to:
newsletter@wsahq.org