



WSAHQ

Washington State Association for Healthcare Quality

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - MAY - JUNE 2005

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Total WSAHQ Members
101
As of April 2005

Encourage your
Colleagues to Join and
Renew Membership at
www.wsahq.org

President's Message

By: Patricia Terry, BSN, RN, CPHQ
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Greetings from the President

Some Thoughts about Membership

The paradigm of "joining" is changing, a fact that concerns all membership-based organizations. As employers struggle to satisfy mandates of "doing more with less", staff often find themselves coming to work early, staying late or bringing their work home. Many feel that there is not enough time in the day to engage with family, participate in a hobby, or even get a good night's sleep. So one has to wonder, is it unrealistic to expect over-committed professionals to carve out the time and money it takes to support their professional associations?

Before this question can be answered, other questions come to mind. What is the meaning of membership? Is there any reward to steadfast involvement? Does it really matter?

In the months ahead, the 2005 WSAHQ Board will be tackling a number of strategic issues that will have a direct impact on our members. We will be making major revisions to the website, we will seek ways to strengthen our relationships with other healthcare quality organizations and we will engage in a process that will lead to the restructuring of board positions and term lengths.

- Will it take time away from our personal lives? Sure.
- Is it all fun and games? No.
- Will it be easy? I wish!
- Then why bother?

The answer lies in the literal meaning of membership. Synonyms for membership include *link, relationship, attachment, and connection*. Interesting that as job demands grow more intense and as personal time is less available, what often suffers is the quality and quantity of our *relationships*. There are fewer opportunities to *link* with like-minded individuals and it is more difficult to make *connections* with others who can give a voice to issues that matter most in professional life. Of equal interest is the fact that becoming and sustaining memberships in WSAHQ and NAHQ can be the source of each of these experiences. The word "membership" itself is a noun. But I submit that is it also a verb. In order for membership to bring its greatest reward, action is required. Is there any reward to steadfast/active involvement? Does it really matter? **ABSOLUTELY!** Stay tuned ...there are many opportunities for steadfast, active and meaningful membership ahead.

Patricia Terry BSN, RN, CPHQ



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Getting to Know WSAHQ's 2005 Communications Chair

An Interview with Martin Benning

By: Julie Hamilton

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Martin volunteered to serve as the WSAHQ Communications Liaison beginning in August 2004. His first proposal was to publish monthly newsletters to our membership in order to increase visibility of the organization and to assist in keeping our members up to date and engaged. He has also helped with putting together brochures for our educational programs. We are grateful to have him participating this year as a Board member as this position in the organization was very much needed. I will highlight below a few details about Martin's life. Enjoy.

Current Position

Martin works as the Quality & Compliance Manager at Seattle Surgery Center (SSC) in downtown Seattle. The center is located across the street from Swedish Hospital. The SSC has 132 medical staff members and 70 employees. The SSC performs approximately 8,000 cases per year, mostly in the areas of ophthalmology and orthopaedics. Martin has been at the SSC for almost four and a half years where he started as a medical staff credentialing coordinator. Martin's current scope of responsibilities is vast including oversight of medical staff credentialing, quality improvement, risk management, human resources, compliance & ethics, safety, accreditation, in-service and training, and operations management.

Career goals

Martin has a Bachelor's degree from the University of Washington in Sociology with a focus in law and social policy and a minor in Society and Justice. He plans to complete the Executive Masters of Health Administration (MHA) program at UW and become a Diplomat in the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). He is interested in continuing to focus on the areas of operations, quality improvement and compliance in the oncology specialty.

Hobbies

Martin started an organization (7 Summits Cancer Climb) with a few friends in the past year. This was started through the interests of Martin and several friends to climb the tallest mountain on each of the seven continents in an effort to raise awareness and money and for cancer. The purpose of this organization is to promote survivorship and advocate wellness for post-leukemia patients. They are in the process of obtaining a 501c3 to make it a nonprofit organization. They have received sponsorship and support from The North Face and AIM companies as well as several smaller donations from physician and nurse colleagues. Martin and his team will leave to climb Denali (Mt. McKinley) on June 5th. At 20,320 Denali is the highest peak in North America.

Additional hobbies include rock climbing, ice climbing, downhill mountain climbing, snowboarding and wakeboarding.

Board membership – Communications Liaison

When asked why Martin was interested in becoming a Board member, he noted that WSAHQ is a good organization and it's worthwhile to be involved. He feels that the organization compliments his career goals.

Focus areas for the future of WSAHQ

Visibility – one of the main reasons for doing the newsletter monthly is for increasing visibility. Hopefully this will help the organization expand and will assist in making healthcare better in the area.

Thanks Martin for taking the time to tell us about yourself. We appreciate your time and energy spent assisting the Board in meeting our goals this past year. If you have any questions for Martin, please feel free to contact him at martin.benning@seattlesurgerycenter.com.



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From the National Association



- **Come celebrate NAHQ's 30th Anniversary during the Annual Education Conference in New Orleans, September 17-20!** "Quality and All That Jazz" is the theme, with opportunities to earn more than 15 CE credits. [[Go to the conference information page](#)]
- **Grants are now available from the Healthcare Quality Foundation.** Don't miss these opportunities to nominate yourself or a colleague. **There is one new grant this year!** **May 27** is the deadline for the HQF Certification Grant! [[learn more about the grant and its application deadlines](#)]
- **Celebrating quality year-round.** Are you preparing for National Healthcare Quality Week, which is October 16-22, 2005, or just looking to recognize your "Stars" in Quality? [Click here](#) to share your story. It is never too early to celebrate quality in healthcare.
- **Latest news from the National Quality Forum!** Heidi Benson, NAHQ's liaison to the NQF, has just posted a report of projects. Your comments are also needed for several initiatives! [[go to NAHQ Plus](#)]
- **Check out the new and improved CPHQ website.** The Healthcare Quality and Certification Board recently remodeled the www.cphq.org website. The new site is more comprehensive and easier to navigate.

WSAHQ Upcoming Events

Compiled By: Rosa Johnson
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Please visit www.wsahq.org for more information on these events.

- June 23rd & 24th: CPQH Certification Preparation
- September 29th 4-6PM: Malcolm Baldrige quality awards: Introduction to the Criteria and Process
- November 9th 4-6PM: Reports from the NAHQ annual meeting

Thanks so much!
Rosa

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:
martin.benning@seattlesurgerycenter.com