

ANNUAL MEETING 2008

I want to begin by saying, **IT WAS GREAT to see everyone again, and those of you that could not make it to the meeting, we missed you!** We had over 202 in attendance and that did not include all the family members that joined us for the meeting.

One of the benefits of HFMA Alabama is the networking opportunity it gives us. Networking began with our first activity, an opening reception on the deck by the beach. While the adults enjoyed the reception, mingled with old friends, and met new ones, we offered a new event for the children, "Kids Night Out". It was a success for everyone. Hopefully, it will be repeated next year, and it has been requested enough to make that a GREAT possibility.

Alabama HFMA Chapter President Vicki Parks opened the meeting by using our theme for this year, "**Making Connections**". We had the opportunity to meet each of the new chapter members, and recognize old members based on the number of years they had been participating in the chapter. Some had been a part of this organization for over 25 years. We were able to make a connection with each of them.

Our opening speaker, Dr. Steve Bedwell, kept our attention with his amazing presentation, "**Flex Your Perspective Power and Supercharge Your Success**". I am still wondering how the \$100 bill appeared to be burned, then later appeared inside a lemon. Dr Steve's presentation set the pace for the days ahead.

We had 3 days of speakers who shared the latest in the hospital world as it relates to the financial aspects and things to come. The Forum breakfasts gave us an opportunity to hear speakers that were specific to our areas: CFO, Compliance and Patient Financial Services. Many thanks to everyone that spoke at the conference! The education we received from the sessions was priceless.

During the week, we also made it personal by getting to know the families of our members. The Sand Castle building contest had over 50 children attending, and, as in the past, the children had been planning all year for the event. Golf was back by popular demand and we had 48 participants. We had a great time on closing night with dinner and music on the deck, a beach party for all to join, and SMORES on the beach with a bonfire. To end the evening we enjoyed 15 minutes of amazing fireworks. The jet plane formation display that flew over was rumored to have been sponsored by HFMA (but that was just a rumor, our budget would not allow). We considered it an added blessing for a nice evening.

Martha Ann Hill kept our attention closing morning with her presentation on interpersonal relationships. She sent us off in a great mood.

I want to say "**THANK YOU**" to everyone that helped in making this year's annual meeting another successful conference: volunteers, exhibitors, special sponsors, speakers, members, and all who attended. Without everyone contributing, a conference like this could not happen. I appreciate each of you!

We look forward to seeing you during the year at other events. If you are not involved in HFMA, I encourage you to think about a way to get involved. Start now making plans for June 2009 at Destin. I promise you will have a good time and the opportunity to "**Make a Connection**"

Linda Maddox, Vice President
Alabama Chapter, HFMA