



A Note from the Editor

Well here it is 2010, the beginning of another decade. In the past few months, we've celebrated Thanksgiving with lots of food, we've celebrated Christmas, with lots of food, we celebrated New Years with lots of food, we celebrated a National Football victory (well maybe some of you didn't), but I bet you had food, and then we've celebrated (well maybe not celebrated) some of the coldest weather in years right here in Alabama – and I BET you ate good ole fattening “comfort foods” like chili, and stews.

As we begin a new year of worrying about what in the world is going to happen to our world of healthcare, I can't help but think of the devastation I've seen in Haiti on the TV stations and in the newspapers. Thousands of people missing, thousands known dead, and thousands homeless, sick, injured, hungry, scared, and feeling helpless and hopeless. I just “thought” we had our fair share of problems here in our country. I'm not sure any of our issues can measure up to what's happening in Haiti today. And what does this have to do with us as HFMA members?

Well my first wish is that we could take all of our members and go help those folks. But I know, that is not possible. But I do encourage each of you to do what you can, even if it is just to think about those folks often when you want to complain about your bad day. Just as those folks may be fearful of the future, and their next steps - let's think about what we can do for ourselves, our hospitals, companies, and our HFMA chapter. Engage!!!! Make it Count!!!! In 2010, begin again (or begin anew). This year will be hard for many of us in healthcare – it's hard to even think about an annual budget, and probably impossible to think about a 3 – 5 year strategic plan. Where will Healthcare Reform take us? I'm sure there will be times, we will feel so overwhelmed, maybe even almost stupid, because we can't get our hands around how this will affect our bottom lines and what changes will be expected of us to do our jobs.

Things are much easier to tackle as a group – bad news is always easier to shoulder when someone shares with you. . .so let 2010 be the year YOU and your staff become really INVOLVED in your Alabama HFMA Chapter. All of us are in this together, and just as in past years, we will survive these turbulent times. HFMA is the place to go for up-to-date information relative to Healthcare, not just here in Alabama, but across our nation. Step up to the plate this year, write an article, or become a speaker and share your knowledge, your experiences/victories at your facilities, your expertise, or just your good old fashioned hard work to keep our chapter among the tops in the US.



Libby Bailey, CPA, FHFMA

If you're working hard for your local chapter – thanks thanks thanks. If you are fearful that you have nothing to offer – well fear no more. . . there is always something that needs to be done. Get in touch with one of our chapter's officers or committee chairs and let them know 2010 is going to be your year to step forward. If you're bashful and don't wanna work in front of folks, maybe writing is your thing, I HOPE SO!!!!!! Send me an article, or send me the name of someone that you think has some good info that needs to be shared.

We look forward to seeing and hearing more of you in 2010. Healthcare Reform will have nothing on us, if we'll just continue to make what we do count. . .continue to work hard, continue to share with each other, and continue to focus on the ideals we have established for ourselves.

Don't forget – everyone who writes an article for HFMA before the annual meeting, will be in a drawing for a cash prize – and I KNOW YOU COULD USE A LITTLE CASH.

Have a great 2010.

**- Libby Bailey, CPA, FHFMA
Newsletter Editor
Callahan Eye Foundation Hospital**