

Spring Conference 2015

Ryan Reiff, CHFP

There were clues to be found everywhere in Scottsdale at the spring conference from April 21st-24th. The theme of the conference was Solutions to the Mystery of Healthcare Finance and the presenters provided attendees with plenty of information to help solve the case. Things kicked off early this year with a separate accounting and auditing update on Tuesday. Attendees heard from representatives of CPA firms on 501r, revenue recognition, cost report and accounting pronouncement updates. In the afternoon, the group brushed up on their ethics standards with some help of a presenter provided by the Arizona Society of CPA's.

Tim Blanchard must have been taking some pointers this fall from Joe Theismann as Tim won two out of three flag prizes and helped his group shoot a 60 in Wednesday morning's golf outing. Jason Metcalf and Pam Miller led non-golfers in revenue cycle 101 and roundtable sessions back at the Hilton Scottsdale Resort.

The general session speakers led attendees through a variety of healthcare topics on everything from the rising obesity rates over the last thirty years in both Arizona and American to communication gaps between men and women. Along the way we also heard about national healthcare trends from Brandi Greenberg of The Advisory Board and our incoming national HFMA president Melinda Hancock. AHCCCS Director Tom Betlach is always a crowd favorite and he came through yet again by delivering the state of Arizona's Medicaid program in an informative and understandable manner. Barb Fanning, director of government relations with AzHHA, helped bridge the gap between state and national perspectives.

The breakout sessions included a roundtable format based on previous conference feedback. Kurt Lovelless, Jason Metcalf and Josh Adams led attendees in a sharing of ideas surrounding physician finances, referral and authorization processing and telemedicine. The singing historian, Marshall Trimble, provided Thursday's after-lunch entertainment. From the invention of Levi's to the story of Kokopelli's, Marshall and his guitar told the tales of how Arizona came to be.

The search for clues didn't end with healthcare. Thursday evening's entertainment was a murder mystery dinner. Everyone had a chance to help solve the mystery of which of our members killed the Godfather and his daughter Tootsie. A great time was had by all as we watched our colleagues become thespians for a night.

With a few mysteries still unsolved, attendance at the Fall Conference on September 23rd -25th in Tucson will be crucial to the continued effort of solving the case of healthcare finance!

Ryan Reiff, CHFP
Vice President and Program Chair
AzHFMA