

Hello Arizona Chapter,

Well, the biggest news is ICD-10 went live on October 1. This event has been compared with Y2K. Everyone knew it was coming and, hopefully, took the necessary steps to make the transition as smooth as possible. Aside from ICD-10, this chapter year is shaping up to be an exciting one.



In August, we had our HFMA Region 10 Conference in beautiful Colorado Springs. We had excellent speakers, interesting topics, and a country western theme night complete with a band and a cowboy chow buffet set against the picturesque backdrop of the Rocky Mountains. On September 3, we had Senator Jeff Flake speak to us about the direction and the challenges the U.S. Senate is facing regarding Healthcare and the Affordable Care Act. Additionally, Senator Flake told us a little about himself and his adventures as a survivalist. On September 23 - 25, we had our annual Fall Conference. For those who were not able to attend, the conference was held at the El Conquistador Hotel in Tucson. Our Keynote speaker was Amy Van Dyken, winner of 6 gold medals in swimming. Amy gave an amazing and inspirational presentation. She detailed her struggles to become the first female to win four gold medals in the history of the Olympics and how four years later, she won two more. She went on to describe how a freak ATV accident in Show Low, Arizona, ended her swimming career and left her a paraplegic. Yet despite that, she has an incredible sprit and a determination to overcome all obstacles. She received one of the longest standing ovations I have ever seen at a conference. The motivation didn't stop there. Through humor and insight, Jeff Johnson once again taught us how to "Be Incredible". And to close us out, we had a line-up of timely and immediately actionable educational topics.

Our next conference will be in Scottsdale, April 20 -22. Our theme is Survivor. This will be a fun way to highlight just how difficult it is to navigate the challenges in healthcare. We are all survivor experts of: ACA, ICD-10, system conversions, mergers and acquisitions, and countless others. So breakout your camo gear and see if you have what it takes to be the Ultimate Survivor!

Also, we have our annual HERe Event coming up on November 6. This women's conference has grown every year and 2015 is no exception. To find out more about what is happening in the Chapter, join our Facebook group page and our LinkedIn group page.

In closing, I would like to thank all the Board Members who have been working diligently to make this chapter a valuable resource for you, our amazing members. As we approach the holiday season I think about this quote:

*Balance, peace, and joy are the fruit of a successful life. It starts with recognizing your talents and finding ways to serve others by using them.*  
Thomas Kinkade

As busy as we get, remember it's family and friends who bring peace and joy to our lives, not the reports and the meetings that often define our jobs.

I wish everyone a happy and joyful holiday season.

Sincerely,

Mike Kennedy  
President-Arizona Chapter HFMA