

COMPLIANCE TODAY



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A black and white portrait of John Steiner, a man with dark hair, wearing a suit and tie, smiling slightly. The portrait is the central focus of the cover.

meet
John Steiner

REGISTER TODAY!

FOR THE 2002 HCCA COMPLIANCE INSTITUTE, CHICAGO, IL - APRIL 21-24, 2002 *For more information go to <http://www.hcca-info.org/documents> See page 22 for details.*

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Letter from the CEO

ROY SNELL

Compliance Politics

potpourri

I worked with a young MBA at the University of Wisconsin who had come to us from a fairly powerful government position. She was hired by the UW to help the Medical Director manage his administrative duties so that he could keep up with a fairly aggressive clinical practice. One day she shared her disappointment with the continuous onslaught of nasty political backbiting. I asked her if working for the Government was more political than health care, she responded immediately, "Health care was more political than Government." It caused me to think that if health care is more political, we should not call it politics, we should call it health-careitics. Remember, when compliance is hard and your ready to throw in the towel, compliance is good training. As the song says – If you can make it here you can make it anywhere.

The Board

The HCCA Board has steered this organization through five years of explosive growth. Membership has grown from 0 to almost 3000. We have conducted conferences with attendance approaching 1000 and developed useful tools for the compliance profession. The Board met in mid-January with the HCCA Regional Presidents and has developed an outstanding strategic plan. Look for more on this in future issues of **Compliance Today** and on the HCCA Website.

Expanding role of the compliance officer

Health care is like the shifting sands of the desert. Various functions within the organization are changing and consolidated all the time. The question is, "Is Compliance taking on more or less responsibility within health care organizations."

I received an email from a compliance officer who had picked up responsibility for JCAHO, QI, QA, risk management, and the legal department. She wanted to know what to be paid for an expanded workload. My first thought was that this was another confirmation of the change I had been seeing in compliance for some time.

Compliance Officers are picking up additional responsibilities, particularly in smaller organizations. I have two colleagues in Texas who just picked up responsibility for JCAHO. One was also asked to head up quality improvement. Anecdotal, but interesting none-the-less. If you have an experience with compliance being consolidated under something else or visa versa I'd like to hear from you, email me at rsnell@hcca-info.org



If the compliance universe is expanding it bodes well for our salaries and for our industry. This trend may be occurring because of cutbacks and consolidation but is interesting to note that it is these other areas that seem to be moving under compliance and not the other way around. This may be because compliance professionals are typically high paid and higher level individuals. It may not make sense to put compliance under another area.

It may also be because compliance is seen as having the largest teeth in the organization and the other areas may benefit from the veracity of the compliance model. Some may be putting more departments under compliance because the outside observer has the impression that more compliance is better. This is a trend to watch.

CI 2002

The Compliance Institute is just around the corner, April 21-24. It should be very exciting this year with Dr. Bob Arnot, Tommy Thompson, and Alice Gosfield. As always there is a heavy emphasis on the operational aspects of compliance with pre-conferences focusing on several special interests groups. Greg Warner and Shawn Degroot will be conducting a Compliance Officer Forum and Compliance Document workshop as a part of the pre-conference program.

All attendees will be receiving 1000 pages of HIPAA documents and 500 pages of compliance documents. Hope to see you there. To review the CI 2002 brochure visit HCCA's Website at <http://www.hcca-info.org> ■