

HCCA



**HEALTH CARE
COMPLIANCE
ASSOCIATION**

COMPLIANCE TODAY

**Volume Seven
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Published Monthly**

**Meet DHHS
Inspector
General
Daniel R.
Levinson**

**Save
the
Date!**

**Medicare Prescription Drug Part D
COMPLIANCE CONFERENCE
December 11–13, 2005**

For more information see page 2.

Letter from the CEO

Roy Snell

In the News: Hurricanes

HCCA has contributed to the Katrina relief effort. If you are aware of any HCCA member/partner/affiliate directly affected by the hurricane(s), please let us know if we can help. We have been in contact with some of the people who have helped us with our annual meeting in New Orleans. They are doing as well as can be expected.

New building

HCCA's lease runs out in November. When we started the Minneapolis office three years ago, we signed a short-term lease and were very conservative in our use of space. As a result of our growth, our current landlord cannot accommodate our needs. After extensive review with the Board, outside legal counsel, our audit firm, and a commercial real estate expert, we have purchased a building. The building purchase will improve our financial position, accommodate future growth, and strengthen HCCA's reputation as a solid association, to our members, potential members, and partners.

We reviewed articles and talked to our peers. Some associations have purchased buildings for the same reasons we have. However, in talking to other associations, the biggest problem is that they located their office in a large, expensive, metropolitan downtown location. When they later considered moving, affordable buildings were located too far away to be considered for staff travel. They see the advantages of owning but are stuck where they are. By locating the office in the suburbs of Minneapolis, we avoided this limitation. Many key factors were considered in making this important decision. The Board kept the financial factors in the forefront of its analysis.

The financial impact analysis and anticipated future value of the building were important considerations. Leasing and purchasing were nearly identical from a financial perspective. The major difference is that we will be building equity for HCCA through appreciation and principle pay down. The location of the building is in a preeminent suburb of Minneapolis (Edina) and located between a hospital and large mall. This location helps ensure a high lease occupancy (we will

occupy 33%) and building/land appreciation. Two existing tenants are small clinics, which tend to be long term tenants.

Although we are improving conditions for our staff, we have been respectful of the members' finances. We will not have a marble entryway or etched glass doors.

Although, if you do visit, you will find Wilma, Patti, and a glass of marbles in our entryway. The building was chosen, in part, because of its proximity to our existing office, proximity to shopping/restaurants, and proximity to a hospital. This will help the staff, the building resale value, and leasing of unused space. A great deal of thought and effort went into the process by the finance committee, building committee, Board, staff, and industry experts. Collectively, the group did a great job, and the significant effort should pay dividends for years to come.

10th Anniversary

HCCA's 10th anniversary will be celebrated in Las Vegas at the Compliance Institute in April. This is going to be very exciting. For a young association, we have a lot to be proud of. Our growth in membership, net revenue, and conference attendance exceeds industry averages by a significant margin. And although compliance and ethics has become a worldwide issue, as best as I can tell, we continue to be the world's largest compliance association, and hold the world's largest compliance conference each year. I hope to see you all in Las Vegas.

SCCE

HCCA started a subgroup called the Society of Corporate Compliance and Ethics. It is intended to help all industries achieve the same association benefits that HCCA has given healthcare. After a two-year effort, membership is up to 300, and 375 attended the annual meeting last week (triple the previous year.) Presenters, members, and attendees came from organizations such as Radio Shack, Quest, DuPont, Delta, U.S. Foods, McDonalds, Microsoft, U.S. Bank, and many others. SCCE has produced a newsletter, manual, video, and eight workshops per year. A certification program is also being developed. The feedback from the attendees at the annual meeting has been very positive. The U.S. Department of Commerce asked to speak at the annual meeting. SCCE's video on the board's role in compliance won the Telly award. Two years ago the Board identified SCCE as a part of its Key Priority, Broadening the Scope of HCCA. We will be able to help the compliance industry develop

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Letter from the CEO

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as we have helped in healthcare. This effort will help ensure that the compliance profession remains respected and a strong player in corporate America. Rather than leave it in the hands of others, we will be able to help contribute to its growth and development

Things are going well. We are ahead of our peers in membership growth and revenue. The Board and the staff continue to fulfill their roles with great leadership. Although we are looking to improve everything we do, we are very fortunate to be where we are. We will not take our eyes off of the key indicators and will continue to make everything we do better.

The Board would also like to thank every member who has spoken at a conference, participated in an audio conference, called us with suggestions, responded to surveys, volunteered for duty, or helped in any other way. It is truly a cooperative and collaborative effort. ■

Call for Authors

The Health Care Compliance Association (HCCA) is seeking authors for upcoming issues of **Compliance Today**. We welcome all who wish to propose health care compliance-related topics and write articles.

Among the topics to consider are: HIPAA Security, compliance auditing and monitoring, compliance operations, implementing various aspects of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, effective training techniques, compliance program effectiveness evaluation, new regulations, Stark and/or EMTALA compliance, 2006 OIG Work Plan with reviews on the various provider segments (for example: physicians, hospitals, home health, hospice, long-term care, DME), and so forth.

Articles, when the topic allows, should include “how to” tips. Articles generally run 1,250–2,500 words, but are not limited to this. Anyone interested in submitting an article for publication in **Compliance Today** should send an e-mail that includes the article topic to margaret.dragon@hcca-info.org.

IMPORTANT: For those Certified In Healthcare Compliance (CHC), please note that HCCB awards 2 CEUs to authors of articles published in **Compliance Today**.

UPCOMING ARTICLE DEADLINES

Deadline	Issue
November 14	January issue
December 9	February issue
January 12	March issue

Thank you, and we look forward to hearing from you and reading your articles.

WEBLINKS

CMS

- Provider Reimbursement Review Board Decisions
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/providers/prrb/prrb.asp>
- CMS Hurricane Katrina Information
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/katrina/>
- CMS's Open Door Forum Schedule
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/opendoor/schedule.asp>
- CMS's Open Door Forum Registration
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/opendoor/listservs.asp>

HHS/OIG

- AdvancePCS CIA
http://oig.hhs.gov/fraud/cia/agreements/Advance_PCS.pdf
- OIG: Updated CIA listing
<http://oig.hhs.gov/fraud/cia/index.html>

OSHA

- OSHA News
<http://www.osha.gov/as/opa/quicktakes/index.html> ■