



Winter Edition

Chapter News, Educational Opportunities, and Social Updates

Volunteer Spotlight

Fall Conference Chair:

Robin Thomas

**Manager, Patient Financial Services at The
University of Kansas Health System**



Robin first became interested in the role with the Greater Heartland Chapter through the recommendation of a mentor from many years ago who suggested HFMA for education and leadership skills. Her involvement with HFMA is driven by a desire to develop leadership skills, share experiences with peers, and access educational opportunities for future growth. HFMA has played a crucial role in their learning, networking, and career development.

Revenue Cycle's support for the Greater Heartland Chapter involves allowing others to share personal experiences and providing educational opportunities. The Revenue Cycle's engagement with the chapter includes participating in events, learning from others, and contributing to a supportive community. The Greater Heartland Chapter is welcoming, and Robin has enjoyed meeting new people through her involvement.

Summer Program Chair:

Dana Christiansen

**Administrative Director, Patient Access Services at
CoxHealth**



Dana was interested in the role because she wanted to get more involved in HFMA, but didn't feel like she had the capacity at the time to take on a more active role. Serving on the board has been a limited time commitment that has allowed her to help support the chapter and learn a little more about chapter operations as she hoped to continue to be more involved. This year, Dana accepted the opportunity to chair the Summer Education Event. She had an amazing volunteer team from diverse backgrounds and organizations that really came together and pulled off a successful (and sold-out) event.

Dana loves being a part of the GHL chapter in both roles because she sees what an impact the chapter has on making education available and

affordable. As a board member, she is able to provide general oversight for the chapter to ensure goals are being met and budget aligned; and as the Summer Event Chair she was able to help bring a new and affordable education event to the Springfield and surrounding area that drew in attendance from 20 different organizations (providers and vendors).

Education & Events



WINTER EDUCATION EVENT

January 25 - 26, 2024 | Columbia, MO

The HFMA Greater Heartland chapter invites you to join us at our highly anticipated Winter Education Event in Columbia, Missouri, with the thrilling theme "Get Your Head in the Game: Focus on Finance!"

Secure your spot at the HFMA Greater Heartland Winter Education Event and join a community of healthcare professionals who are dedicated to achieving financial success. Learn from the best, collaborate with peers, and gain the strategies you need to score a financial win for your organization.

[Register Now!](#)



Don't forget to join us for an unforgettable Welcome Reception the day before, **January 25th 6:00PM to 7:00**, filled with delightful refreshments, setting the perfect tone for an evening of networking and camaraderie. This event offers a fantastic opportunity to connect with fellow conference attendees, fostering new relationships and creating a sense of community. Relax, unwind, and enjoy the vibrant atmosphere as you get settled in, ensuring a refreshing start to an exciting day of conferencing ahead.





SPRING CONFERENCE

April 10-12th, 2024 | Saint Louis, MO

SAVE THE DATE! Embark on an enriching experience at our Spring Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, themed 'Masters of Healthcare.' Immerse yourself in unparalleled networking opportunities as industry leaders, professionals, and experts converge to share insights and forge valuable connections. Our event boasts a lineup of exceptional speakers who are masters in their respective fields, promising engaging sessions that will inspire and educate. Don't miss the chance to expand your professional network, gain knowledge from the best in the industry, and elevate your expertise.

Save the Date!

[View more regional events here!](#)

Chapter News

BJC and Saint Luke's Health Systems Reach Agreement to Combine as the Region's Premier Academic and Patient-Centric Health System



BJC Health System of St. Louis and Saint Luke's Health System of Kansas City announced they have entered into a definitive agreement to combine as an integrated, academic and patient-centric Missouri-based health system.

As a combined system of approximately \$10 billion in revenue with 28 hospitals and hundreds of clinics and service centers, BJC and Saint Luke's will extend their shared commitment to deliver high-quality, affordable patient care to the communities they serve across Missouri, southern Illinois and eastern Kansas.

[Read more!](#)

Phelps' Health Leadership Training



The Emerging Leader Program is a 2-year program designed for high-potential employees whose leaders feel will be ready for a leadership role within the next 3 years. This program aims to develop these emerging leaders by providing them with leadership tools, experiences and connections needed to be effective and successful.

[Read more!](#)

Liberty Hospital to Partner with KU Health System

Liberty Hospital Board of Trustees voted to pursue a partnership with The University of Kansas Health System. The board's decision marks a major milestone in Liberty Hospital's search for a strategic growth partner, an extensive process that began last May. During the coming days, leaders at Liberty Hospital and The University of

LIBERTY
HOSPITAL

Kansas Health System will work together exclusively to finalize a non-binding Letter of Intent (LOI). The signing of the LOI will define alignment, identify shared goals for a strong partnership and begin all remaining due diligence to determine the terms of a final agreement

[Read more!](#)

Mentorship Program 2023-2024

Consider where you are in your career.

What do you wish you could go back and share with your younger self? What would have helped you get a head start? Would you have been able to avoid problems and pitfalls? Would you be ahead of the game and more successful now? What is it that you wish someone had shared with you early on in your career?



Do you wish you could help guide someone else and leave a legacy? Is it possible that our healthcare community might advance and be more successful if those that follow can pull from the wisdom and knowledge of those who have already been there?

In the words of the great mentor, Yoda: "Always pass on what you have learned." - Yoda

With these thoughts in mind, HFMA Greater Heartland introduced the mentorship program at our mini-ltc in June.

Some of the goals and objectives of the program include:

- Developing leadership skills.
- Exploring new perspectives and professional insights.
- Providing tools and support for the use and benefit of current positions and careers.
- Adding to and developing leadership resources (This year we are using the book, The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership John C. Maxwell).
- Fostering community and camaraderie.
- Building a pool of future Healthcare leaders and Greater Heartland Leaders.

What has happened so far:

- The program officially kicked off in November where the mentors and the mentees began their initial meeting. The program will run through the end of May 2024, to coincide with the chapter year.
- There are fifteen mentees in the program successfully paired with fifteen mentors from GHL Leadership.

What we are working on:

- Monthly Leadership webinars
- Mentorship Newsletter
- Metrics and means of tracking success and improvement.

Not only are we excited about the amazing group that are part of this, but we are hoping to develop this program to carry over into the next year. For more information feel free to contact: Connie Stimpson at stimpsoncl@senexco.com.

And always remember:

“Mind what you have learned. Save you it can.” - Yoda

Chapter Updates

Networking

Work hard, stay focused, and surround yourself with good people. This is what HFMA networking is all about!

Professional networking and community involvement are key pillars for both personal and professional growth. Being part of a network allows you to forge connections, exchange knowledge, and discover opportunities that might otherwise remain unseen.

Networking isn't just about handing out business cards; it's about cultivating meaningful relationships. These connections can offer support, mentorship, and diverse perspectives, enriching your understanding of healthcare financial management and its various career paths. So, what are you waiting for? [Come join the HFMA network!](#)



Summer Conference
Springfield, MO



Summer Conference
Springfield, MO



Taco Tuesday Networking Event
Kirkwood, MO



Taco Tuesday Networking Event
Kirkwood, MO

Member Highlight

Meet Joey!

Meet Joey Mulugeta, who has recently joined as Co-Chair of the Communications Committee. His enthusiasm and effective contributions are already making a positive impact! His quick adaptation and successful integration into the team are noteworthy achievements, and there's a sense of excitement about the value he brings to the role. Here are a few words from Joey:



"Having immersed myself in the intricacies of revenue cycle and healthcare finance for 14+ years, I've always recognized the value HFMA brings to organizations and individuals through its networking and best practices. Despite this awareness, it wasn't until recently that I actively sought engagement with our local Greater Heartland Chapter.

I am incredibly grateful for Paul Knudtson and Connie Warnat, whose guidance allowed me to make connections within GHFMA, and navigate a path that has led me to a new and exciting opportunity. I am honored to now serve as VP of Client Services at EnableComp—a role that perfectly aligns with my background in revenue cycle and managed care. This opportunity allows me to leverage my expertise in maximizing complex claims reimbursement for healthcare providers and address their challenges related to Veterans Administration, Workers' Compensation, Motor Vehicle Accident, and Out-of-State Medicaid.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to the Greater Heartland HFMA Chapter for being instrumental in my career growth. I am genuinely excited about the opportunity to actively contribute to the ongoing development of our chapter in the role of Communications Committee Co-Chair, and I am so looking forward to helping others in the same way I have received support."

Happy Holidays!



Happy Holidays from
the Greater
Heartland Chapter



Certification

Over 479 Greater Heartland Members have received a certification since 2022! Are you interested in getting your CHFP or CRCR certification? Learn more here:

<https://learn.hfma.org/pages/certifications>



Questions? Contact the Certification Chair Kevin Bohnert, kevin_bohnert@bcbst.com

LinkedIn

Stay up-to-date with chapter news on LinkedIn! [Follow us now!](#)



HFMA Greater Heartland | <https://www.hfma.org/chapters/region-8/greater-heartland/>

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