



## President's Message

In the last couple of months, my family has gone from my bright idea of finishing our basement to currently having the walls framed and electrical and plumbing in process. We are all very excited about it. Well, all of us except my five year old son. He was ok with the cement floors and walls we currently have and looking at a blueprint doesn't really help him see his mom and dad's vision. He's starting to get on board a little more every day as he sees the walls going up and we can explain to him that a big comfy couch will go here, a big new tv will go there and we'll design a cool space to store all of his Legos in their new play room. Other days he asks why we couldn't just keep it like it was.

In a lot of ways, I felt like my five year old at times this year with HFMA. As excited as I was about new ideas like the Western Symposium, a payor/provider conference, new networking events, regional webinars, different days of the week for the fall conference and a shortened spring conference, it also scared me to venture away from what we always have done. The standard fall and spring conferences of AZ HFMA were like the concrete basement to my son. They were what we have always known, and there is comfort in that. In the end though, our industry will continue to change and HFMA will need to change with it to provide the right educational content, in the right format, at the right time and in the right location.

A major theme this year with national HFMA was innovation. The Arizona chapter took that theme to heart. We have achieved historically high education hours this year led by our program chair Leslie Flake. Leslie and her committee were innovative in trying new things this year. The fall conference moved to a Sunday start, the spring conference was shortened to a day and a half and a new one day provider/payer conference packed the room to capacity. This year also saw new networking events designed by Samantha Brodt and her Membership Committee. Joan Goda and the communications team looked at new newsletter formats and dipped our toe in the water of conference based mobile apps. The next year is likely to see further advances in that area. Al Newberg in his role as the chapter treasurer led the push towards increased financial stability to ensure that AZ HFMA will continue to be able to provide great educational and networking opportunities. AZ HFMA was also instrumental in putting together the first annual Western Region Symposium that occurred in January in Las Vegas with all chapters from Region 10 and 11. Over 800 attendees ventured to Las Vegas for first class speakers and a chance to interact with other providers from the western portion of the United States. If you were not able to attend this year, mark your calendars for January 2018. It is a conference that can't be missed! Overall this year, most ideas worked with a few not going over as well, but nothing ventured, nothing gained!

The fiscal year of HFMA is coming to a close and the slate of board members for the 2017/2018 year is ready, willing and able to take the chapter to the next level. The following individuals will lead this charge:

President – Chuck Ribbe

President-elect – Jeff Buerhle

Secretary – Jason Metcalf

Program Chair – Bart Shea

Sponsorship Chair – Leslie Flake

Membership Chair – Samantha Brodt

Communications Chair – Joan Goda

Treasurer – Al Newberg

Board Members – Kathy Kirkland, Liz Ricafort, Matt Cox

It has been an honor to serve as the president of the chapter this past year. Our members are amazing and I love meeting with all of you at our various conferences. Please continue to provide feedback to our board on chapter activities. I'm confident the board will continue to embrace innovation in making the AZ HFMA chapter the premier educational and networking source for healthcare financial professionals.

Thank you for a great year.

Ryan