



Kansas Hospital Human Resources Association

an Allied Organization of the Kansas Hospital Association  
an affiliate of the American Society for Healthcare's Human Resources Administration

December 2007

## President's Points

During this most special time of the year, we take time to count our blessings. Included in my list this year are most certainly this great organization and the honor of serving as your 2007 KHHRA president. And as the year draws to a close, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your support and assistance during the past year. I have had a number of tremendous opportunities that I would not have experienced otherwise, and I am grateful for every one of them. I also have had the pleasure of working with an exceptional group of officers and district directors. Thank you for the beautiful clock, which is proudly displayed on my desk. As we go forward, to make our organization better and better, I will remember my role this year as a responsibility I took seriously and enjoyed immensely.

We had a super spring conference this year in Wichita; thanks to the tremendous efforts of Vice President Ken Brown. Ken really raised the bar for our educational sessions, and you showed your support by rating the conference "excellent" in every category. Thanks as well to our district directors who hosted some thought-provoking and entertaining district meetings over the summer and fall. I had the pleasure of attending all of the group meetings, and it is clear that our district directors sincerely care about providing informational, as well as fun, sessions. We closed the year at convention with another excellent fall meeting, a celebration of the 30th anniversary of the first KHHRA business meeting, along with some entertaining stories about charter-member, Loretta!

Throughout the year, we said goodbye to some long-standing members and welcomed new members into our association. Sincere thanks to Kathy Orear, who became Northeast district director in 2007. Best wishes to Arnedra Shelton, whose resignation leaves an opening on the board for vice president and for Southeast district director. If you are interested in serving in either one of these positions, please contact Ken or me. We wish the very best of luck to those who

have left us and a very warm welcome to those who have joined this terrific organization!

Congratulations to our members who were individually recognized for their achievements in 2007. Congratulations to Sue Marie Martin, our 2007 Marilyn Gates Award recipient, to Larry Gales, recipient of the Outstanding Chapter Contribution Award from ASHHRA, and to Ken Brown, recipient of the Outstanding Chapter Officer Award from ASHHRA. Congratulations to our entire membership on another Four-Star ASHHRA Chapter Management Award! Our organization remains strong, thanks to outstanding individual and group contributions!

I am excited about all the possibilities that lie ahead in 2008. We truly have a board that is dedicated to our membership and its needs. We have the support of the Kansas Hospital Association. We have knowledgeable members who are willing to share their knowledge to benefit their colleagues. All of these things result in an incredible organization for health care human resource leaders in the State of Kansas. It is a privilege to be a part of such an extraordinary group.

—Margaret Kummer, *president*

## 2008 Officers and District Directors

We have an exciting year to look forward to with the fantastic group of officers and district directors who will serve our organization.

Your 2008 board of officers is:

- Ken Brown – president
- OPEN – vice president
- Nicole Nelson – secretary
- Sandy Wedel – treasurer
- Margaret Kummer – past president and chapter management
- Steve Poage – KHA liaison

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District directors:

Pam Wheeler – Southwest District  
Joy Robb – South Central District  
Kathy Orear – Northeast District  
Carla Sharp – Northwest District  
Unappointed – Southeast District  
Nicole Nelson – North Central District

Please let us know if you are interested in serving as an officer or a district director.

## Chapter Goals

In 2007, we had great educational sessions and enjoyed valuable networking opportunities, but did we achieve the chapter goals we set at the beginning of the year?

As a part of the Chapter Management criteria, KHHRA is required to develop objective, measurable goals to work toward each year. Our 2007 chapter goals were:

- To increase the number of KHHRA hospitals participating in the Management Development Institute workshops. Unfortunately, the number of KHHRA hospitals participating in MDI workshops decreased in 2007, so we did not achieve this goal. In 2006, 30 hospitals participated; while in 2007, 28 hospitals participated. KHHRA receives a portion of the proceeds from the MDIs, so we hope to see that number of participating hospitals back up in 2008.
- That 75 percent of our membership attend one conference or district meeting. We fell a little short, with 71 percent of our members attending a conference or district meeting.

- KHHRA actively participates in legislative action pertinent to the human resources field. We accomplished this goal when we wrote a letter in support of the legislation that amended the law governing the payment of compensation by an employer.
- That KHHRA maintains and continues to keep our Web site current and active. We have certainly accomplished this goal, and three cheers for Ken Brown and his staff who do such a fantastic job of this! Check out our Web site at [www.khhra.org](http://www.khhra.org) to get all the information you need about our organization.

We will continue to set goals that are relevant and beneficial to our organization. Great job, everyone!

## 2007 Scholarships Announced

KHHRA helps to promote the human resources profession by making scholarships available for anyone pursuing a degree in human resources management or for members pursuing their PHR/SPHR certification. The scholarship is intended to promote and encourage the academic preparation for and excellence in the practice of health care human resources.

This year's scholarships were awarded to:

Jay Tusten, vice president of human resources  
Bob Wilson Memorial Grant County Hospital,  
Ulysses  
Scholarship for SPHR certification

Stephanie Myers  
Student at Fort Hays State University  
Employed in human resources  
Salina Regional Health Center, Salina

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Laci Williams  
Student at Friends University  
Employed in human resources  
Kearny County Hospital, Lakin

Congratulations to Jay, Stephanie and Laci!

### **Mark Your Calendars ...**

The 2008 Spring Conference has been set for April 24 and 25 at the Homewood Suites by Hilton on the Waterfront in Wichita. The spring conference provides members with the opportunity to not only gain new and insightful information, but also to spend some invaluable time networking with fellow human resource professionals. Watch for more details to come.

### **KHHRA Membership Renewal**

The objective of the Kansas Hospital Human Resources Association is to promote high standards of professional ethics, education and proficiency in the area of human resources management. The success of KHHRA depends on the ongoing involvement of its members.

Dues for 2008 remain the same:

- \$50.00 for regular members – human resource professionals in KHA member hospitals who are professionally engaged in human resource management.
- \$60.00 for associate members – human resource professionals in health care facilities that are not KHA members.

Please complete your membership application as soon as possible to continue your membership in this great organization.

Wishing you happiness, health and prosperity in the New Year! Happy 2008!