

Deep in the Art of Auditing

By Heidi Crosby, CPA, CIA, CHFP

It's been a very busy year and summer is coming to a close. Summer for me has always been a time to relax and enjoy the outdoors well into the late evening, inviting friends over for barbecues or family picnics, time at the lake with family, and just unwinding. I hope you had the opportunity to enjoy your summer and time outdoors with family and friends and that you find yourself refreshed/rejuvenated.

I look forward to catching up with you this fall at the **AHIA's 33rd Annual Conference at the Hilton, Austin in Austin, Texas September 21-24, 2014**. The theme of this year's conference is Deep in the Art of Auditing. The conference offers a programmatic balance of foundational knowledge and topics that will help you prepare for the unprecedented changes evolving in the current healthcare environment.

Six educational tracks will be available to choose from, comprised of over 65 sessions. You can receive as many as 29 CPEs. The conference committee has been developing this program specifically with you in mind since shortly after the 2013 conference. It takes nearly a year to plan all the sessions, select the perfect presenters and arrange the social activities, programs and exhibits. If you haven't registered yet, don't delay any longer, you won't want to miss it.

And to prove we are not all work and no play, the committee has arranged for several social events. We will once again have a 5k Fun Run/Walk, and we will be able to enjoy some uniquely Austin activities on a Bat cruise, a ghost tour, and several options to enjoy the music scene for which Austin is famous.

While at the conference, don't forget to stop by our exhibitor booths. Our exhibitors and sponsors have served the AHIA and our members well over the years. The conference committee has compiled a group of exhibitors who understand the complexities of the healthcare industry.

For me, the most valuable benefit of the Annual Conference has been the networking opportunities with industry peers. Over the years I have learned and grown from my interactions with our amazingly talented group of professionals. I've made friends, found a mentor and made connections that have helped me advance my career. And I believe I helped others along the way as well.

Don't forget Tuesday evening, when we will conduct our Annual Business meeting where all AHIA members can sip champagne, meet with the Board of Directors, and hear firsthand of the volunteer accomplishments that have propelled the AHIA to be the premier professional association that serves all your healthcare internal audit needs.

In addition, the Annual Conference marks the official beginning of our annual election process for the AHIA board and officers. Take this opportunity to meet the candidates so you can make an informed choice in our future leaders.

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I offer a special thank you to the annual conference committee for designing another excellent education program. The committee was led by Amy Greenhoe, Director of Financial and Operational Audits for CHE Trinity Health. Amy and the committee's tireless efforts and dedication to quality will ensure the best conference experience for all who attend.

For those of you who have attended the Annual Conference before, you know the quality and value of this educational offering. No other professional organization provides the industry-specific knowledge with valuable takeaways you can start using as soon as you get back to your office. Each year's conference builds upon the experience and feedback from participants attending the last conference. It just keeps getting better!

I am continually amazed by what our volunteers accomplish. If you are not currently volunteering on an AHIA committee, please consider doing so. Stop by the AHIA booth in the Exhibitor's Hall and find out about the exciting volunteer opportunities the AHIA has to offer. I'm sure there is at least one committee to which you can lend your talents.

Hold your calendar for the 34th Annual AHIA conference August 30 – September 2, 2015, at the Hilton Portland and Executive Tower in Portland, Oregon. **NP**

Heidi



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New Perspectives is a refereed and peer-reviewed journal intended to focus on topics critical to professionals involved in healthcare internal auditing, compliance, and monitoring. **New Perspectives** is published quarterly—Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter. **Yearly subscription rates**, including postage, are \$65, payable in U.S. funds. No refunds or cancellations. Send publication and subscription inquiries, address changes and other inquiries to:

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Periodicals Postage Paid at Wheat Ridge, CO and additional offices. Postmaster: send address changes to: **New Perspectives**, c/o Association of Healthcare Internal Auditors, Inc., 10200 W. 44th Ave. #304, Wheat Ridge, CO 80033. ISSN number 2155-1138. **New Perspectives**, its editors and the Association of Healthcare Internal Auditors, Inc. are not responsible for the opinions and statements of its contributors and advertisers. The authors do not necessarily reflect the official policies of AHIA nor does AHIA endorse any products. AHIA does not attest to the originality of the author's content. Reprints of any portion of **New Perspectives** may be used for educational or instructional purposes only, provided the following statement appears on each reprint: "Reprinted with permission from **New Perspectives**, Journal of the Association of Healthcare Internal Auditors, Inc. Volume/Number." Copyright 2014, Association of Healthcare Internal Auditors, Inc.