



Janet Fraser
President

President's Message

It is a rather daunting task to sit and write my first message as the President of AMGO. I know that many of you have faced this challenge before me and have done an admirable job. First, I would like to tell you that I feel privileged to serve in this capacity for the 2008/2009 year. It is going to be difficult to meet the standards set by past Presidents such as Sonja McGrath, Kim Schneider, and Rick Freeman who have served the organization so well in the recent past. On behalf of AMGO, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Sonja McGrath who has just completed her term as President.

All of those who attended the annual meeting in Hilton Head experienced both great weather, (at least from this Maritimer's perspective) and an excellent program. The Committee worked hard to put together a program that met the needs and wishes of members according to past evaluations. I would like to thank the Committee including John Allen (Program Co-Chair), Irma Sanchez, Lori Johnson, and Coralee Gallant for their time and effort, which resulted in a very successful event. I would also like to say a special thank you to Beth Owens who assisted us with the planning. Her knowledge of the area proved to be an invaluable resource.

This year, the Board of AMGO will try a few new things. We have made a commitment to hold our winter Board Meeting via teleconference. The meeting has been scheduled for January 27th. This change was made, taking into consideration the economic environment in which we operate. Another focus of the Board for this year is to increase AMGO membership and to encourage member participation. If you know someone who you think should be a member of AMGO, please tell them about this great organization. If you would like to

get involved and volunteer to serve on a committee, please let us know. You will find the names and addresses of Board members and Committee Chairs on the AMGO website, www.amgo.org as well as detailed in this newsletter.

The 2009 annual meeting will be held in Toronto, Canada. Correct me if I am wrong, but I believe that this may be only the second time in the history of AMGO that the annual meeting will be held in Canada. The meeting will take place at the Radisson Admiral Hotel on the Toronto waterfront from October 4th to 7th. The hotel is within walking distance to most of the major attractions such as the CN Tower, the Air Canada Centre, the Hockey Hall of Fame, and of course shopping! There are numerous restaurants in the area, and it is even possible to take a ferry to Toronto Island. We will also make sure to provide the golfers in the group with information regarding the closest golf course. Diane Titley and Coralee Gallant (this year's Program Co-Chairs) already have a number of suggestions for speakers. I am certain it will be an interesting and educational event.

The APA/MGMA annual conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza in Los Angeles, California, from April 19 to 21, 2009. AMGO will be hosting a reception for its members on Monday, April 20th, at 4:30 pm. I hope to see you all there. We will also try to arrange a dinner for Saturday evening, April 18th as has been past practice.

Since this is our first newsletter of 2009, I would like to take the opportunity to wish each and every one of you a happy and prosperous new year. There is no doubt that we live in interesting times. ♦

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Mark Your Calendar.....

**CREOG/APGO
Annual Meeting**
San Diego, CA
March 11 - 14, 2009

**MGMA Academic
Practice Assembly
(APA)**
Beverly Hills, CA
April 19 - 21, 2009

**AMGO Annual
Meeting**
Toronto, Canada
October 4 - 7, 2009
(passport required)

AMGO Scholarship

We would like to remind you of the availability of the AMGO scholarship. The AMGO scholarship provides funding for a current member to attend a conference or educational session relating to AMGO's core business of healthcare administration and/or management. Any conference or program is eligible except the annual AMGO meeting, APA, or the national MGMA meetings. The scholarship reimburses up to \$1,500 to cover registration, travel and lodging. In return, the recipient must attend the annual AMGO meeting and share the information learned at a breakout session and write a short article for the newsletter. If interested in applying, please send an email to Janet Fraser at janet.fraser@IWK.nshealth.ca indicating what meeting you would like to attend as well as why you are interested in this particular topic. ♦

Recommended Websites

Elizabeth Chapman from Upstate Medical University recommends the website listed below. It is from the Physicians for a National Health Plan organization. On their website there are some articles on the need for the new administration to reform the health care insurance system in the U.S. A subscription is required to access the information.

http://www.pnhp.org/news/articles_of_interest.php

Jeff Arscott from UNC Healthcare suggests the following online subscription service. Each month they read the most critical medical practice information from the industries top sources and send you the summaries along with their expert commentary.

<http://www.fastpractice.net>

If you have any suggestions for either online or hard copy healthcare information that you would like to share with the AMGO membership, please contact Cfruggiero@wihri.org and it will be put in the next issue of the newsletter. ♦

Welcome New Members

We are pleased to welcome six new members to AMGO!

Active Members:

Ellen M. Wells	University of Louisville
Ricardo Rivera Carvajal	University of Puerto Rico
Dena R. Fisher	Vanderbilt University
James Morgridge	Duke University
Suzanne M. Marshall	University of Minnesota

Associate Member:

Nancy White	Southern Illinois University
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Current Membership:

Active Members.....	70
Associate Members.....	37
Honorary Life.....	8
Total.....	115

AMGO Board of Directors 2008-2009

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32nd Annual AMGO Conference

The 32nd annual AMGO meeting was held at the Westin Hilton and Island Resort and Spa in Hilton Head, North Carolina, September 14-17, 2008. Hilton Head was a beautiful location surrounded by golf courses and situated on a magnificent beach. For those of you unable to attend the meeting, speakers presented on a wide range of topics.

- Human Resources – Staff Performance Appraisals
- Professionalism,
- Business Planning,
- Physician Time Away – One Policy and Procedural Approach
- Revitalizing a dying division,
- Private versus public funded healthcare
- Physician recruitment
- Update from the Olsen Center for Women's Health

The country boil and dancing were great fun. We enjoyed a lovely venue, terrific weather, informative speakers and it is always so great to meet new members and visit with old friends. We hope to see all of you at the 2009 annual meeting in Toronto, Canada.



Board of Directors 2007-2008

l - r: Elizabeth Chapman, Sonja McGrath, Rick Blum, Kim Schneider, Carolyn Gorman and Janet Fraser



Enjoying the Southern Sun!

l to r: Carolyn Gorman, Marsha Cannon, Maisie Pollard, and Suzanne Campion



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