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A Note from Your OAHU President

John A Dodd Jr, CLU CHFC RHU

OAHU is poised for a dynamic year in 2019. I am very fortunate to have great leadership in each of our local chapters. I'm proud to report that we have 43 Ohio members registered for Cap Conference in Washington D.C. later this month. These members are sacrificing time and treasure to lobby Congress on issues important to all health and benefits professionals. CapCon is an unforgettable experience and if you are not able to attend this year, consider joining us in February 2020 for the election year event.

My big news is that we are in the final planning stages of a joint "Day at the Ohio State House" with NAIFA – Ohio. This is a culmination of a discussion that began two years ago to find a way to work together. Ohio Insurance Director Jillian Froment has agreed to keynote this event on April 9.

Our boldest Membership Drive in two years is underway. Recruiting four new members will earn you \$200. I've included a membership application with this newsletter to make it easy for you to sign up a colleague(s). Please turn out for your local events coming up. Your planners work hard to put on these events and your participation shows unity to non-members we are trying to attract.



Legislative Update

Barb Gerken, OAHU Legislative Chair

The legislative team is excited to begin our work during the new 2019 legislative session. In 2018 our top priority was SB227. It was introduced in the last session and would require insurance carriers to provide limited claims data to groups with 50 or more enrolled employees at least once per year. Although timing did not allow us to bring the legislation to the House for a final vote, it was unanimously voted out of the Senate Health Insurance Committee, Full Senate, and House Insurance Committee.

Thanks to everyone who assisted in our work on Senate Bill 227; Our lobbyist, John McGough, for his tireless work in keeping this important piece of legislation moving for our association. John Dodd, Tim Barhorst and Kevin Conrad participated in numerous meetings with legislators and the Ohio Association of Health Plans (OAHP). Brian Thompson and I provided proponent testimony in the Senate and House of Representatives. Thanks to the OAHU legislative team, especially Amanda Brown, George Morris, Ben Otley and Sherri Rutter. We look forward to growing our relationship and collaborating with OAHP on other topics of mutual importance. The language in SB 227 is a small, but important, step in advocating for greater transparency in our industry. I look forward to working with our association leaders to reintroduce this language in the new session.

Our team will also focus heavily this year on options for Ohio to file a successful Section 1332 Waiver under the new administration. These waivers, introduced under the Affordable Care Act, would allow Ohio to implement measures to lower costs and increase competition for our clients insured in the individual health market. An Ohio based reinsurance program is a high priority for OAHU as the Trump administration has streamlined and simplified the criteria for this type of waiver filing. NAHU is also preparing a "playbook" for states to follow examples of successful waiver applications in other states. We will be establishing a working group to formulate our suggestions and offer our assistance to the new administration.



Save The Date

OAHU's Annual Day at the Statehouse will be Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at Worthington Hills CC, Worthington, Ohio
More details coming soon at www.ohioahu.org.

OAHU's Annual Meeting will be Tuesday, May 14, 2019.
More details coming soon at www.ohioahu.org.

NAHU's Annual Convention will be held from June 29 to July 2, 2019 at Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina in San Diego, California.
More details coming soon at www.nahu.org/events



Updates from Around the State

Columbus

Sarah Richardson, CAHU President



CAHU's focus for 2018-2019 is creating experiences that drive membership. We have made many changes and improvements to our chapter in the last few years. We revamped our website, changed meeting locations, started social media accounts, and even created videos highlighting our event speakers.

In order to grow our membership, our Board needed to determine what value we bring to our current membership. We conducted a survey and those results have served as our beacon.

We used the survey results to determine the type of topics to offer fellow CAHU members that are preferred and held in high regard. We also decided to offer speakers that encourage non-member attendance and active presence. We host "In-Networking" events each month at different happy hour locations. Our Chapter truly enjoys our gatherings and we welcome all to participate! You can see our upcoming events at our website and you can follow us on all social media platforms:
<https://www.columbusahu.org/events/>

Last but not least, CAHU is dedicated to community involvement. Each year we choose a non-profit to feature and this year is Canine Collective. We are proud to support this amazing dog rescue and you can find details here:
<https://caninecollective.org/>

Northeast

Frank Spinelli, NEOHUA President



Much has happened in Northeast Ohio since the middle of 2018. The Cleveland Browns have turned the franchise into an apparent future contender and the Northeast Ohio Health Underwriters Association continues to bring great value and vibrancy to its membership!

Here are some highlights of past and future NEOHUA activities:

August 2018 – NEOHUA hosted the Region 3 Annual Meeting at the iconic Metropolitan at the 9. Over 120 regional leaders attended from six states for two days of education and fun!

September 2018 – NEOHUA hosted a "Meet the Candidates" event that brought incumbent and would be candidates together to discuss relevant health insurance topics specific to the State of Ohio. Over 90 members and non-members attended and interacted with the candidates.

March 2019 – The upcoming NEOHUA Products Expo will be held on the 20th of the month with a full day of topics, food and drink featuring five continuing education credits for all who attend. This event typically sells out all 150 seats and will have dozens of vendors and carriers with whom to engage.

Greater Cincinnati

Jennifer Kauffman, GCAHU President



Cincinnati, aka the Crown Jewel of the Heartland, Queen City, and Porkopolis; has a rocking year planned! With our focus on attracting new members, we're following the lead of our sister chapters and adding a proven method of congregating agents. Our afternoon-evening social events will be at various locations and even outdoors as we move into spring.

We have an ERISA Seminar planned that promises not just to educate but to elevate the knowledge of our members. Our Capitol Conference recap will include Janet Trautwein giving a presentation on single payer systems. This promises to both surprise and delight our members while giving them a good dose of knowledge that will serve them both in their practice and in their Facebook arguments.

Western Reserve

Dee McFarland, WRAHU President



After going dark during open enrollment, we are looking forward to a full program schedule for 2019. We will be offering our members an array of interesting CE topics on the second Thursday of each month, beginning with a legislative update scheduled this month to review bills OAHU has been involved with in the Ohio legislature going into the 2019 session. John Dodd, President of OAHU, will be in Youngstown on February 14 to present for a 1 hour CE Credit. Our board is working through a major transition as we begin our first program year following the retirement of long time Board member and most valuable player, Robert Lackey. We are consistently working to recruit new members, strengthen the awareness and reputation of our local within our community, and provide quality programming for our members.

Northwest

Vicki Donovan-Lyle, NWOAHU President



The Northwest Chapter has had a busy summer and fall 2018. In response to survey results showing that members want more legislative updates and CE opportunities, we are excited about 2019 projects and programs. We are updating our social media platforms on Facebook and LinkedIn

Our next Social-Happy Hour will be on February 28th. Other upcoming events include a Legislative Update and NAHU CapCon Review on March 6. We're very excited about the NAIFA-OAHU Day at the statehouse Event in April. We're looking to transport 20+ members to Columbus that day to participate in the event. Planning for our Spring Products Fair in the first week of May is underway.