



May2003

OAHU HealthLines

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Legislative Committee Becomes Proactive

by Kirby Nielsen



Your 2002-2003 Legislative Committee has been very busy despite the election year slowdown in

the fall. The Northeast Chapter used this time to start our new "Adopt A Candidate". Actually, they adopted two candidates, and both won their very close races. Our hearty congratulations to the Cleveland area volunteers led by Carol Steele and Frank Novy.

The committee as a whole, continued to work on developing support for starting a High Risk Pool in Ohio. We also began working on a strategy concerning Association Health Plans which are likely to be a major part of the 2003 health insurance landscape. The High Risk Pool was chosen last year as our number one "Proactive"

OAHU Moves Forward

by Randy Ayers, President

I am happy to report to you that the OAHU board has authorized the association to enter into an agreement with Clary Communications as our public relations firm. Clary will help us develop a strategic communications plan and will spearhead a proactive media relations program.



Our goal is that OAHU and our membership will become top-of-consciousness resources for the media on issues dealing with health insurance issues. We believe this will be critical as we become proactive on legislative issues.

I will report to you as we work our way through the process! If you have any comments or questions, please contact the OAHU office at 614-488-7009.

agenda item, followed closely by small group rate reform.

The Legislative Committee has been directing many of our efforts through two coalitions. The Alliance for Civil Justice is a new coalition we joined last fall to help us work on the issues facing us at the Ohio Supreme Court. Happily, the candidates we and the Ohio Alliance supported won, and we hope for a more balanced and business

friendly Supreme Court. The second Coalition is the Ohio Chamber of Commerce Committee looking at health insurance issues and reforms.

The Chamber of Commerce coalition will likely be the springboard for new legislation regarding health insurance. OAHU was able to obtain representation on this coalition. Bob Knoesel and Denny Recker have (continued on page two)

State CE News

By Mike McGrath & Margaret Tabit

Wondering where you stand with your compliance for CE? Here's how you check. Exporior is the entity that the Ohio Department of Insurance contracts with to track your continuing education hours, approve courses, etc. You may reach them on-line at www.exporioronline.com/ohce.htm or you may call 1-800-532-2170 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern time.

OAHU continues to strive to be a source for continuing education classes specifically pertinent to our industry. All the local chapters have been submitting courses which Exporior has approved to be available to all chapter meetings. Thanks to all those who have worked to build our class offerings. Two recent classes approved with powerpoint slides available to local chapters include:

- * Small Group Regulations and Alternatives – C38728 – 1 hour
- * Ohio Small Group Insurance Current Issues – C38729 – 1 hour

If you have any questions about Continuing Education through OAHU, please feel free to contact Lou Ann Racher at the OAHU office (614-488-7009), Mike McGrath (my co-chair) at 216-328-8081 or me at 614-263-2333.

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2003 Ohio Calendar

Board Meeting and
Legislative Council Meetings:

March 20, 2003
April 17, 2003

All meetings are held at 2600 Corporate
Exchange Blvd. in Columbus

May 6 - Day at the Statehouse

■
NAHU Cap Conference
March 23-25, 2003
Capitol Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C.

■
NAHU National Symposium
June 29-July 2, 2003
Sheraton Hotel and Marina
San Diego, CA

(legislative news continued from
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been our representatives on this committee and have represented us well. We were able to present our ideas regarding a High Risk Pool and this is now being closely looked at by this coalition as well as the Ohio Department of Insurance.

I think a number of us feel very good about our emerging position as a contributor to the statewide broad based decision making process. In many respects we have been a catalyst for some of the issues being considered for legislation. As we enter 2003, we will face some of the same issues we have seen in the past such as mandates, "any willing provider" bills, and physician anti trust exemptions. But with your help and our new "Grassroots" web based communication tools, we are sure to continued to be a voice for common sense and market based solutions for health insurance in Ohio.

**Congratulations
to the Ohio State
University Buck-
eyes - National
Football Cham-
pions!**