

HFMA Annual National Institute

The Annual Chapter President's Dinner Meeting and Awards recognizes accomplishments of all chapters. On June 22, 2010 I had the honor of accepting awards on behalf of the Georgia Chapter at the HFMA 2010 ANI in Las Vegas, NV. I was joined by Bill Eikost, Karen Newton, Jane Gray, Pete Hogan and my spouse, Jean-Claude Sessoms. Thank you to everyone for your efforts and volunteerism during the 2009-2010 chapter year. The Georgia Chapter scored an impressive 100 on the Chapter Balance Scorecard (CBSC). The CBSC measures total education hours, education hours by member, percentage of certified members, days cash on hands, membership, compliance with tools, and reporting. The Georgia Chapter was one of 20 chapters to achieve this score.

The awards we received were

- John M. Stagl Silver Award of Excellence for Education
- Gold Award of Excellence for Membership Growth and Retention
- Helen M. Yerger Single Chapter Entry for Improvement - Improved Leadership Tools for Development of Future and Current GA HFMA Leadership
- Helen M. Yerger Single Chapter Entry for Improvement - Institute Registration Improvements
- Helen M. Yerger Single Chapter Entry for Member Communications - Campaign Monitor
- Helen M. Yerger Single Chapter Entry for Member Service - Patient Access Outreach

By Carmen V. Sessoms



■ Helen M. Yerger Multi Chapter Entry by Alabama Chapter, Florida Chapter, Georgia Chapter, South Carolina Chapter, Tennessee Chapter for Collaboration - Region V Giving Back To Our Troops

■ Helen M. Yerger Multi Chapter Entry by Alabama Chapter, Florida Chapter, Georgia Chapter, South Carolina Chapter, Tennessee Chapter for Collaboration Education - 2010 Dixie Institute

■ Helen M. Yerger Multi Chapter Entry by Alabama Chapter and Georgia Chapter for Collaboration - The 50th Anniversary Video and Celebration

The Georgia Chapter and Region V were recognized for our amazing accomplishments in 2009-2010. Again, thank you to everyone for LEADing The Way! I enjoyed being your 2009 – 2010 chapter president and will never forget the experience. Thank you for the opportunity to represent such a fantastic group of people.

Memorials

The Georgia Chapter would like to extend our condolences to the following families:

Jean Wells and her family at the passing of her husband, **Ray Wells**. Jean is the Patient Access Director at Colquitt Regional Medical Center in Moultrie, Georgia. Ray had been on hospice after a long battle with cancer. Please keep Jean and the family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Norman D. Burkett, whose legendary career as president of Hamilton Healthcare System and lifetime leadership in civic affairs enriched the lives of fellow citizens and epitomized the ideal of service to others, died on Thursday, June 17, 2010, following an extended illness. He was 84. A beloved husband, father and grandfather, a revered colleague and a warm friend, he was widely known for his passionate pursuit of excellence in the cause of good works. Respected equally for his large-scale public projects and small, intimate acts of kindness, he endeared himself to generations of friends and admirers. For him, friendship was a sacred bond to nurture throughout life.

During almost 40 years as Hamilton's administrator, he shepherded its growth from a small rural hospital to an acclaimed regional health system. In the process, he was elected by peers to state, regional and

national posts, including the chairmanship of the American College of Health Care Executives in 1978.

A man of broad vision and boundless energy, he brought the most innovative concepts in health care delivery – from hospice to wellness – to Northwest Georgia long before they were adopted by many hospitals in major urban centers. He procured the largest health care construction grant ever awarded by the Appalachian Regional Commission at the time and inspired residents of Whitfield County to become generous benefactors of their health system's flourishing philanthropic foundation. He cited his experience as a young Navy medical corpsman in World War II for his desire to see that people, regardless of their rank in life, receive the same skillful and caring treatment. His philosophy was to provide every patient with the finest facilities and highest quality care possible.

A native of Okeechobee, Florida, he attended Berry College and Emory University, and received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Georgia. He completed additional studies in health care administration at Cornell University, later serving as preceptor for graduate students in the field at Georgia State University and the Medical College of Virginia.

He served as a Navy corpsman in World War II, and was later commissioned as a medical service corps officer in the United States Air Force Reserve, where he achieved the rank of Captain.