

PROGRESS notes

EDUCATION / NETWORKING

President's letter... Ginny Collins



Dear Colleagues,

As I reflect on the recent GMGMA Annual Conference at Callaway Gardens, it becomes more apparent to me each year how this association has bloomed into not only Administrators and Managers coming together for educational seminars and networking opportunities, but getting to spend time with one another networking and becoming a "family".

It is always a delight to see familiar faces every year however, this year, I was thrilled at how many new members we had that joined us at the "Gathering at the Gardens"!

During the conference, I along with others from the Board, made several announcements asking our Members to become more involved with GMGMA. The level of commitment could range from serving on one of the various committees to becoming part of the Board. I am happy to report that we had several members show interest in how they could serve. This association is strictly driven by volunteers and we are always looking for new and fresh ideas to keep our group thriving.

I am very appreciative of our current Board and Committee Members and all their enthusiasm they

show and the sacrifices they make that results in GMGMA being an incredibly successful organization. I think you will agree with me that this past conference shows their dedication as we make sure our members are receiving the best educational content with a little fun added to the mix!

I want to thank the entire membership for the opportunity to serve as President of this wonderful association. It has been an enjoyable and gratifying year in so many ways. This has not been because of anything I have done but by the community of members and a highly motivated and engaged group of Officers, Board Members, Directors, Committee Chairs, and our ever-amazing Executive Coordinator. It takes a "family" to make an association of our size successful and I am grateful for the countless hours of volunteer leadership everyone makes on an on-going basis.

So get involved and many thanks to each of you!

Sincerely,

Ginny Skipper-Collins

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HELLO SUMMER!



"2012 Resolutions for Implementing IT in Your Practice" By David Gracey

2012 is shaping up to be a groundbreaking year for the healthcare sector and while keeping up with changing healthcare policies makes for a busy year, updating office IT networks will help physicians stay on track. Recent advances in technology have also helped healthcare providers streamline workflows, save money and improve patient care. As healthcare organizations begin a new year, they should take this time to reflect on the year past and look for ways to improve and change.

Embracing advances in technology requires a checklist for your office's internal and external needs. The following top three healthcare IT resolutions for 2012 highlight

the convergence of healthcare and mobile; cloud-based services

for enhancing office efficiency; and continued adoption of EHRs as deadlines for Meaningful Use incentives arrive.

Mobile Devices / Healthcare Applications

There's no doubt, clinicians love their mobile devices.

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Healthcare specialists have eagerly embraced both smartphones and tablets to reference materials on drugs and treatment options, help provide patient education and record and access patient records. Mobile and tablet applications for healthcare consumers to access their health history on-the-go and thousands others will allow patients to have access to more of their daily data than ever before.

Cloud Computing for Medical Offices

Cloud computing is revolutionizing the healthcare industry. It will provide new delivery models to make healthcare more efficient and effective, and at a lower cost to technology budgets. New and innovative applications that utilize the cloud will make it easier for doctors to reference patient history, submit referrals, process prescriptions and interact with the patient community all with greater data security than ever before.

Electronic Health Records (EHRs)

Adopting EHRs provide more accurate health records, reduce errors based on handwriting, and provide all treating physicians with access to the same patient data. The new year will see increased use of EHRs to physician practices as doctors realize time is running out on Meaningful Use incentives as the government requires.

Make 2012 the year to keep your resolutions and make a plan for updating your office IT networks.

David Gracey is a graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology where he earned his Bachelors in Industrial Engineering in 1989. When he started Network 1 Consulting in 1998, his mission was to provide clients with the best consulting services available. That mission remains at the heart of the daily operations at Network 1. He believes despite how complex the technology gets, businesses want their computers to run smoothly but also prefer knowing the people behind the technology. The relationship builds trust, which makes for a successful partnership.

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