



President's Comments

Lynne Gagnon, RN, MS, CPHQ, MAHQ President

Welcome Spring! I am sure my call for Spring is echoed by many of you. With the new season comes a "renewal" of many things: grass, flowers, cookouts, and times with friends. If the "Spring Genie" could grant me three wishes I would wish for peace in the world, an end to pain and suffering, and for a "renewal" of involvement and commitment to our profession and our professional organization. We have heard from many of you that additional work demands prohibit many of you from attending regular meetings or committing to any volunteer responsibilities. MAHQ is your organization and as your officers we want to make it what you need it to be. Our primary mission is to be an educational resource for our members. We would like to hear from you as to suggestions for formats of educational programs and content. We received some of that from the members who attended our March meeting and we would like to hear more.

We have an exciting meeting planned for May 14th, to be held at the Maine Hospital Association Building. Check the web site for the full schedule. We also have scheduled Sandra Murray, who wrote NAHQ's resource "A Dash through the Data" for our Annual meeting September 19th at the Harraseeket in Freeport. Her full day program is "Quality as a Business Strategy: Creating an Organization-Wide Structure for Improvement"; a very timely topic and challenge for all of us.

If you would like to contact me, you may email me at president@maineahq.org.

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Committee Reports

Program Committee:

It was proposed by the Board to have half-day meetings in lieu of some full day events. This may allow us to increase the frequency with which we have educational meetings. We will also be exploring the option of using teleconference facilities at some institutions to allow members to attend without having to travel so far.

Membership Committee:

MAHQ will do a mailing to all CPHQ's in the state regarding MAHQ membership as not all CPHQ's belong to our association. Only 40 of the state's 52 CPHQ's are MAHQ members. A social event may be held in the future in an effort for members who would not normally have the opportunity to meet and network to get to know each other better.

Many other MAHQ member have found Wednesdays to be a day that their organizations frequently hold business meetings and make a recommendation to changes meeting days to Fridays, which appear to have more flexibility for members. The Board approved the change.

For questions on membership contact Carrie McFadden at membership@maineahq.org.

Bylaws Committee:

The Membership approved revisions to the Bylaws at the March 19 meeting. A copy of the current Bylaws is available on our [website](#).

Treasurer's Report:

The Board accepted the Account Balances report as of 2/19/03.

G. Nashan noted an increase in 2002 membership fees received, but a decline in program registration revenue in 2002. This decline was due to having cut registration fees in 2002 as well as conducting

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2003 NAHQ Award for Association Excellence

Cindy Brigham has agreed to continue to lead MAHQ's efforts to attain the award for 2003. The 2003 application has been received, and it was noted that NAHQ received additional feedback from other state affiliations regarding improving the national process.



MAHQ News

Members chose **Lynne Gagnon, MAHQ President**, as the **Distinguished Member of the Year** for 2003. Lynne was presented with the award at the MHA Summer Forum Affiliates Luncheon. Lynne was recognized for her continuing commitment to MAHQ and NAHQ and for her achievements in advancing healthcare quality. Lynne received a quilted pillow embroidered with the award at the MAHQ Board meeting following the luncheon.

Have you visited our website yet? It is fantastic and full of valuable information. Check out our library resources!! Job postings are also listed. Please visit it at www.maineahq.org. All Board members are listed under "Contact Us". We would love feedback from you!

- If interested in being on a MAHQ committee, call Lynne Gagnon, at 973-6155.
- Don't forget to thank your employer for your membership to the MAHQ.

NAHQ News

The NAHQ 28th Annual Educational Conference "**On Par With Quality**" will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, September 6 – 9, 2003 at the Marriott Desert Ridge Resort. FMI visit the NAHQ website at www.nahq.org

Free Registration (maybe)!

If you plan to attend and would like to be considered for the MAHQ scholarship, which will cover your registration, please contact [Lynne Gagnon](mailto:Lynne.Gagnon@maineahq.org) at 973-6155 by August 7th.

one less meeting in the year. Vendor fees were not broken out in 2002; however, Georges will review the 2002 registration fees to determine if vendor fees were captured under that category. Other increases in expenses noted for 2002 are related to the Website Development fees, as well as charitable donations. The focus for 2003 in regards to the treasurer's report will be in the area of increased membership involvement as well as controlling educational speaker costs.

For questions contact Carrie McFadden at treasurer@maineahq.org.

MAHQ Education Meetings

May 14, 2003 – "A Regulatory Update" and "Presenting Data"; this program was a huge success with outstanding attendance.

June 26, 2003 - MHA Summer Forum – "Healthcare at the Crossroads: Sustaining our Healing Spirit", Carl A. Hammerschlag, MD; "The Rise, Fall and Rise of Harley-Davidson", Ken Schmidt. Attendees heard moving presentations by two excellent speakers who added the phrases "Good Belly" and "Soft Tail" to our vocabulary.

September 19, 2003 – Annual Meeting – "**Quality as a Business Strategy**", Sandra K. Murray. Harraseeket Inn, Freeport. This program promises to give you concrete tools to use in dealing with one of our thorniest problems – making the business case for quality. Don't miss it! Registration forms are available on the [website](http://www.maineahq.org).

MAHQ Board Meetings

- MAHQ Board meetings are open to all members. The next MAHQ Board meeting will be the morning of our Annual Quality Conference, September 19, 2003 at the Harraseekett Inn, in Freeport.. Please let [Lynne Gagnon](mailto:Lynne.Gagnon@maineahq.org) know if you plan to attend.

Odds & Ends

- Massachusetts AHQ is forming a study group for the CPHQ exam. If interested call Lori Blades 617-723-4803. Also, let [Beth Bunker-Anderson](mailto:Beth.Bunker-Anderson@maineahq.org) know if you would consider car pooling.
- Received notice of a **PI Analyst** opening at St. Joseph Hospital in Bangor. Contact [Georges Nashan](mailto:Georges.Nashan@maineahq.org) at 262-1753 if you are interested in more information.