



ETAHU Review

A Monthly Publication of the
East Texas Association of Health Underwriters
2008-2009 TAHU Medium Chapter of the Year
2008-2009 President's Citation Award for Newsletter



June 2009



Friday, July 24, 2009
at
Hollytree Country Club
in Tyler
11:30am—1:00pm
TBD

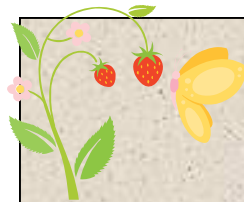
Someone's sitting in the shade
because someone planted a tree a
long time ago.

~ Warren Buffett ~



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Friday, June 19, 2009



ETAHU Membership Luncheon Meeting & Installation of 2009/2010 ETAHU President and ETAHU Board

11:30a-2:00p at
Hollytree Country Club in Tyler, TX
Membership Meeting including
2 hour of CE, "Ethics the NAHU Way"

TDI Provider Number 32408
course# 3101



Presented by Mark Hobgood,
ETAHU President



Lunch sponsored by:



A.D. Banker & Company
of East Texas

President's Message

By: Mark Hobgood



Is it really June?

Let me think about this.... school is out, the weather forecast calls for highs in the upper 90's, humidity is HIGH, this is the last message I will write as the President of the Chapter. So, June is definitely here!

It has been a tremendous journal for me as president. Each month I would begin reflecting on my newsletter article, I would first begin with solid research for my topic. Research consists of surfing the various websites and newsletters from other NAHU chapters and looking for inspiration (better known as stealing others ideas).

This month was no different and the result was no different. Each chapter president reflected and bragged about their chapter and the accomplishments of the last year. As I was completing my research it was very clear that - ETAHU is an outstanding chapter and it is the members that keep me inspired.

I am not going to reflect on the past year except to express my deepest appreciation to every member of ETAHU, the Trustees and Directors for opportunity to work with you for our industry. A special thanks to Beverly Davis for stepping in during the May 2009 membership luncheon and leading the chapter in my absence. Together we have had a tremendous journey and together we will have another outstanding year.

It is now time to look into the future for our organization and our industry. The future is exciting and filled with energy under the leadership of Beverly Davis. I have had the pleasure of working with the majority of the 2009-2010 Board and they are a dedicated team. Again, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be associated with such a great group of people.



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We are a locally owned affiliate of the top national provider of insurance licensing exam preparation and continuing education. We provide services throughout East Texas, and our associates can provide coverage for all of Texas and other states. Our instructors draw on many years of experience, which they bring to the classroom. Most of our classes can qualify for college credit.

Licensing Exam Preparation

- ◆ Property and casualty, life and health and securities
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- ◆ Monthly scheduled classes for P&C and L&H in Tyler. Classes are periodically scheduled elsewhere.
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- ◆ Regularly scheduled classes in Tyler; frequently scheduled in other cities.
- ◆ Custom classes can also be arranged for agencies or other groups
- ◆ Long Term Care Partnership Courses for initial 8 hour certification and 4 hour CE meet TX Department of Insurance requirements and are ClearCert® approved to meet carrier requirements.

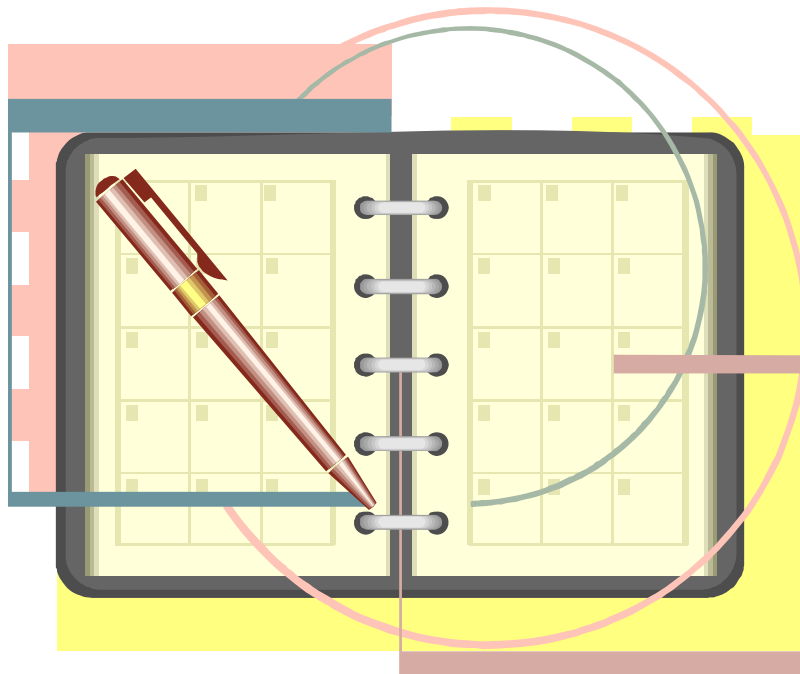
Contact us with any questions or to discuss your training needs. For full details, visit us at:

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- June 18, 2009 **ETAHU 2009-2010 Board Strategy Meeting**, 3pm—5pm at Threlkeld Insurance (2nd floor, conference room)
- June 19, 2009 **ETAHU Membership Luncheon**—2 hour ETHICS CE Course in Tyler at Hollytree Country Club
- June 28-
July 1, 2009 **NAHU Annual Convention** (Marriott Marquis in New York, NY)
- July 17, 2009 **TAHU Board Meeting** for TAHU Board Members and local Presidents in Austin, TX
- July 24, 2009 **ETAHU Board Meeting** prior to luncheon, time TBD
- July 24, 2009 **ETAHU Membership Luncheon**—1 hour CE in Tyler at Hollytree Country Club
- August 2009 Meeting date pending



ABC TURNS PROGRAMMING OVER TO OBAMA; NEWS TO BE ANCHORED FROM INSIDE WHITE HOUSE

Tue, Jun 16 2009

On the night of June 24, the media and government become one, when ABC turns its programming over to President Obama and White House officials to push government run health care -- a move that has ignited an ethical firestorm!

Highlights on the agenda:

ABCNEWS anchor Charlie Gibson will deliver WORLD NEWS from the Blue Room of the White House.

The network plans a primetime special -- 'Prescription for America' -- originating from the East Room, exclude opposing voices on the debate.

The Director of Communications at the White House Office of Health Reform is Linda Douglass, who worked as a reporter for ABC News from 1998-2006.

Late Monday night, Republican National Committee Chief of Staff Ken McKay fired off a complaint to the head of ABCNEWS:

Dear Mr. Westin:

As the national debate on health care reform intensifies, I am deeply concerned and disappointed with ABC's astonishing decision to exclude opposing voices on this critical issue on June 24, 2009. Next Wednesday, ABC News will air a primetime health care reform "town hall" at the White House with President Barack Obama. In addition, according to an ABC News report, GOOD MORNING AMERICA, WORLD NEWS, NIGHTLINE and ABC's web news "will all feature special programming on the president's health care agenda." This does not include the promotion, over the next 9 days, the president's health care agenda will receive on ABC News programming.

Today, the Republican National Committee requested an opportunity to add our Party's views to those of the President's to ensure that all sides of the health care reform debate are presented. Our request was rejected. I believe that the President should have the ability to speak directly to the America people. However, I find it outrageous that ABC would prohibit our Party's opposing thoughts and ideas from this national debate, which affects millions of ABC viewers.

In the absence of opposition, I am concerned this event will become a glorified infomercial to promote the Democrat agenda. If that is the case, this primetime infomercial should be paid for out of the DNC coffers. President Obama does not hold a monopoly on health care reform ideas or on free airtime. The President has stated time and time again that he wants a bipartisan debate. Therefore, the Republican Party should be included in this primetime event, or the DNC should pay for your airtime.

Respectfully,
Ken McKay
Republican National Committee
Chief of Staff

ABCNEWS Senior Vice President Kerry Smith on Tuesday responded to the RNC complaint, saying it contained 'false premises': "ABCNEWS prides itself on covering all sides of important issues and asking direct questions of all newsmakers -- of all political persuasions -- even when others have taken a more partisan approach and even in the face of criticism from extremes on both ends of the political spectrum. ABCNEWS is looking for the most thoughtful and diverse voices on this issue."

"ABCNEWS alone will select those who will be in the audience asking questions of the president. Like any programs we broadcast, ABC News will have complete editorial control. To suggest otherwise is quite unfair to both our journalists and our audience."

THANK YOU

TO THE FOLLOWING FOR CONTRIBUTING
TO THE TAHUPAC & HUPAC FUNDS
since December, 2008



TAHUPAC

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Gilbert Baker—PLATINUM
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Why is it so important to contribute???

TAHUPAC contributions go to support Texas candidates for office who support the values of TAHU. They believe in private solutions for health care and not in the single payer system. By supporting TAHUPAC and our mission, contributions help to bring more credibility and influence to this organization that we serve.

HUPAC funds have been used to help defeat single payer bills put forth in more than a dozen states. The single payer system is picking up momentum in certain parts of the country and NAHU continually monitors these bills. HUPAC allows us to maintain a seat at the tables of legislators and has allowed our industry to influence LTC, DI, health insurance legislation, etc.



Baucus to chop \$600 billion from healthcare bill

By Alexander Bolton, The Hill: Posted 6/17/09

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.) said Wednesday the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) analysis of his healthcare bill has prompted him to rein in costs and admitted that could delay action on the legislation.

His goal is to bring the cost of his panel's sprawling healthcare reform bill down from \$1.6 trillion to \$1 trillion, and to pay for it entirely with tax increases, spending cuts and other offsets.

Baucus said his committee will go back to the drawing board to pare down the cost of healthcare reform and could not guarantee that a markup of legislation would happen next week as scheduled.

A Finance Committee aide said the changes will not result in any delays to the schedule. Baucus's bill has yet to be made public, and the markup was expected to begin before the July 4 recess.

"CBO scores are really important," said Baucus, after members of the Finance Committee decided to re-craft portions of its legislation based on the CBO estimate. "CBO just told us 10 minutes ago what the implication would be on a certain provision which is important to a lot of senators.

"We have to wait on some of these numbers while senators make up their minds on some of these policy provisions, and it's just taking time. When we're ready, we're ready. We're not there yet."

When asked whether the markup would be delayed until after the July 4 recess, Baucus said: "I hope not but I can't guarantee it."

A Finance Committee aide said the changes will be crafted immediately.

"Sen. Baucus wants to ensure the committee gets the mark right and will take the time to do exactly that," the aide said. "While it's simply too early to say when the markup process will begin, the committee will continue to work hard over the next week and a half to produce a bill that is fully paid for and can pass the Senate. Sen. Baucus will continue to work with members on both sides of the aisle and remains confident we'll have a budget-neutral bill."

Members of the Finance Committee will review a range of policies, including the size of healthcare subsidies offered to low- and middle-income Americans. The CBO estimated that subsidies under consideration by the Finance Committee would have spurred a larger-than-expected flight of people away from employer-provided health insurance plans, increasing the plan's projected cost, according to a member of the panel.

Sen. Kent Conrad (D-N.D.), a senior member of Finance, applauded Baucus's decision to slow things down and get the numbers right.

"When you're dealing with something of this complexity, you send up a plan, see what it costs, and you know it's got to be reduced and then you make changes and then it all has to go back and be re-scored, and a lot of people have to be in on the discussion, so it's very time-consuming," said Conrad. "I think it was a very good decision to slow down because of the score that came back.

"Given this score from CBO, we need more time to evaluate options," Conrad added when asked about the budget agency's projection that the bill would cost \$1.6 trillion.

Conrad said \$1.6 trillion is "way too much."

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Luncheon Sponsor cost: \$75.00

Call Beverly Davis at 469-222-6055 or email at davisb@aetna.com to reserve your month.

East Texas Association of Health Underwriters 2008 – 2009 Board

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