

5/11/10

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# AC-CMSA Newsletter

## Spring is in the Air!!

April showers bring May flowers....San Antonio is certainly getting our fair share of great Spring weather. The flowers are blooming, the birds are chirping and the grass is the greenest that I have seen in a few years.

What else has been great about Spring 2010? The Alamo Chapter CMSA had our first annual conference in March. It was such a huge success. Thank you to everyone that participated—from the volunteers, the vendors, sponsors, speakers and the attendees.

“Spring into Case Management” was the theme. The vendors went all out in

decorating their booths for the occasion. There were door prizes, great food, wonderful speakers and a relaxing atmosphere.

Our fearless leader Lisa Smelter was the conductor and the volunteers were the symphony. What a classic example of how teamwork can make everything run smoothly. And isn't that just a wonderful way to start the year?

In June, we will have the CMSA's 20th Anniversary Conference. All members should have received the conference information. If you have not, then please go to the CMSA website and review your profile to make certain we have the

most recent contact information for you. I have also provided a few details inside.

In addition to finding the national conference info, there is information on upcoming events, “Become A Certified Case Manager” a new column dedicated to case management certification, guess who and much more! If anyone is interested in posting an article or just wants to share information with the chapter, please email Belinda Guzman at [guzman.belinda@sbcglob al.net](mailto:guzman.belinda@sbcglob al.net) with your request. Thanks and enjoy the





## Community Events

The City of San Antonio has so many organizations and opportunities for our members to support local groups and causes. Below are a few events that are happening in and around San Antonio in the next few weeks:

- 5/13/10—GlobalRehab Open House—4pm to 7pm. 19126 Stone Hue, SA, Tx 78258.
- 5/22/10—American Parkinson Disease Association 5k—8am at OP Schnabel Park.
- 5/9-15—San Antonio New World Wine and Food Festival. (210) 822-9555
- 5/10-16—Valero Texas Open. (210) 345-3818
- 5/31/10—Alamo Honor Flight cordially invites you to celebrate our partnership with AT&T Pioneers at American Legion-Post 2 at 3518 Fredericksburg Road, San Antonio, TX 78201 at 2 PM.
- 6/11-13—Texas Folklife Festival. (210) 458-2224
- 7/23/10—Texas NeuroRehab—”Rehabilitation of Patients with Brain Injuries Symposium” Contact Meg Davis for more information at 512-636-9176
- 9/25/10—CCM One Day Review at Spring Hill Suites. Registration fee is \$125 for members and \$150 for Non-members. Call Terri Payne at 210-273-6282 for more information.

*The nomination committee is now forming for the recruitment of officers for the 2010-2011 Board of Directors. If you are interested in being a part of the committee or running for office, please contact Lisa Smelter at 210-602-2252.*

## CMSA's 20th Anniversary Conference and Expo

Don't forget to make plans to attend the National CMSA Conference and Expo in Florida this year. All members should be receiving updated information in the mail with the appropriate registration forms and all details necessary to make travel arrangements. If you do not have the information, you may go to the website at [www.cmsa.org/conference](http://www.cmsa.org/conference) for more information.

"2010 marks CMSA's twentieth anniversary. To celebrate this milestone year, CMSA has joined with the folks at Walt Disney World to design a once

in a lifetime CMSA extravaganza. In the hope you will be able to join us as we network with industry leaders, learn how CMSA has become part of the solution to our nation's health care crisis, discover new and updated evidenced-based practices, experience hands-on demonstrations of the latest and greatest cutting-edge technologies, treatments, services, and pharmaceuticals.

Join thousands of other case managers and their families as we celebrate in our very own section of Disney World park. "  
- Margaret A. Leonard



## Alamo Honor Flight

ACCMSA is teaming up with Alamo Honor Flight to help them in reaching their goal to provide World War II and other veterans free trips to the national World War II Memorial in Washington, D. C. How can we help? By getting the word out to various organizations, service groups, churches schools, etc that have the time and resources to volunteer and/or contribute to their first flight planned for midsummer 2010. Please go to [www.AlamoHonorFlight.com](http://www.AlamoHonorFlight.com) for more details on the organization, how to apply for a trip, volunteer or to donate.

This is a national non-profit organization that recently opened a new branch in San Antonio. Veterans are selected based on a "first-come, first-served basis" and their trip is paid in full by donations from the community.





*Our chapter is committed to promoting education and certification for area case managers.*

## **Become a Certified Case Manager!!**

Welcome to *Become a Certified Case Manager*, a new column with our chapter newsletter. Our chapter is committed to promoting education and certification for area case managers. Why certify?

There are many reasons, both professional and financial:

\*Certified case managers uphold the highest standard of professional and ethical practice.

\*Certification encourages, and recognizes professional achievement, and an individual's commitment to lifelong learning.

\*Certification is recognition of your achievement, expertise, and clinical judgment.

\*Certified case managers are highly desirable employees; surveys demonstrate that institutions offer incentives to promote and recognize

certification.

\*Certified case managers command higher pay; salary surveys show that there are significant gains in compensation when certification is achieved.

A common question is "Which certification should I pursue?"

Answering that question may depend on your generic discipline as well as what credentials your employer recognizes. Two of the most recognized are the CCM=Certified Case Manager, offered by the Commission for Case Manager Certification, and the RN-BC=Board Certified Case Manager, offered by the American Nurses' Credentialing Commission (ANCC)/ANA. You will want to review any certification eligibility and exam criteria to ensure that you are qualified. The CCM and ANCC exams are computer-based. Check with your employer to see

if there are educational funds, or monetary incentives, to take a certification exam.

Now, just for fun, a sample certification exam question will be included in this column. Only case managers who are not certified may participate. E-mail your answer to [elaine.miller@uhs-sa.com](mailto:elaine.miller@uhs-sa.com) and your prize will be available at the May 2010 ACCMSA meeting or by mail.

A case management tool that outlines key processes and interventions that must occur in a timely fashion to achieve appropriate length of stay is:

- 1-Variance tracking form
- 2-Clinical Pathway
- 3-Case utilization plan
- 4-Utilization review plan

## Guess Who????

In each issue of the AC-CMSA newsletter, we will highlight a member. Let's see if you can guess who this is....

This individual was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. She has also lived in Houston, Dallas, and Memphis, TN. She is one of five children and has 2 daughters!

She graduated from Incarnate Word College where she received her BSN.

One of her favorite memories is traveling back to her roots, GERMANY, with her siblings and parents. She also loves visiting her ranch in Bandera, hunting in Rocksprings, gardening, water aerobics, and spending time with her friends. All of her hobbies come after time spent with her 6 grandchildren, ranging in age from 4-14, all of whom keep her very busy!

She began her nursing career working in Dr. Michael DeBakey's surgical post-op

ICU and was a member of the first heart transplant team in America. She then worked with Dr. Walter Walthall for 20 years as his office nurse. She also has experience as a hospice case manager, DON, research nurse, and care manager.

She has a loyal commitment to her patients, peers, physicians, and families. She enjoys being a member of AC-CMSA because it "allows me to network with my peers and to stay aware of the updates and changes of patient transitions between levels of skilled care."

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If you have an event that you would like

The Alamo Chapter Case Management Society of America



AC-CMSA  
PO Box 29306  
San Antonio, TX 78229

Please join us for our monthly CEU dinners. They are held the second Wednesday of the month at:

Spring Hill Suites

3636 NW Loop 410

San Antonio, TX 78201

Networking from 5:00pm to 5:45pm

Announcements from 5:45pm to 6:00pm

Program from 6:00pm to 7:00pm

We look forward to seeing you there!

[www.accmsa.org](http://www.accmsa.org)

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**Guess Who Was our Mystery AC-CMSA member on page 3?**

**Dianna Zimmerman of Mesa Vista Inn Health Center!! Thanks Dianna for everything you do for AC-CMSA. We appreciate you!**