



GOPHER TRACKS

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

KRISTINA GURSKY CRCR, CRCP

VICE PRESIDENT OF HEALTHCARE STRATEGY AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT AT IC SYSTEM

Greetings, everyone!



It's my favorite time of year—fall! I always feel there's something so magical with the seasonal changes. Fall especially with the gorgeous landscapes we see here in Minnesota as the temperatures start cooling and the leaves change is such sight to see.

As the seasons change, there's a lot of great changes happening within AAHAM as well. Our National office recently engaged in a partnership with a new association management company, Association Headquarters. It's an exciting time to see what new ideas and tools they'll offer the organization to ensure all of our valued members, such as yourselves, are provided with top-notch education and networking opportunities! In addition to keeping in touch with Minnesota, be sure to pay attention to what's happening at the National level as well.

At the state level, we're gearing up for this year's Payer Panel here in the Gopher Chapter. Our ever-popular Payer Panel will take place November 6th and 7th. More details can be found in this newsletter. This is the must-attend event of the year, where you have an opportunity to hear updates directly from your major payers. Be sure to register today!

Election season is upon us! We're going to be putting out the calls for nominations very soon—I would highly encourage all of you to participate in helping our chapter give you the benefits you're looking for from AAHAM. Be sure to stay tuned for more information very soon.

As I wrap up this message to all of you, I'm preparing to leave for the ANI in California. The ANI is the biggest AAHAM event of the year. If you've never had the opportunity to attend, I would highly recommend making the effort. The educational and networking opportunities are top-notch, and I always walk away feeling so energetic and recharged to tackle the issues we're facing in today's revenue cycle space.

Again, don't forget to register for the upcoming Payer Panel in November—I hope to see all of you there!

Respectfully,
Kristina

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FALL PAYER PANEL

EDUCATION & NETWORKING
NOVEMBER 6TH & 7TH
BEST WESTERN KELLY INN
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AGENDA

NOVEMBER 6TH

8:30-9:00 AM: MEMBER WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

9:00-9:45 AM: MN STATE WORK COMP UPDATES *With Lisa Wichterman, MN State Work Comp*

9:45-10:00 AM: BREAK

10:00-11:00 AM: MEDICA PAYER UPDATES *With Katie Foster, Medica*

11:00-12:00 PM: HEALTHPARTNERS PAYER UPDATES *With Nick Michelson & Rachel Caulfield, Health Partners*

12:00-12:45 PM: LUNCH

12:45-1:45 PM: MEDICARE PAYER UPDATES *With Jean Roberts, National Government Services*

1:45-2:45 PM: MEDICARE SECONDARY PAYER *With Kevin Willis, Claims Services*

2:45-3:00 PM: BREAK

3:00-4:00 PM: VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION PAYER EXPECTATIONS, UPDATES & APPEALS
With Jason Smartt, Esq., EnableComp

4:00-6:00 PM: MN AAHAM NETWORKING EVENT

NOVEMBER 7TH

8:30- 9:00 AM: BREAKFAST & MORNING WELCOME

9:00- 9:45 AM: MEDICARE ADVANTAGE RISK ADJUSTMENTS *With Bryan Beaudoin, Protiviti*

9:45-10:00 AM: BREAK

10:00-11:00 AM: MEDICAID PAYER UPDATES *With Cher Vang, State of Minnesota*

11:00-11:45 AM: MN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION UPDATES *With Joe Schindler, MN Hospital Association*

11:45-12:00 PM: WRAP UP & CLOSING COMMENTS

12:30 PM: BOARD MEETING

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LEGISLATIVE NEWS

SPEAKER KEVIN MCCARTHY OUSTED

BY PAUL MILLER, MILLER/WENHOLD CAPITOL STRATEGIES

On October 3, 2023, Speaker Kevin McCarthy, lost his vote to retain his role as Speaker of the House. By a vote of 216-206, the motion to vacate was approved. This has now set off a scramble for the next Speaker. There was no agreed upon candidate. Rep. Scott Perry, the head of the Freedom Caucus said he is stepping back and letting things play out. Not really comforting. The initial plan was to renominate McCarthy and keep the House in session until he won, which they did with original fight. How could he have won? Strike a deal with Minority Leader Jeffries to swing the needed votes to McCarthy. Democrats got their pound of flesh with the ouster vote. That did not happen as Kevin told the Caucus late last night he was going home to be with family.

Here are some of the names of people seeking the Speaker's gavel:

Rep. McHenry, who is the acting chair. Since 911, a process was implemented that the incoming Speaker designates a hand-picked successor should something happen. This person's name is kept secret. McHenry is a McCarthy ally, so he won't be the permanent choice unless there isn't a consensus candidate and people just want to move on. Longshot to become the next Speaker.

Rep. Tom Emmer: Emmer is seen by the Freedom Caucus as a true conservative and say they have worked well with him. Some have said they would like to see him ascend to that role. Tom officially said no last night. Tom is a calculating member and why he has risen through the ranks. Tom has endorsed Steve Scalise, the House Majority Leader. Tom would like to be Majority Leader with the plan of becoming Speaker down the road.

Majority Leader Steve Scalise: Scalise seems acceptable to the Freedom Caucus. Steve is a more hard-line member, which they like. Challenges for him are the moderate wing of the party, who are very upset with how this played out. Other issues for Scalise is his cancer diagnosis and going through chemo at this time. Some question his ability to take on this role during his battle with cancer.

Rep. Kevin Hern: Hern is the chair of the Republican Study Committee, which is a large group of over 100 conservative lawmakers who issue annual policy recommendations for the Republican Caucus. Kevin would not get the votes he needs as moderates view him as too far right. Don't be surprised to see him run for Whip should Emmer move up.

Rep. Jim Jordan: Jordan passed earlier this year on a run at Speaker. He is now reconsidering. He is the chair of the Judiciary Committee and member of the Freedom Caucus but was aligned with McCarthy. I have always said if you can win Jim Jordan, you are doing something right. Jordan will be an even harder sell to the moderate wing.

We may see others, but these are the early names out rounding up support. If we don't get a consensus candidate by early next week, we are in for more prolonged drama. The question will be how far do moderates want to take this as far as retaliation goes.

One thing is clear, whoever takes the gavel will have the same problems McCarthy had. We now revisit closing the government in less than 45 days. The reality is, a clean Continuing Resolution to fund the government is likely what it will take to keep the government open. You might be able to negotiate money for border security, but Ukraine is the big issue, which they may choose to deal with on its own. The senate supports more funding for Ukraine. There are enough Republican votes to make that happen.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

SPEAKER KEVIN MCCARTHY OUSTED (continued)

Not so on the House side. The other issue not considered when ousting McCarthy was fundraising. McCarthy raised a half a billion dollars last cycle. No candidate for Speaker has that ability right now and doubt they will have the bandwidth to do what McCarthy did. The next Speaker will need the same Democrat votes McCarthy did.

Lots of unknowns right now.

Here is the list of those who voted against McCarthy on the Republican side:

- Andy Biggs of Arizona
- Ken Buck of Colorado
- Tim Burchett of Tennessee
- Eli Crane of Arizona
- Matt Gaetz of Florida
- Bob Good of Virginia
- Nancy Mace of South Carolina
- Matt Rosendale of Montana



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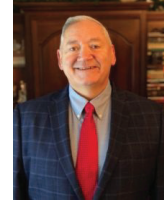
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