

Association for Healthcare Foodservice Membership Questions

1. Why did I receive a bill?
 - a. Your membership in ASHFSA and/or HFM was rolled over to AHF. The bill you received was to cover your membership for part of the year and get you on the same billing cycle as everyone else, which is August 1 – July 31.
2. What if I do not pay this bill at this time?
 - a. Not paying this bill will not penalize you or make you inactive in AHF. You will be re-billed in approximately three month increments until it is received.
3. How many members are expected to be in AHF?
 - a. The number is unclear but is expected to be approximately 1700. That would be 400 business partners and 1300 operators
4. What if I did not receive a bill?
 - a. If you did not receive a bill, then you were not considered an active member of ASHFSA and/or HFM OR your membership was already current through July 31, 2010. If you were not considered active, you may fill out the form at www.healthcarefoodservice.org or contact Sarah Wingfield at 888-528-9552 and she can assist you. If your membership was already active through July 31, 2010, then you will be receiving a letter shortly that explains items about the AHF membership.
5. I paid my ASHFSA and/or HFM dues last month but still received a bill. Should I pay it?
 - a. If you paid ASHFSA and/or HFM in the last three months, you may have received a bill by accident. The AHF staff is checking with the HFM staff about monies recently received. You may disregard this bill at this time.
6. I don't understand why I received a prorated bill. I just paid my dues in ASHFSA and/or HFM.
 - a. Your dues will be rolled in AHF and the prorated bill you received will make your membership valid through July 31, 2010.
7. Do I have to pay the fee for the scholarship fund?
 - a. You do not, but remember that fund is how many operators are able to attend conference. It is purely a donation to that fund.
8. How will I be able to access the Members Only Section on the website?
 - a. When the new website (www.healthcarefoodservice.org) is up and running, you will be sent access information.
9. Can I still access the ASHFSA and/or HFM websites if I was previously a member?
 - a. Yes, you can. Your ASHFSA and/or HFM memberships are valid until the associations close. ASHFSA will be closing on July 31, 2009 and HFM will be closing on September 30, 2009.
10. Will the Professional Recognition Program through ASHFSA still be offered?
 - a. The member benefits are still being determined by a committee and the board of directors at this time. But, the Professional Recognition is a program that many people have voiced they would like to see continued.
11. What awards will be continued?
 - a. A committee has been formed to review all of the awards that ASHFSA and HFM offered. They will come up with an idea for what AHF should offer. As more information is available, it will be sent to the membership.
12. How can I serve on a committee?

- a. A few committees have already been set to get the organization running, but more will be determined in the next few months. An email will be sent to the membership notifying every one of the committees and opportunities available.
13. What impact will the consolidation have on the affiliations ASHFSA and HFM have with other organizations (e.g., ADA)?
- a. AHF will be THE ONLY healthcare foodservice association --larger in numbers and greater in strength. We can anticipate and be confident that all other food/foodservice associations ADA, NRA, NACUFS, WFF, SFM and more which ASHFSA and HFM may have written or verbal alliances with, including reciprocal advertising, comp registrations, etc. will continue.
14. Will the culture of ASHFSA and/or HFM go away?
- a. a. This has been one of the major discussion points for the task force based on feedback from Finn/Parks, the general membership and individual association's leadership. Of course there will be some culture change as the two organizations consolidate to become a new association. However, task forces have been assigned with equal members from both existing associations to ensure the best of both survive
15. What will happen to the current ASHFSA Chapters? What will happen to HFM's Networking meetings?
- a. One of our immediate goals is to transition all existing ASHFSA chapters into the new organization, under the new mission and vision. Once HFM and ASHFSA members are working together in the regions on education and programming, there will be no need for additional networking meetings. It will all be structured under existing and emerging chapters.
16. Will contractors be eligible for membership at the chapter level?
- a. No. In order to retain national chapter status, each will need to adopt the same membership eligibility criteria as the national organization. To retain existing chapters for which this presents an issue, there may be other affiliation options that will be explored, but to be a full chapter will require adopting the membership criteria
17. Will all members of the new organization be encouraged to belong to and participate in the chapters?
- a. Yes.
18. What will the annual conference look like now, ASHFSA's or HFM's? And how many days?
- a. A Conference Planning Committee will look at the Agenda of both organizations and determine the structure and length as soon as possible. Currently both organizations hold very similarly structured conferences. The silent auction, outside speakers, etc. Culinary competition and chapter meetings will be included. The first AHF National Conference will be held the week of June 5-9, 2010 in Austin, Texas.
19. How did you come up with the name Association for Healthcare Foodservice?
- a. The name, which was one of many recommended by Finn/Parks, was largely debated by the Task Force. After much discussion it was agreed that since this was the **only** association for healthcare foodservice that this name represented us well. The mission and the vision drove home the self-operated standpoint of the association

If you have a question that has not been answered on this sheet, please email it to Sarah Wingfield at AHF Headquarters at swingfield@hqtrs.com and we will get back to you with an answer. All questions that are asked will then be added to this list.