



New Bedford Chapter #1



The New Bedford News

October 2005

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 02

Plant Tour

The Herald News of Fall River

Thursday October 20, 2005

Networking /Registration 5:00 - 5:30PM

Plant Tour 5:30 PM

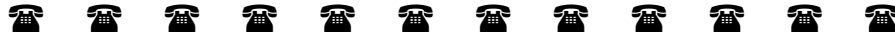
\$10.00 Members

\$ 5.00 Students



Please make your reservations by Monday Oct. 17, 2005

Call Nelly Fonseca – 508-676-2545



Directions to the Herald News



If you are coming from East of Fall River, on Route 195 take exit 7 Plymouth Ave., take a right at the end of the exit, and go to the second set of lights, take a left onto Bedford Street (one way). At the 3rd set of lights take a left (after the Post Office) and on your left you should see a set of flags and the city hall. At the light take a right onto Pocasset Street, the Herald News is on your left. Enter the front door.



Campus Corner

The Japanese Health Care System: A Model of Efficiency and Effectiveness

In last month's Campus Corner column, it was noted that the Japanese are the longest-lived constituents of the OECD but are only average spenders when it comes to health care, ranking 15th out of 30 OECD member countries. Americans on the other hand suffer from a below-average life expectancy but spend a disproportionate \$5,267 per person on average, far outstripping health care expenditures in other OECD countries. The Japanese health care system could offer some insights regarding how Americans' health might be improved while reducing the amount of money spent on Americans' care. The Japanese health care system is a mixed system distinguished by universal public health insurance that is delivered through either the Employee Health Insurance program (for employees and their dependents) or the Citizens' Health Insurance program (for self-employed and unemployed people); health services are delivered primarily by private providers. Patients receive a comprehensive range of services and are required to pay only modest copayments. Providers are paid primarily on a fee-for-service basis with prices adjusted individually every two years for each procedure and drug in order to discourage excessive use. The volume of health care is high, especially with respect to patient-doctor visits and pharmaceutical consumption per capita. Evidence exists that quality may be sacrificed for quantity since patients frequently wait a long time to consult physicians at large hospitals and then obtain only an abbreviated examination and cursory information. This may be due to the comparatively small count of physicians in Japan relative to other OECD countries. It is also due in part to the nearly costless admission to most hospitals and physician's practices, an example of moral hazard. But access to health services, both in terms of geographical location as well as service utilization seems to be largely equitable, even though health care financing appears somewhat regressive, a phenomenon observed elsewhere in other OECD countries. The U.S. is far less equitable when it comes to health care access and service utilization, especially when examined across socioeconomic strata.

The burden of a rapidly aging population plus economic stagnation in Japan prompted the government to introduce incremental reforms that increased the copayment rate from 10% to 20% for employees in 1997 and from a negligible fee to a 10% copay for those covered by old-age insurance in 2002. Both increases in copays prompted immediate drops in spending by these demographic groups. In contrast to the U.S., medical technology costs in Japan have been kept under control by applying a pricing practice where decreasing fees are paid in line with increases in utilization. Drug prices were slated to be cut in April 2004. These price controls and adjustments led to a contraction in medical expenditures in FY 2002 for the first time in Japan's history. While universal health care may be difficult to achieve in the U.S. due to ideological opposition about "big government" associated with a single payer system, the model provided by Japan of public funding and private sector health care delivery is one that could substantially reduce health care spending in the U.S. while retaining quality of service. The Japanese have demonstrated that a high quality of life can be sustained (as evidenced by their superior life expectancy) without spending a lot of money on health care services. Their example of incremental reform is one worthy of examination by U.S. health care policy-makers.

Laura B. Forker, Ph.D., C.P.M.
Professor, Operations Management
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

Plant Tour of the Herald News on October 20, 2005

**Tour conducted by
Mark Foisy, Circulation Director and Mike Niland, Production Director.**

1. Circulation-and its functions.
2. Advertising- How it works.
3. Business Office-the bean counters
4. Editorial-writers
5. Art Layout-graphics. Creating ads and lay out on the pages
6. The Plate room-aluminum plates made to go on printing press.
7. The press room- the actual printing press, Mailroom-inserting machine & strapping machine.

Tour will last about and hour.

The Herald News was founded in 1892, the result of the merger of three newspapers born in the 19th century: the Fall River News, which was founded in 1845; the Fall River Daily Herald, established in 1872, and the Fall River Daily Globe, created in 1885.

Sincerely,
Lisa Strattan
Editor
The Herald News

Important Information

Due to the fact that this is an old building and you will be climbing stairs and the floors may be slippery it is advisable that you wear flat comfortable shoes.

You must register ahead of the tour, as there is a limit of how many people can be accommodated and we need to know how many Pizzas to order.

Educational Opportunities

I have received two inquires to teach the review course “Basics of Supply Chain Management”. In order for these classes to be worthwhile I need at least three students. If you would like to take this class please call me at 508-990-8357 so that we can set up a night convenient to all the students.

Thank You
William Pike, CPIM

"Are you ready for Lean?"

The New Bedford Chapter, APICS #1 is pleased to report that a series of Lean workshops is being planned for the fall and winter months of 2005-2006. Included will be: An Introduction to Lean Operations; Lean Value Stream Mapping; and the application of the 5 S method. Other lean workshops are available like Process Improvement and Lean Quality, Lean Scheduling, Standard Work, etc.

We are considering U. Mass Dartmouth as our location for the series and will likely conduct the first workshop in November. We may have to limit the class size to 25, so registration will be on a first come-first served basis.

All workshops will be 1 day in duration, likely 8:30-4:30PM and will include a workbook and lunch. Early bird costs are \$250 per student, with discounts offered with 3 registrations from the same company (teams are really great during 5 S and mapping).

Further details on this exciting news will be forthcoming. Should you have questions, please contact me at your convenience. We welcome your intent to register at any time. And please let Don (our chapter President) know that this was a great idea!

Thanks

Mike
Executive VP, APICS, 2005

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Tentative dates for 2005 – 2006 PDMs

Nov. 17, 2005	Dan Marino
Dec. 2005	No Meeting
Jan. 19, 2006	TBA
Feb. 16, 2006	TBA
Mar. 16, 2006	Plant Tour (TBA)
April 20, 2006	Joint Meeting (South Shore)
May 18, 2006	TBA
June 15, 2006	Installation of Officers (Mike Walsh)



Postage

New Bedford Chapter #1
P.O. Box 6642
New Bedford MA, 02742

Seminar 1 Plan Now for 2006

APRIL 23, 24, 25

MARRIOTT - HARTFORD/WINDSOR, CT

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NOW!**

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