

★ Tuesday, August 16, 2011

## Monday's Grand Opening Highlights

AHRA's 39th Annual Meeting & Exposition was called to order on Monday morning by AHRA President Roland Rhynus, who introduced the board members, shared election results, welcomed special guests from AHRA's association allies, and updated members on the latest CRA news.

Maureen Firth, AHRAEF Chair, and Ed Cronin, AHRA CEO, also took the stage to share with members the successes and campaigns of the AHRA Education Foundation (see page 2 for more details), and to officially kick off AHRA's new membership options (visit the membership booth or [www.ahraonline.org](http://www.ahraonline.org) to learn more). Annual Meeting Design Team Chair Bill Algee then addressed the crowd to discuss the many exciting events and activities that have been planned for the week, to introduce the other members of the design team, including 2012 Design Team Chair Angie McDonald.

Todd Minnigh of Carestream Health, which generously sponsored Monday's Keynote Session, then introduced keynote speaker Rich Bluni, RN, who took attendees on an emotional rollercoaster of laughter and tears to help us remember our purpose in life.

In his keynote speech, Bluni described the Healthcare

Flywheel, a cycle of principles, pillar results, and passion. He then expanded on a question that everyone asks themselves about his/her work from time to time: "Why am I doing this?"

Using ethos and humor, Bluni very effectively conveyed his message to the audience: we must be present and conscious in our daily lives and in our work, rather than complacent, in order to remember our "why," to feel inspired to do our jobs and live our lives effectively, and connect our spirits with our purpose for why we do what we do.

All of us have bricks that make up our personal story - people, experiences, etc, that serve as building blocks for who we are today. It is important for us to each take a step back and recognize those bricks. Bluni challenged the audience to share their stories--their greatest moments in healthcare. He also advocated keeping a gratitude journal as a way to learn that all good things come from a place of gratitude. Negativity leads to distraction from our inspirations, our source for positivity. So we must find the good in each and every day, and in every person we encounter. To be inspired is to be in spirit, and judging by the standing ovation at the conclusion of Bluni's presentation, the audience most definitely agreed. ★



### contents



Education Foundation Update from the Chair .....	2
New Session .....	3
Wanna Keep Track of Your Totebag? .....	3
Exhibit Hall Information .....	4
Ten Gallon Hat Winners .....	5
Cast Your Vote in the AHRA Poster Contest .....	5
CRA Alumni Reception .....	7
Don't Take Your Time Here for Granted .....	8
President's Reception / New Member & First Time Attendee Reception .....	11
Keynote Sessions & Speakers	12