President’s Message

2017 has started very positively for the Florida State Society of American Medical Technologists! Our first meeting of the year was a great success. We had 83 participants, with excellent presenters and good food. All day there was a sense of enthusiasm and engagement. We are meeting one of our biggest goals and that is involvement. We plan to work on this goal for the rest of the year and each one of our members can make that happen.

The next meeting is in Tallahassee on June 3, 2017 at Keiser University, 1700 Halstead Blvd. Tallahassee, Fl. The program is very close to being published so watch the Website for the details and registration form. We challenge all of you to bring an AMT member with you and we will double our attendance. Word of mouth is very powerful and we need help spreading the word. There are a lot of members in that area and the surrounding states that would benefit.

Our committees are forming and it is exciting to get more people active in your state society. Not only do we get help with all the jobs that must be completed to have a meeting, we get to know you and we are hearing your VOICE. The Board of Directors are the people that plan and organize but the society belongs to all of you. There are more than 7,000 members in Florida and we want to reach as many as possible.

The 79th Educational Program and National Meeting will be held in Kansas City, Missouri July 9-13, 2017 at the Intercontinental Kansas City at the Plaza. There is Early Bird registration that you do not want to miss if you plan to go. We hope to take more delegates this year. You must meet the criteria to be a delegate and if you do not meet the criteria this year, now is the time to change that by attending our meetings and being involved. Once you go to a National Meeting, you are hooked! It is great fun and the learning opportunities are tremendous.

Mark your calendar for November 4, 2017 for the meeting in Fort Lauderdale. This is a favorite meeting place and we hope to exceed all expectations for this meeting. We are trying to provide the information concerning Certification Continuing Education Program, especially for the new members. Our primary mission is to provide affordable continuing education courses to our members that are mandatory to keep your certification in your discipline.

(Continued on page 9)
FLSSAMT Leadership

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**Save the Date**

FLSSAMT Educational Meeting • June 3 in Tallahassee

National AMT Convention • July 9-13 in Kansas City

FLSSAMT Educational Meeting • November 4, 2017 in Fort Lauderdale
Greetings FLSSAMT! Welcome to your 2017 spring Newsletter. Your State Society and AMT have excellent plans for you coming up for the rest of the year!

Were you able to make it to our February FLSSAMT meeting in Pt. St. Lucie this past February? We really enjoyed the turn out and some of the changes we’ve made for our meetings. We were so encouraged to see so many of you at the business meeting during lunch and to hear all you had to say!! If you did not make it, check out our picture page to get a glimpse of what you missed.

Do not forget to reserve June 3rd for our meeting in Tallahassee. It promises to be informative and a pleasant time for all who attend. Check out the Preliminary information and registration form in this newsletter last page and our website. Then of course, is the National AMT Meeting in Kansas City! These National Meetings are an absolute experience! Jammed packed with informative speakers and great opportunities for comraderies and fun! Once you have been to a National Meeting you will be hooked!

Now, also, keep in mind our November 4 meeting in Ft. Lauderdale. That is our Educational and Annual Business Meeting. Come, learn and share your ideas.

We are always looking for good articles to publish in our newsletter and on line. Most specifically, we are looking for Managerial subjects, scientific articles and student articles. Also, I would love to get back to our Member Highlight. If you know someone who deserves special recognition, please send the information to me at khardy3352@tampabay.rr.com.

Last, but of course not least…… Who is ready for ZOMBIE SEASON? No, I am not talking about the Walking Dead television program! I am talking about storm preparedness! If you are new to our state or simply want a reminder….. click here: https://www.cdc.gov/phpr/zombies.htm

Take Care, and Pay It Forward FLSSAMT! See you in Tallahassee!

Kathleene Hardy, RMA
FLSSAMT Secretary, Newsletter and Website Editor

AMTrax
AMTrax is a member service designed to help you track your continuing education and other related activities —online. The system provides a convenient means for documenting certification-related activities for employers and licensing agencies and also helps you self-assess progress in complying with the Certification Continuation Program (CCP).

Using AMTrax
Using AMTrax is easy! Simply login as a member, and click on the AMTrax tab located on your member summary profile page. Once in the system, click on “Add Activities” and then choose a category (descriptions below). Once a category is selected, enter the information as requested. Press submit and the information is immediately updated. You may print your record at any time using date ranges.
Southern District Councillor’s Message

Spring is just around the corner and before you know it, we will be in Kansas City, Missouri for the 79th AMT Educational Program and National Meeting July 9-13, 2017. This year we will be at the Intercontinental Kansas City at The Plaza 401 Ward Parkway Kansas City, Missouri 60018. Room rates will be $129.00 plus tax per night single or double. The hotel has a heated indoor pool with sun decks and fitness center. There are jogging trails and an 18-hole golf course nearby. Coffee maker, iron and ironing board are provided in each room. Attendees will enjoy free wireless internet in the guestrooms and marble baths. If you are driving to Kansas City, the discounted overnight self-parking rate at the hotel will be $10.00 per day. Hotel rates are good from July 4 to July 18, 2017. Mark your calendars and make your reservations now! Registration for the meeting is now available online. AMT has a special low early bird rate of $200 for all members. Registration will jump up to $425 so register now so you do not miss out on saving $225. There will be no extensions to the May 1 deadline for early bird registration. There will be numerous workshops offered on Sunday this year. You will see more management courses and some maneuvering of items to different days so check the program.

This year’s Leadership Training is called “How Do You Manage What You’ve Got”. There will be three 30 minute sessions presented and they are titled: “What are You Doing with Our Money?”, “CEU’s are Your Responsibility” and “A Drive Through the AMT Website”.

The location of the 80th AMT Educational Program and National Meeting will be held in Washington, DC July 1-6, 2018 at the Hyatt Capitol Hill. More details will be available on a later date. The 81st AMT Educational Program and National Meeting will be held in the Great Lakes District.

Remember to enter all your continuing education credits into AMTrax. AMT does not enter this information for you. It is quick and easy and most of all it is free

(Continued on page 10)
The Florida Board of the Clinical Laboratory Personnel meets periodically through the year. We generally discuss a variety of matters including disciplinary cases, licensure approvals, committee reports, policy discussion items, and other necessary Board actions. On March 10, 2017 we agreed to have a separate meeting to discuss the initial and renewal application instructions/checklist for the clinical laboratory personnel training program.

The next meeting will be a conference call on Friday June 2, 2017. The Board meetings can be face to face in a previous approved city or by conference call open to the public at meet me number 1-888-670-3525 participant code 7342425515.

In the state of Florida a Medical Assistant (MA) is not a licensed profession. Competence in the field requires that a medical assistant adhere to ethical and legal standards of professional practice under the direct supervision and responsibility of a licensed Physician. The Florida Legislature has repealed a subsection of our state’s medical assistant practice law that acknowledged the availability of private certification through AMT and AAMA.

Dental assistants in the state of Florida must have formal training to perform the expanded functions listed in the Practice Act. A dental assistant in the state of Florida may perform basic supportive dental procedures specified by the state dental practice act under the supervision of a licensed dentist.

Beatriz Montoya, MBA, BSMT (AMT) Legislative Chair

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**ATTENTION ADVERTISERS**

The Florida State Society of American Medical Technologists has over 5,000 members who are employed in various positions in hospitals, private laboratories, universities, state colleges, private educational institutions, physician offices and clinics, physician office laboratories, and dental offices. At least one third of these members are in supervisory or management positions that have direct input into buying decisions at their workplace and all of them have influence in purchasing power for companies that offer products that are beneficial to individual allied health professionals.

We offer advertising in our Newsletter, which is published twice a year, and/or our website, which is available at all times. In addition, you may choose to have a one page flyer included in the packets that are distributed to member and non-member attendees at our educational conferences which are held in various locations throughout Florida 4 to 5 times a year. Attendance at these conferences averages 90 to 150 per event.

**YEARLY RATES FOR THESE OPTIONS:**

**NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING ONLY:**

¼ page: $150  ½ page: $175  full page: $200

**WEB SITE ONLY:**

¼ page: $200  ½ page: $225  full page: $250

**CONFERENCE PACKET INSERTS ONLY:**

full page: $200

**SPECIAL COMBINATION RATES YEARLY:**

**NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE:**

¼ page: $300  ½ page: $340  full page: $375

**NEWSLETTER, WEBSITE AND CONFERENCE PACKET INSERTS:**

¼ page: $350  ½ page: $390  full page: $425

Kathleene Hardy: khardy3352@gmail.com
TRUMPCARE versus OBAMACARE
by Sol. Goldenberg FRCGP, RMA, M.Sc.(Lon), MBA

On March 23, 2010, President signed into law the Affordable Care Act (ACA), known as Obamacare. Its purpose was to insure that all Americans had access to affordable health insurance. This legislation was fully implemented in 2014. All Americans were required to have health insurance through their employers or through a public program such as Medicaid or Medicare. The individuals were enabled to purchase state-based health insurance exchanges.

President Donald Trump tried to repeal and replace Obamacare (the Affordable Care Act) by replacing it with the American Health Care Act (AHCA), symbolically called Trumpcare or Ryancare. This is a summary of the facts of the two health plans, which will enable us understand the similarities and differences between the two Acts:

INDIVIDUAL MANDATE: The Obamacare mandated that all eligible citizens should purchase health insurance or suffer a tax penalty. The reason for this was to insure that there were enough healthy people to contribute to the plan which would pay for the unemployed and disabled citizens. This individual mandate would have been eliminated under the Trumpcare thus removing the incentive for young healthy people from buying expensive health insurance.

PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS: Obamacare introduced the fact that people with pre-existing conditions could not be denied coverage or charged a higher premium. Trumpcare approved the non-denial clause but removed the higher clause coverage.

PAYMENT OF INSURANCE PLAN: People who earned four times the federal poverty line could get assistance to buy insurance on the marketplace. Almost 86% who signed up qualified. Trumpcare provided federal subsidies to pay for these insurance plans, but these subsidies are based on age rather than income.

MEDICAID FUNDING: Obamacare is based on an open-ended Medicaid federal funding, which guaranteed $1 federal subsidy for each dollar contributed by the state. Trumpcare is based on a capped lump sum offered by the federal government to the state. In some states like Florida with an ever increasing immigrant population this cap funding would soon become insufficient.

TAX DEDUCTIONS: Under Obamacare people can only deduct medical expenses if they exceed 10% of the household adjusted gross income. Under the proposed Trumpcare people would have been able to deduct the full cost of their health insurance premiums from their federal tax returns every year.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS: Trumpcare would have allowed people to purchase cheaper prescription drugs from foreign countries. There is no such provision in the Affordable Care Act.

HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS: Under Obamacare individuals had the option to use HSAs but would have to pay higher deductible health insurance. Donald Trump considered Health Savings Accounts as advantage medical savings and would have been encouraged citizens to use this option.

INTERSTATE INSURANCE SALES: Under Obamacare insurers were state bound, which reduced the availability of insurance companies to one source per state in some of the 50 states. These regulatory issues would have been removed under Trumpcare and thus creating more competition.

The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget (CBO), which is a bi-partisan source estimated that Donald Trump’s repeal and replace Obamcare would cost $270 billion with a possibility of higher figures as the anticipated economic growth continues. Trump’s plan would cause almost 21 million people to lose their insurance coverage, but some of them would have been those healthy young individuals who were not obligated to buy health insurance.

Our citizens should make their decisions on whether to consider Trumpcare or continue with Obamacare based on intelligent facts and not on which party they support. There are several pitfalls in Obamacare which need to be corrected, and continuing with the status quo could result in a huge financial deficit on our children.

Reference: http://trumphcare.com/trumpcare-vs-obamacare/
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time/Contact hour/ Discipline</th>
<th>Subject Matter/Speaker</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:10 am - 9:00 am</td>
<td>Communication with Your Patient—How vital is it? Alice Macomber RN, RMA, RPT, AHI</td>
<td>Dining Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 contact hour</td>
<td>We will explore how the communication you have with your patient can affect the diagnosis and the treatment of the patient. All disciplines are part of the treatment team and must be aware of the importance of communication. Alice Macomber is a retired nurse and medical assisting instructor.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>9:10 am - 10:00 am</strong></td>
<td>2. BLOOD BANK BASICS</td>
<td>Room 206</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 contact hour</td>
<td>José A. Velasquez, MT(AMT)</td>
<td>We will look at the Basics of Blood Bank which includes but not limited to Antibodies and Antigens, Other Blood Groups, and the Type and Screen. José Velasquez, MT is a Medical Technologist at Broward Health Deerfield Beach, Florida.</td>
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<tr>
<td>MT Blood Bank</td>
<td>(All are welcome)</td>
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<td><strong>9:10 am - 10:00 am</strong></td>
<td>3. Multiple Generations in the Workplace Linda Roberts Koellhoffer, RMA, NCET, AHI</td>
<td>Room 209</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 contact hour</td>
<td>This presentation offers participants the opportunity to increase knowledge and understanding of the multigenerational workplace, enhance comprehension of how generational differences impact the workplace, promote skills for effective inter-generational communication.</td>
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<td>RMA (all others welcome)</td>
<td>Room 209</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>10:10 am - 11:00 am</strong></td>
<td>4. Medical Errors</td>
<td>Room 206</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 contact hour</td>
<td>Dr. Naomi Melvin, Ph.D./EdD</td>
<td>A medical error is a preventable adverse effect of care, whether or not it is evident or harmful to the patient. This might include an inaccurate or incomplete diagnosis or treatment of a disease, injury, syndrome, behavior, infection, or other ailment. We’ll explore the everyday ramification of medical errors. Dr. Naomi Melvin, Ph.D./EdD, MPH, MT CLC (AMT) DLM (ASCP) President SBC Lab Consultants, Chipley, Florida 32428</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIV / AIDS Mandatory for MT’s Florida License</td>
<td>Room 209</td>
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<td><strong>10:10 am - 11:00 am</strong></td>
<td>5. Trumpcare versus Obamacare Solomon Goldberg RMA, RT</td>
<td>Room 209</td>
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<td>1 contact hour</td>
<td>Analyzing the pros and cons of the Affordable Care Act, and American Health Care Act. As we watch the news, it is very confusing to understand what the differences are and whether we should be “for” or “against” these plans. Mr. Goldberg will give us the basic pros and cons.</td>
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<td>(All are welcome)</td>
<td>Room 206</td>
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(Continued on page 8)
## PROGRAM

### Saturday, February 11, 2017 continues

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time/Contact hour/ Discipline</th>
<th>Subject Matter/Speaker</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>10:10 am - 11:00 am</strong></td>
<td>6. Innovations in Hematopoietic Stem Cell Therapies</td>
<td>Room 206</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 contact hour</td>
<td>Rachel Higham, MT</td>
<td>Room 206</td>
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<tr>
<td>MT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hematology</td>
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<td>(all others welcome)</td>
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<td>We will look at issues related to new developments and innovations in cell-based therapies.</td>
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<td>Rachel Higham, MT (ASCP) is a Microbiologist at the James A, Haley VA Hospital Tampa, Florida</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>11:00 am - 1:00 pm</strong></th>
<th>Lunch (included in registration) and Business Meeting - DRAWING</th>
<th>Dining Hall</th>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 pm - 1:50 pm</td>
<td>7. Navigating the AMT Website and AMT Trax</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<td>No CE</td>
<td>Debra Janeczko, RMA, M.Ed</td>
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<tr>
<td>(All are welcome)</td>
<td>Discussion and Demonstration of how to utilize the features on the AMT website, including national and state sites.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Discussion and Demonstration on how to input and retrieve data from AMTrax for recording and tracking Certification Continuation Program (CCP) documentation.</td>
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| **1:00 pm - 1:50 pm**       | 8. Chikungunya                                                  | Room 206 |
| 1 contact hour              | Ozzie Skinner MT, CLT                                           | Room 206 |
| Molecular                   |                                                                |           |
| MT                          |                                                                |           |
| (all others welcome)        |                                                                |           |
| Chikungunya, The painful virus has reached the U.S. |          |
| We will take a look at its origin, how it made its way to the US, symptoms, and possible cures. |          |
| Oswald Skinner is employed at the James A. Haley VA Hospital, Tampa Florida as a Technical Specialist of Molecular Diagnostics. |          |

| **1:00 pm - 1:50 pm**       | 9. Basics of Assisted Reproductive Technologies.                | Room 209 |
| 1 contact hours             | Kathleene Hardy, RMA                                            | Room 209 |
| RMA                         |                                                                |           |
| (all others welcome)        |                                                                |           |
| Attendees will learn the basics of assisted reproductive technologies; otherwise known as IVF - In Vitro Fertilization, and its role in helping couples conceive a baby. |          |
| Kathleene Hardy is employed by the Reproductive Medicine Group and has many years of experience as a Registered Medical Assistant in this field. |          |

| **2:00 pm - 2:50 pm**       | 10. “Global Emergence of the Multidrug-Resistant Yeast Candida auris” | Room 206 |
| 1 contact hour              | Rachel Higham, MT                                               | Room 206 |
| Microbiology                |                                                                |           |
| MT                          |                                                                |           |
| (all others welcome)        |                                                                |           |
| Candida auris is a globally emerging yeast that is a serious public health concern. We will take a look at the recent recent global emergence of Candida auris, identification procedures and antifungal susceptibilities of Candida auris, and public health surveillance for C. auris. |          |
| Rachel Higham is a Microbiologist at the James A. Haley VA Hospital in Tampa, Florida |          |

| **2:00 PM - 2:50 PM**       | 11. Human Trafficking                                          | Room 209 |
| 1 contact hour              | Doris Wilderman RN, RMA, AHI                                 | Room 209 |
| RMA                         |                                                                |           |
| (all others welcome)        |                                                                |           |
| Provide the audience with statistics, definitions, and indicators that would identify a possible human trafficked patient. You will explore and discuss confidentiality, and your ethical responsibility to report to the authorities and what legal ramifications may be involved. |          |
| Doris Wilderman RN, RMA, AHI is the Medical Assisting Program Coordinator at Keiser University, Tallahassee. |          |

(Continued on page 9)
President’s Message (Continued from page 1)

One of the sessions that will be offered in Tallahassee is designed to help the members know what the AMT resources are and how to access the information you may need.

The FLSSAMT State Officers and Board of Directors are available to assist you. Please do not hesitate to contact one of us to answer your questions. If we do not have an answer, we will find the correct person to give you the information.

It is an honor to be the President of FLSSAMT. It is wonderful to be a part of this exciting time in our organization.

My Best,

Alice Macomber RN, RMA, RPT, AHI
FLSSAMT President
teachernursem@gmail.com
772-464-4640
to all members. A Certification Continuation Program (CCP) cycle has recently ended and a random 10% audit has just occurred. I cannot stress how important it is to record all your education credits into AMTrax and to ensure you have the required continuing education points to remain certified.

Please attend your state society meetings. They are an excellent source of continuing education, an opportunity to share your knowledge with your AMT family and to keep abreast of current AMT information.

This is a special time for me to say how very proud I am of the Southern District and to congratulate all the national award and publication winners. This year we had a total of nineteen national awards bestowed on Southern District members. How awesome is that? Thank you for all your hard work!

In closing, I would like to say thank you to all of you for your hard work and dedication to AMT throughout the year and making the Southern District shine. Each of you truly are the “Pride of the Profession”. I look forward to seeing each of you at your state meeting this year and in Kansas City.

If you have any questions or concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact me at k9kid@bellsouth.net or phone me at (h) 615-833-3427 or (c) 615-424-0550.

AMT is the choice for allied health professional certification.

Respectfully submitted,

Kaye A. Tschop, MT
AMT Southern District Councillor
Port St. Lucie Meeting
PRE-REGISTRATION FORM
FLSSAMT CONTINUING EDUCATION CONFERENCE & BUSINESS MEETING
WHEN: SATURDAY, June 3, 2017
WHERE: KEISER UNIVERSITY, TALLAHASSEE CAMPUS
1700 Halstead Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32309
For registration information, contact Debbie Janeczko, Treasurer
Phone: (813) 855-2314 or e-mail: jdjaneczko@earthlink.net

Name: ____________________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________________
City: State: Zip: __________________________________________________________________
E-mail address: __________________________ Phone Number: __________________________

FEES: AMT Member: $30* Non-Member: $35*
Employer: ____________________________________________________________
Student: Yes _____ No _____ School Program _____________________________________________
AMT Member: Yes ______ No ______ AMT Membership #
Your job, license or certification classification:

_____ Director _____ Supervisor _____ CLC _____ MLS _____ MT _____ MLT _____ CMLA
_____ RMA _____ RDA _____ RPT _____ AHI

Member of another Professional Organization? (please indicate name) _____ Yes _____ No

__________________________________________________________

PRE-REGISTRATION: Open now until May 26, 2017
Make checks payable to: FLSSAMT (Sorry, we are not set up to accept credit cards. Cash, check or money
orders only.) Mail to: Deborah Janeczko 1915 Sheffield Court, Oldsmar, FL 34677

Please check the number of each session you plan to attend: DO NOT check them all – numerous classes will
be presented at the same time. _____1 _____2 _____3 _____4 _____5 _____6 _____7 _____8 _____9 _____10 _____11 _____12 _____13 _____14

For our out of town guests, our host hotel is: Hilton Garden Inn, 3333 Thomasville Rd., Tallahassee, FL 32308
Telephone: 850-385-3553. Ask for AMT rate $119/night (ask for Eric if you are not getting that rate)
www.Tallahassee.StayHGI.com is the direct link for the hotel
*Conference includes catered lunch.