

News & Views

July 2004



President's Message

The Nebraska Health Information Management Association (NHIMA) begins another year on July 1, 2004. The most notable change that occurs at this time is the membership of the NHIMA Board of Directors (BOD). Nancy Kinyoun will be President, Charlene Tilson will be President-Elect, Donna Keller will be Second Year Director, Erma Jean Heine will be the First Year Director, and Kim Hazelton will be Secretary. I will move to Past President and we say goodbye to Shawna Stump as Second Year Director and Shirley Carmichel as Past President.

The past year has been exciting, as we have seen several significant changes that may be transparent to the members.

- NHIMA signed an affiliation agreement, a legally binding contract that limits NHIMA's ability to interact with the regions, raise additional revenue, as well as requiring the affiliation with AHIMA to be so noted in our logo
- Increased awareness that there are a significant number of non-members that hold AHIMA credentials through the new report functions available from AHIMA
- Implementation of conference attendee tracking and membership status to ensure compliance with NHIMA policies and procedures
- Implementation of budget tracking to determine trends to improve fiscal planning
- Increased communication with NHIMA members through the AHIMA Geographic Communities of Practice for Nebraska
- Signed a new central office contract with HealthInfo Innovations
- Identified the need to promote our organization and credentials in the face of stiff competition from other vendors and organizations

These issues, two exciting NHIMA conferences, one very exciting AHIMA national conference, and four NHIMA BOD meetings kept us busy throughout the year. The NHIMA BOD attempted to keep the members informed with News and Views updates and NHIMA updates at conferences. I encourage all NHIMA members to discuss these issues, or any issues, with the BOD through phone calls, emails, or face-to-face meetings. I know I will always be ready to discuss and opine on any of these topics.

I want to thank all the members for allowing me to lead the organization and thank the Board of Directors for all the hard work undertaken in the past year. Most of all, I want to thank all the new NHIMA Board members for volunteering to lead this wonderful organization in the upcoming year.

With Many Thanks, *Wanda Cantrell, NHIMA President*

Committee Changes

At the June 4 meeting of the Board of Directors, the following changes were approved regarding the committee structure of our organization. Policies and procedures will be revised on the Geographic – Nebraska CoP accordingly. Members should periodically check the CoP for the most current information.

Bylaws Committee

This committee was deleted and the President will assume responsibility for revising bylaws when necessary.

Legislative Committee

A file will be established in the Central Office to hold all annual reports submitted by this committee. Information regarding legislative changes may be retrieved and incorporated into future updates of the Legal Guide.

Legal Guide Task Force

The policy governing this task force will be revised to reflect how often the Legal Guide will be updated.

Professional Promotions Committee

There were no volunteers to Chair this committee for the coming year. The Board felt that this committee was beneficial, but perhaps members needed further direction from the Board as to duties and responsibilities. Nancy Kinyoun will develop a proposal to restructure this committee and submit to the Board in August. Ideas from current members are welcome!

HIM Ambassadors

This committee will be deleted and its functions will be incorporated into the Professional Promotions Committee as listed above.

Publications Committee

The Board decided to publish four electronic versions of the News & Views. This function has been incorporated into the Central Office contract, thus eliminating the necessity of a publications committee. This committee will be deleted. A paper copy of the News & Views will be available on request only.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the changes which were approved by the Board, please feel free to contact any Board member. Your suggestions are always appreciated.

Nancy Kinyoun, RHIA, President-Elect



Nancy Kinyoun thanks Wanda Cantrell for a great year at the Spring Conference in York, NE on April 1, 2004

Congratulations to our scholarship winners!

The NHIMA is proud to reward the efforts of two members with one \$500 scholarship for each of the following applicants.



Janice Sandquist is enrolled in the HIM program at the College of Saint Mary in Omaha, Nebraska. She is currently employed part-time as a Medical Record Clerk at The Nebraska Medical Center. She also lists the following academic awards and student activities:

- a. Dean's List, four semesters
- b. Panel Member of FBLA State Leadership Conference
- c. Assistant Girl Scout Leader
- d. Student Representative for the College of Saint Mary Search Committee for Vice-President of Student Development
- e. College of Saint Mary HIM Club – Sigma Rho Lambda; offices held include President & Secretary
- f. College of Saint Mary Student Senate – offices held include Executive, Secretary, and Spirit Committee Chair
- g. Student Ambassador for the NHIMA Fall Conference
- h. Cumulative GPA of 3.5

Amanda Sparr is enrolled in the HIM program at Central Community College in Hastings, Nebraska. She lists the following academic awards and student activities:

- a. CCC Business Club
- b. Intramural Sports
- c. Resident Assistant for the 2004-2005 academic year
- d. Cumulative GPA of 3.214

Best wishes are extended to both of our award recipients. We wish you continued success and look forward to working with you as colleagues in the Health Information Management profession.

Results of the House of Delegates Issues Vote

The House of Delegates (HOD) just completed voting on four action items. They are:

1. Proposed Bylaws Amendments: This item relates to an amendment to AHIMA bylaws to conform to the Council on Higher Education Accreditation's standards of recognition. This motion was approved.
2. Code of Ethics: A revision to the AHIMA Code of Ethics was approved.
3. New Membership Category: The creation of a new membership category (the "new professional") to encourage student members to transition to full membership was approved.
4. Changes to the Standards for Maintenance of Certification: These changes, recommended by the Council on Certification, incorporate the HIM professional definition and the educational experience categories, which will replace the current educational core content areas and require that 80 percent of all CEUs be earned within this definition were approved.

2004 AHIMA National Ballot Results Announced

The results are final for the 2005 Board of Directors and members of the Council on Accreditation and Council on Certification. Congratulations to the newly elected leaders and thanks to all the candidates who agreed to be included on the ballot. Thanks also to our teller, Anne Mahalik, MPA, RHIA, for verifying the 2004 national ballot results. The results are:

President-elect

- Jill Callahan Dennis, JD, RHIA (CO)

Directors

- Jennifer Hornung Garvin, MBA, RHIA, CPHQ, CCS, CTR (PA)

- Angela Kennedy, MBA, RHIA, CPHQ (LA)

- Lynn Kuehn, MS, RHIA, CCS-P, FAHIMA (WI)

Council on Accreditation

- RHIA Practitioner–Diann Brown, MS, RHIA, CHP (TX)

- RHIT Practitioner–Patience Hoag, RHIT, CCS, CCS-P, CPC (AZ)

- HIA Educator–Elizabeth Bowman, MPA, RHIA (TN)

Council on Certification

- RHIA Practitioner–Anita Orenstein, RHIT, CCS, CCS-P (UT)

- RHIT Educator–Margie Konik, MA, RHIA (WI)

- HIT Educator–Donna Slovensky, PhD, RHIA, FAHIMA (AL)

A total of 3,488 votes were received for this year's election. To see the voter turnout from your state, visit the community resources section of the State Leader and HOD CoP and look for the category National Election, 2004 CSA Voting Results. In addition, visit the AHIMA CoP to take a poll (beginning July 17) and discuss ways to increase future voter turnout.



Chatting with Your Peers in the Communities of Practice

Chatting online is a chance to communicate with your colleagues on a live, real-time basis. All members logged in to a specific chat session can communicate back and forth, observing the participation of each chat member.

Follow this simple procedure to participate in a chat session:

- Click on Chat with Peers on the Community page. The screen displays the chat page for the Community. The left column lists the individuals taking part in the chat session. Text of the chat session under way is in the main text box.
- Type your own comments in the line near the bottom of the window and click the Send button. The screen refreshes to show your comment.
- Continue participating as other member comments appears.
- Click the Log off button to disconnect from the session. The page remains on the screen. The main screen will not continue to update with new messages posted by other chatters. You can exit the page by clicking the Community Home link.
- You can reconnect to a session by clicking Log On. The screen will continue where you entered again.



How-To Guide For Answering Common Questions About Your Credential Maintenance

CEU Requirements

During the reporting process for the 2002 through 2003 CE cycle, we discovered that many credential holders who hold multiple credentials, or who are reporting CEUs for their CCS, CCS-P, or CCA for the first time, are unclear on the number of CEUs required of them. There are a number of variables that can appear confusing, so here are some tips to clarify the requirements for you:

Calculating CEU Requirements for Multiple Credentials

An easy formula is to take the credential you hold with the highest CEU requirement, and add 10 CEUs for each additional credential. For instance, if you hold an RHIT, CCS, and CCS-P, your total CE requirement would be 40, made up of 20 CEUs for the RHIT, and 10 each for the other credentials.

That seems, at first glance, like a sharp increase in requirements over the last time you reported. However, the good news is that each of your yearly self-assessment exams for the CCS or CCS-P counts for 5 CEUs, or a total of 10 during the two-year cycle, which would apply in the "Clinical Data Management" core content area for any non-coding credential you hold.

Therefore, in our example above, a person holding those three credentials would report 20 CEUs toward the RHIT for the self-assessment exams, leaving only 20 to report from other sources. In other words, once the CEUs from the self-assessment exams are counted, the requirement for CEUs to be earned elsewhere remains 20, just as in past cycles.

Requirements for CCS, CCS-P, and CCA Credentials

For an individual holding the CCS or CCS-P, the requirement will be simply 10 CEUs per two-year cycle. If you hold both a CCS and a CCS-P, the requirement is 20 CEUs. The self-assessment exams will not count for continuing education toward either of these credentials.

CCA holders are required to submit 20 CEUs every two-year cycle, and may apply 5 CEUs for each of their yearly self-assessment exams. Therefore, the requirement for education to be earned elsewhere is 10 CEUs per cycle.

The Benefits of Belonging

As a credentialed member of AHIMA, you have valuable opportunities available to you for earning and reporting your continuing education.

CE Quizzes

Each Journal of AHIMA contains 3 short quizzes based on articles in the publication, and each CodeWrite Community Newsletter contains one. Each quiz is worth one CEU, and processing and grading for these is only \$15 per quiz, making this the most economical way to maintain your credential.

Better yet, as a member you can complete these quizzes online and receive immediate verification of your score, and a printable certificate. Just go to the "CE Quizzes" at <http://www.ahima.org/quiz/>, and follow the instructions from there. You'll be asked to log in with your AHIMA ID and your password. If you need to be reminded of either of those, just use the "E-mail Me My Password" link below the log-in boxes.



Online CE Reporting

AHIMA members can now also report their CEUs without the hassle of mailing or faxing, or the delays and uncertainty involved in waiting to receive credential validation from us by mail. When it's time to report your CEUs, just go to www.ahima.org/ce and log in with your AHIMA ID and password. The electronic form is set up just like the paper reporting form you are used to, and you can immediately print a certificate to show that you have fulfilled the CEU requirements to keep your credential current.

We hope that these tips and tricks clarify the process of earning and reporting your continuing education. If you have questions on this, or on any of AHIMA's products and services, please feel free to contact our Customer Relations Team at (312) 233-1100, or by e-mail at info@ahima.org.

As always, thank you for your continued interest and involvement in AHIMA.

Spring Conference 2004

Were you there? If not you missed a lot of good information, entertainment and as always great networking opportunities. Did you know that our two association conferences are NHIMA's main sources of income? By participating you support your association.

Yes, I might be somewhat biased but overall the conference was a success. Being on the planning committee you see your many months of preparation come together and hopefully please the conference attendees.

Did you know? We had 84 pre-registered attendees and a few others that joined us. Our registration monies totaled \$9,263.00. Our expenses totaled \$4,400.62. We made a little money.

Everyone has different ideas about what should take place at our conferences. Who should we get to speak? What kind of food we should eat? Where should the conference be held? These are all things that we try to address, balance and do the best we can to meet everyone expectations.

What I would encourage all of you to do is bring forth your own great ideas and volunteer to serve on a conference committee. Our committee was composed of approximately 7 hardworking, willing individuals that gave of their time and talents to plan the 2004 Spring Conference. We met about four times for about two hours).

Yes, there were some slight technical difficulties which may have been distracting to our speakers but then there is always something that doesn't go quite the way you plan. All in all it was another great experience with NHIMA and I'm glad that through stepping forward and volunteering I hopefully gave something back to NHIMA. Be strong, step forward and VOLUNTEER. NHIMA needs you.

*Shirley Carmichael, RHIT, Past President
Co-Chair 2004 Spring Conference*



Legislative Committee Report

As chair of the legislative committee I am asking you to write to your Congressman Doug Bereuter (R-NE-1), Lee Terry (R-NE-2) or Tom Osborne (R-NE-3) asking them to support HR 4016, the Allied Health Reinvestment Act.

I am also asking you to write our Senator's Chuck Hagel (R-NE) and Ben Nelson (D-NE), asking them to support S.2491, the Allied Health Reinvestment Act.

AHIMA has sample letters or you may send an email from their website. Go to the AHIMA home page, HIM Resources, Advocacy Assistant then click on My Advocacy Action Center (top right hand corner) and you're there.

This act will address the workforce shortages faced by the allied health professions by amending the Public Health Service Act to provide for the education and training of allied health professionals through loan and scholarship programs. As you all know in 2001, the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicated that at least 97,000 new HIM professionals will be needed by 2010, making this occupation one of the fastest growing health occupations in the country. By supporting these legislative issues you can help assure that we will be able to meet these workforce needs and not have another profession take over our role.

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions on this or other legislative issues please contact me at 402-552-6216 or email me at millerm@clarksoncollege.edu.

**Note: Members who correspond with congressional or legislative representatives must indicate that they are representing themselves as individuals and not the NHIMA.

Mary Miller, RHIA, Legislative Chairperson

Congratulations to Newly Credentialed Health Information Professionals

RHIAs –

Tonya Graves

RHITs –

Karina Merrick

Charlene Osowski

CCS-Ps –

Stacy Keeley

Elizabeth McBride

Janet Quackenbush

CCAs –

Tonya Pinkerton

Ronda Yates

CCSs –

Christine Bitner

Sharon Butt

Victoria Schnase

Kimberly Weiss

Welcome to New NHIMA Members

Susan N. De Mesa

Gwendolyn M. Wasser

Carrie Schoeneck

Jessica M. Coon

Susan A Sorensen

Gloria J Belt, LPN

Susan J. Peters

Shelly Kort

Joni R. Schlatz

Jamie J. Brown

Kaylene W Hrubsky

Jenifer L Gregory

Amanda A. Sparr


Michelle Allen

Allison A Crunick

Rebecca E Cook

Sarah N Johnson

Charity M. Roe



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2004-2005 Chairpersons:

Legislative Committee – Mary Miller
 Legal Guide Update – Pam Koch
 Nominating Committee – Andrea Faber
 Archivist – Retha Hudkins
 Spring 2005 Conference Committee – Judy Meyer
 Fall 2004 Conference Committee – Lori Richter & Liz Bechtle
 Vendor Committee – Judy Meyer
 Coding Roundtable – Marcella Bucknam