

May 2014

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## President's Message

Throughout the year I've quoted Matt Jones, author of "Life's A Marathon" in my President's Message. Coincidentally, a few months ago Matt sent additional inspirational messages to share with our membership. One message was "Check Your Attitude." Matt said, "In order to complete a marathon I had to have the belief it was possible. Daily I had to check the negative self-talk and the self-defeating inner dialogue. The little voice that says it is impossible. Once you have the attitude that your vision is possible, you will take the necessary action. Health information management, like a marathon, is an endurance event. It is a roller coaster with ups, downs, and surprising turns."

The road to implementing ICD-10 certainly has been a roller coaster ride with ups, downs, and surprising turns. We were all surprised on April 1st when ICD-10 was delayed again. I was dismayed and discouraged about this turn of events, but slowly I realized that I needed to check my attitude. I needed to stop focusing on all that had been lost or forfeited (time, money, goodwill) and think about taking the necessary action so that ICD-10 is not delayed again. With a change in attitude, we can believe that ICD-10 implementation is possible. We can take action and have positive conversations and alliances with our stakeholders, Congress, CMS, vendors, association executives and the medical community. Let's keep a positive attitude, be inspired, stay energized, and cross the ICD-10 finish line!

*Charlene Dunbar, NHIMA President*

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## 2014 NHIMA Convention Wrap Up: Building the Future of HIM

WOW!! What a terrific convention! We had great attendance, terrific speakers and activities! Our out of town speakers all said they enjoy coming to Nebraska because we always have such a great convention and the people are so welcoming and friendly!

Wednesday kicked off with Connie Merritt motivating us with methods to manage our time simply by understanding what type of person we are! Later the same day, she led an interesting lecture based on the fact that for the first time ever, there are FIVE generations working together. In order to work well together, it is important that we all understand each other! The day ended with one of my favorite people, Merida Johns. She has such a tremendous way of empowering women, and giving us permission to "Toot Our Own Horn!"

Wednesday's Social Event was so much fun! We enjoyed games, giveaways, and dessert!

Thursday was a VERY busy day! Dana McWay, Nebraska's AHIMA Liaison discussed changing roles of HIM professionals, and much ICD-10 information was discussed on the ICD-10 panel, and by various speakers throughout the day. Dr. Joe Nichols, from Health Data Consulting is always so informative! He was very worried about having to speak about Data Analytics at the end of the day, but he still managed to regale us at the later hour! We welcomed seven vendors at our convention on Thursday.

We didn't stop there! There was a still lot of information to share on Friday. HIPAA Updates, Meaningful Use Audits, and Risk Assessments were discussed by Mr. Michael Chase from Baird Holm, LLC, and Denise Mainquist from ITPAC Consulting.

I was so pleased by the number of students who were able to join us at convention! Each student received a special prize Friday! Students are our future, so be sure to welcome them with open arms. I want to take one last opportunity to THANK the Planning Committee for putting together a convention that was bright, informative, and fun - and the FOOD was delicious too! THANK YOU to all who volunteered for NHIMA Committees for 2014-2015! We couldn't be the successful group we are without volunteers. Keep building!



## 2014 Distinguished Member(s) Award

NHIMA/NHA ICD-10-CM/PCS Coder Training Workshops Task Force:

- Theresa Rihanek, MHA, RHIA, CCS
- Monica Seeland, RHIA
- Shirley Carmichael, RHIT

Theresa, Monica and Shirley have been active AHIMA and NHIMA members for many years and have contributed in numerous ways to the HIM profession and the Nebraska Health Information Management Association. While these prior contributions are significant, we recognize them as Distinguished Members because of their dedication and leadership in bringing ICD-10-CM/PCS coder training workshops to our members.

A few years ago, Theresa recognized the need to provide comprehensive ICD-10 training to the Nebraska membership and developed the plans for NHIMA sponsorship. Theresa sought a partnership with the Nebraska Hospital Association with the assistance of Monica Seeland, Vice President of Quality Initiatives at the Nebraska Hospital Association. Shirley Carmichael joined the task force to provide the “voice” of health information management professionals and all the coders who will benefit from the workshops.

Together this mighty team of three NHIMA members crafted both 3-day and 1-day workshops that sold out quickly, affirming that the workshops were “right on target” and highly anticipated by our members. The workshops are canceled with the delay of ICD-10, but the foundation for the workshops remains and can be resurrected when needed.

Thanks to Theresa, Monica and Shirley for their insight, their foresight, and their dedication to the ICD-10-CM/PCS Training Workshops.



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## NHIMA Scholarship Application deadline July 31<sup>st</sup>

Policy, instructions and application can be found at [www.nhima.org](http://www.nhima.org).

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## 2013-2014 NHIMA Volunteers



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**NHIMA Contact Information:** Board Members - Committee/Task Force Chairs

**Dates to Remember:** April 22-24, 2015 – NHIMA Annual Convention, Kearney, NE

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