

# News & Views

September 2004



## President's Message

The House of Delegates of the American Health Information Management Association held elections this summer and the following items were approved. Please visit the AHIMA Communities of Practice (CoP) for additional details on each of these issues.

### New Professional Member Transition:

In 2003 only 21% of HIM students became active members of the association. Research indicates 60% of students do transition to full membership within 2 years of graduation. In order to address this trend a new professional category will be put in place and analyzed to determine if the number of students transitioning to full membership is increased. The new professional category will be available the first year of full membership to those individuals who were student members in the previous year. The membership fee charged would be \$100 for one year. This represents a savings of \$35.

### Revised Code of Ethics:

The Code of Ethics of the AHIMA was streamlined and made less procedural. Language addressing the privacy/security of protected health information was included.

### Bylaws Changes:

CHEA was approved to replace CAAHEP as the accrediting agency for HIM college programs. A Commission on Accreditation of Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM) will be responsible for development of curriculum and site visits. This Commission will be recognized by CHEA as an accrediting body. CAHIIM will develop accreditation criteria, set fees, etc.

### Standards for Maintenance of Certification:

CEU requirements for members with multiple credentials have changed. Refer to the CoP.

## The Future of HIM . . . . .

The Health Information Management profession is in a very rapid state of change. In the fall of 2001 AHIMA contracted with the Center for Health Workforce Studies at the University at Albany to conduct a major HIM Workforce Research Study. The results of this study and some additional surveys are posted to the AHIMA CoP. If you have not read this document yet, I encourage you to do so. It provides some valuable insight into how our profession is currently perceived and where we may be headed along with recommendations to ensure our place in the healthcare workforce of the future.



SUMMER TEAM TALKS were held in Chicago on July 16 & 17. Delegates from Nebraska who were in attendance are (left to right):

Monica Seeland, RHIA  
Donna Keller, RHIT  
Charlene Tilson, RHIT  
Nancy Kinyoun, RHIA



In October your delegates will be asked to vote on the following issues. Please read the brief description and contact one of the delegates listed above if you have questions or comments. Discussion threads will be established on the Geographic Nebraska CoP to facilitate discussions on these issues.

### CAHIIM

As mentioned above, the Commission on Accreditation of Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM) was established by AHIMA. The delegates will be asked to approve the new standards template for HIM programs. Please visit the AHIMA CoP for details.

### California Resolution

Delegates from the State of California are proposing a new certification titled "Clinical Release of Information Specialist" (CRIS). AHIMA would develop the examination & curriculum for this certificate. Each state organization would be responsible for development of test questions relevant to state laws. Anyone who currently works within the release of information area would be eligible for this examination. A RHIT certification would override the CRIS. There was very brief discussion about this proposal at the Summer Team Talks. I am not sure if this will actually be an item up for vote as there seemed to be split interest in this issue.

### RHIA Proviso

The original proviso was established to provide a 5-year window of opportunity for any RHIT with a bachelors degree (any subject) to sit for the RHIA exam. The RHIT must have been awarded by 12/31/99; the bachelors degree or higher degree must have been earned prior to 12/31/04. It has been proposed that this proviso be extended as follows: An individual credentialed as an RHIT by 12/31/05 with a baccalaureate degree (any subject) would be eligible to take the RHIA certification examination through 12/31/07. Several Board members have already received numerous comments on this issue. If we have not already heard from you please make your opinion known through the Geographic Nebraska CoP; a discussion thread has already been established for this purpose.

It will be my pleasure to serve as your President for the coming year. As a Board we hope to continue to build on the capabilities of the Communities of Practice as a means of communicating with all members. As a member of the NHIMA and the AHIMA, there is a wealth of information available to you, if you know where to look or who to ask. Please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Board with any suggestions you may have to improve our association. At our last Board meeting revisions were made to better define the duties of the Professional Promotions Committee. We hope several members will volunteer to make this a successful means of exposing new HIM professionals to our association and the benefits of membership and recognize current members for a job well done. Please contact Alison Harms if you are interested.

I look forward to meeting you at the Fall Conference in Lincoln!

*Nancy Kinyoun, RHIA, President*



**September 16 and 17**

The Cornhusker Hotel  
 333 S. 13<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Lincoln, NE

Register by September 9  
 \$15 Late Fee for Registrations Received after  
 September 9

- CEUs Available
- \* Technology \*
  - \* Professional Development \*
  - \* Management Development \*
  - \* External Forces \*
  - \* Clinical Data Management \*



*Agenda:*

**Thursday, September 16, 2004**

- 7:30 a.m. Registration & Continental Breakfast
- 8:00 a.m. AHIMA/NHIMA Update – Nancy Kinyoun
- 8:45 a.m. Developing an Effective Compliance Program – Charity Roe, CPC
- 9:45 a.m. Learning from our Mistakes – Jeff McGraw, RHIT
- 10:45 a.m. Break / Vendor Showcase
- 11:00 a.m. Natural Language Patient Record: Unlocking Valuable Information – Steve Passeri
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch – Scholarship Presentation
- 1:00 p.m. Document Imaging – Successful System Implementation – Roberta Baranda, RHIA, CHP
- 3:00 p.m. Break / Vendor Showcase
- 3:15 p.m. Volunteerism – Charlene Tilson
- 3:45 p.m. Soar with Your Strengths – JoAnne Owens-Nauslar, FASHA, Ed.D.
- 5 – 6 p.m. Vendor Reception

**Friday, September 17, 2004**

- 7:30 a.m. Registration & Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 a.m. Release of Information After HIPAA: Common Problems and Sticky Issues – Patricia Zieg, Jennifer Wolf Jerram, Jill Jensen
- 10:00 a.m. Break/Vendor Showcase
- 10:15 a.m. HIPAA ROI Continued
- 11:15 a.m. Meeting Facilitation – Davie Shutzer
- 12:15 a.m. Final Announcements, Door Prizes

Full brochure and registration form available on the Nebraska CoP or at [www.nhima.org](http://www.nhima.org)

## Congratulations to Newly Credentialed Health Information Professionals

### RHITs –

Jamie Herian  
Julie Kay Jensen  
Ronda Yates

### CCAs –

Kathleen Jones  
Sherrie Willsie

### RHIAs –

Sheryl Tieszen



The NHIMA Membership List will not be included in News & Views as in the past. However, the NHIMA membership list can be emailed to NHIMA members. Request your list by emailing the NHIMA Central Office at [kim@consulthi.com](mailto:kim@consulthi.com).

## Welcome to New NHIMA Members

Victoria Suedmeier  
Melanie Liddick  
Kathleen Jones, CCA  
Patrice Wade

Jill Krause  
Connie Majer  
Kevin Collins  
Pamela Britsch

Corene Faltin  
Jenny Herrick  
Kathleen Kibat, CPC  
Shirley Herndon, CCS-P



## The Benefits of Volunteering in Your Professional Association

Busy days, busy schedules, not enough time! Sound familiar? Your personal schedules seem filled with more and more commitments, appointments, and deadlines, both personally and professionally. So why should you add more to your “plate” by volunteering for your state’s professional association, NHIMA? The reasons are endless but let me list just a few for you:

- You gain a state and national perspective on issues facing the profession;
- It can enhance your leadership skills and abilities;
- It strengthens your professional networking;
- You can become more valuable to your current employer and marketable to potential employers; and
- You will establish new personal friendships that can last a lifetime.

Join us at the Fall Conference in Lincoln on September 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> as we discuss the volunteer opportunities available for NHIMA members. The Association needs you!!

*Charlene Tilson, RHIT, President-Elect*

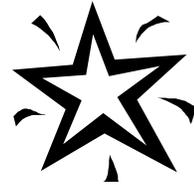
## How Do I?

Some new information is being added to the Frequently Asked Questions section of the Geographic Nebraska CoP. Please visit this area often. Some of the topics include:

- How can I obtain a NHIMA membership list?
- How do I contact the NHIMA Central Office?
- How do I submit items for the CoP?
- Can I access the year-end budget report for the NHIMA?
- How can I access NHIMA policies and procedures?

If you have any additional items you would like to see added to this area of the CoP please notify a member of the Board. Our intent is to make the CoP as user friendly as possible while providing valuable information to our members.

*Nancy Kinyoun, RHIA, NHIMA President*



## News from Health Information Management Programs at College of Saint Mary

- In May, the HIM Programs graduated seven Bachelor's degreed students and nine with an Associate Degree. Twenty-five will complete the Medical Coding and Reimbursement Specialist Program in December 2004.
- We are currently investigating the interest in an accelerated Bachelor's Degree Program for those holding the RHIT credential. If you are interested in this program, please contact Ellen Jacobs at [ejacobs@csm.edu](mailto:ejacobs@csm.edu).
- Many HIM Professionals give their time by speaking to the HIM students in various courses as well as supervising their Professional Practice Experience and Internships. In the Professional Practice Experience Course students are now able to complete a project in a non-traditional HIM setting. These include University Research Departments, Compliance Departments, Quality Improvement Organizations, Managed Care Departments and HIM Education.
- The HIM Student Club is very active. Last spring, they sponsored a concession stand and held a raffle. Plans for fall include of course celebration of National Health Information and Technology Week, speakers on professional image and leadership, and service projects.
- The HIM faculty are integrating two key concepts throughout the curriculums; E-HIM and ethics.

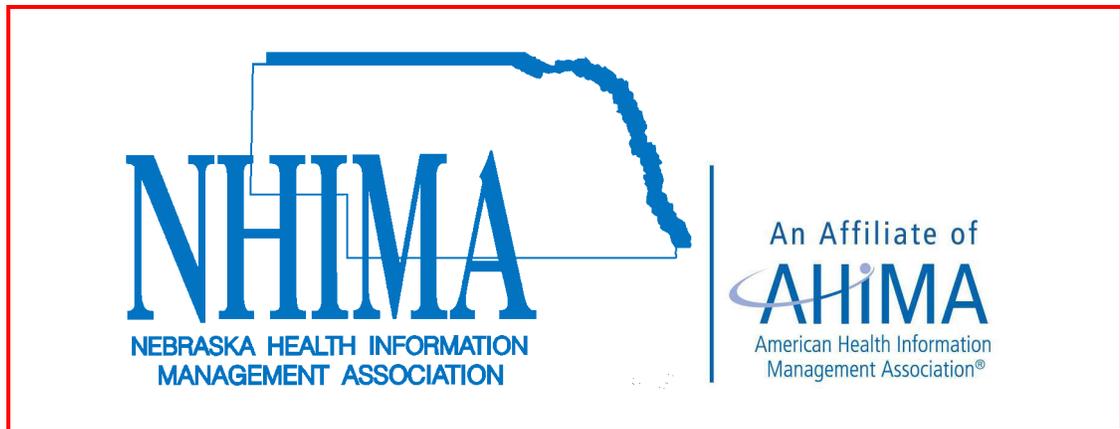
*Ellen Jacobs, College of Saint Mary*

## Did You Know?

As President-Elect, I would like to start a series of informational articles to keep the NHIMA members aware of what can direct the Board in many of their decisions, strategies and agendas. These guides are the AHIMA and NHIMA Bylaws, the AHIMA Code of Ethics, and the Affiliation Agreement between AHIMA and the CSA (Component State Association) of Nebraska.

At the Fall Conference in Lincoln this month, members will be asked to vote on either retaining the present NHIMA logo or changing its looks to match the new AHIMA logo. The Affiliation Agreement requires our Association to use the AHIMA logo as part of our state logo and we would like to have member input for this decision. This is just one of many obligations we must meet to “conform to the terms of affiliation set forth in the bylaws.”

Present



OR

New



In the next News and Views I would like to share information with you on membership requirements in the national and state associations as governed by the Bylaws and Affiliation Agreement because...we want you to know!

*Charlene Tilson, RHIT, President-Elect*

## Creative Ideas Wanted!

The NHIMA Board is beginning the process of updating the NHIMA web site and we need your ideas. Have you been to a web site that impressed you, was easy to navigate, and is now on your 'favorites' list? If so, let us know about it. Tell us what type of information you would like to see on the NHIMA web site and give us some suggestions as to presentation style. Contact Kim Johnson, Central Office, at [www.kim@consulthi.com](mailto:www.kim@consulthi.com) with your ideas.



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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  
Professional Promotions – Alison Harms



## More Pictures from Chicago



Nancy, Monica and Charlene at Team Talks



Monica, Donna and Nancy sightseeing in Chicago



Donna, Monica and Charlene at Team Talks



Donna, Monica and Charlene at Navy Pier