

# News & Views

July 2008



## President's Message

Dear NHIMA Members,

We have hit that time of the year for me to write my final President's Message. I know its cliché, but the year has gone by incredibly fast. The entire Board has been very dedicated and has worked hard this year. It has been an amazing group to work with. It has been such a pleasure and honor to serve on the Board. I will always treasure these years and look back on them fondly.

The Board has had some tough issues to face this year, the biggest being evaluation of the current educational offering planned by NHIMA. After much debate, feedback from members, and dialogue with other states; it has been decided to transition to one state convention per year. This will replace our current practice of holding a Spring and Fall conference each year. The first large convention is planned for April 21-23, 2010 at the Holiday Inn in Kearney. Since we have booked this far in advance, the room rates are locked in at \$75.95. Please save the date and help make this a huge success.

We know this will be a huge change, but truly feel it will be a positive change. The intent is to offer a larger variety of topics as well as educational tracts that will appeal to everyone while increasing the opportunity to network with colleagues across the state.

Angie Gage has graciously and enthusiastically accepted the position of Convention Chairperson. She has a wealth of experience in planning NHIMA meetings and is excited about this opportunity. If anyone has suggestions for topics, recommendations for speakers, or wants to volunteer to assist with the planning of this event, please contact Angie or any of the Board members. All of our contact information is listed on the NHIMA website.

It has been a summer to remember thus far. I hope this edition of News and Views finds everyone safely enjoying the summer and travel plans while avoiding the bad weather that has come our way.

Kari Eskens, RHIA  
NHIMA President

## Helping People Understand Their Health Records

AHIMA has updated the website [www.MyPHR.com](http://www.MyPHR.com) and it is better than ever! It is designed to help the average consumer understand how to develop and store their own PHR. The revised site is designed to more effectively engage the visitor in the PHR process for improving his or her healthcare or a loved one's healthcare.

In addition, the website also features a public service announcement by John Walsh, host of "America's Most Wanted". This public service announcement is scheduled to be broadcast nationally on radio and television stations and directs individuals towards MyPHR.com. Also on the website is a documentary produced by AHIMA with real-life stories to help healthcare consumers relate to the every-day necessity of managing their own PHRs. AHIMA members can use these videos by logging in to the Internet during presentations and playing them to their audience.

The update of the MyPHR.com website is part of the new PHR Campaign called "It's HI Time, America!" AHIMA is actively raising consumer awareness about their right to have their own health information and the benefits to them of managing their health care through the use of PHRs.

Why does AHIMA see this as important? There are many conversations about PHRs in the news, such as insurance companies developing their own PHRs, major retailers (Wal-Mart) joining with software companies to produce a PHR and the increasing information about Health Information Banks in the news. What seems to be missing from the conversations is the consumer education component.

"Having championed this cause to overwhelming success throughout the HIM profession, our member-volunteers are expanding the field-now with and extraordinary effort-to include customers in a way that can only lead to healthier, longer happier lives with each PHR we help create", Marsha Dolen, MBA, RHIA, co-chair of AHIMA Personal Health Records Practice Council said.

Member volunteers are helping educate consumers on using a PHR to become an active partner in their healthcare. With this knowledge, consumers can:

- Knowledgably discuss their health with healthcare providers
- Provide information to new caregivers

- Easily access health information while traveling
- Access information when their doctor's office is closed
- Record Progress toward specific health-related goals
- Refer to physician instructions, prescriptions, allergies, medications, insurance claims and more
- Track appointments, vaccinations, and numerous other wellness healthcare services

AHIMA members have a number of resources available to them in helping educate consumers and fellow healthcare professionals. In the FORE Library: HIM Body of Knowledge we have many articles and practice briefs. Some of them are:

1. Wolter, Julie. "Health Record Banking: an Emerging PHR Model." *Journal of AHIMA* 78, no.9 (October 2007)
2. "The PHR: Helping Consumers Create a Picture of Health." *AHIMA Advantage*, 11:6, 2007.
3. Rodriguez, Margarita Morales, Casper, Gail, Brennan, Patricia Flatley. "Patient-centered Design: the Potential of User-centered Design in Personal Health Records." *Journal of AHIMA* 78, no.4 (April 2007): 44-46.
4. Jacobs, Ellen B.. "The HIM Role in the PHR: Patient-centered Care through Patient-centered Information." *Journal of AHIMA* 78, no.4 (April 2007): 38.
5. "The Value of Personal Health Records: A Joint Position Statement for Consumers of Health Care." *Journal of AHIMA* 78, no.4 (April 2007): 22,24.
6. AHIMA Personal Health Record Practice Council. "Helping Consumers Select PHRs: Questions and Considerations for Navigating an Emerging Market." *Journal of AHIMA* 77, no.10 (November-December 2006): 50-56.

Another great resource for AHIMA members is the Community Education program, which trains HIM professionals to present AHIMA's program on developing and maintaining a PHR. The presenters are encouraged to go to community groups and offer to share the video and materials that help consumers obtain their medical records and keep their own PHR.

We have a real opportunity to be visible to the public with this material in a way that can help average consumers make a difference in their own health. We should be the health information professional that, as always, advocates for the patients.



## ***TEAMWORK* IN ACTION!**

**2008 NHIMA Fall Conference**

**September 11 & 12**

Embassy Suites, Lincoln, NE

This Fall's Starting Line-Up includes:

- **EHR & Release of Information**
- AHIMA Update from “Coach” Rita Bowen
- **“Half-Time” with Lunch and Vendors**
- HIM & IT: Two Players-One Goal
- **NE e-Health Council Update**
- Unintended “Penalties” of the CPOE
- **Maintaining a Legally “Safe” and Sound EHR**

Watch for your brochure with more information to be mailed out in **August!**

The NHIMA Membership List is no longer printed in News & Views.  
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).

## Member News

Ranae Race was invited by AHIMA (sponsored by FORE) to attend and present at the “Advanced HIM Issues for Managing and using EHR’s” which was held on March 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> at the Drake Hotel in Chicago, IL. Ranae’s presentation was “CDI Programs: Focusing on Data Integrity and Quality”. She co-presented with Janet Bierlein, Borgess Medical Center, Grand Rapids, MI.

There were many great presentations some of which included challenges encountered by the VA during their EHR implementation; 3M terminology and classification systems/health data dictionary; Role and function of interface terminologies; Data mapping involving LOINC and SNOMED; Clinical Terminologies and Data Integrity. The speakers worked as a team several weeks ahead of the conference in preparing for submission of their white papers and power point presentations. A brainstorming session was held at the end of the conference to generate ideas for AHIMA to plan for the future of electronic health records academically, administratively and technologically.

Ranae commented that it was a good experience to see AHIMA’s proactive approach and insight into the future as well as all of the volunteers who give of their time and energy in making AHIMA a great organization.

## Welcome to New NHIMA Members

Joan Alberts, CPC	Linda Hansen, RHIT	Shelley Palmer
Melissa Bahr, RHIT	Jennifer Harris	Brenda Renner
Jeanne Brunner	Mary Kinsel, RHIT	Linda Salazar
Sharon Butt, RHIT, CCS	Lori Koss	Tina Schreder
Kellee Christiansen	Debra Langer	Alexander Schniederjans
Sheryl Hall	Louise Notson, RHIA	Lois Stebbins

## NHIMA Policy & Procedure Revisions

*The following policies were added/revised at the June 7, 2008 Board of Director meeting:*

**2.40 Coding Roundtable** – updated to reflect current practice

**2.41 e-HIM Roundtable** – created for development of new roundtable and modeled after coding roundtable policy

**3.12 Annual NHIMA Business Meeting Script** – added announcement of membership numbers by nominating/credentials committee chair

**Professional Promotions and Recruitment  
Committee would like to congratulate the  
following graduates...**



**Clarkson College**

Jennifer Christiansen  
Lisa Hunt  
Allison Crunick  
Barb Feldhacker  
Jane Procopio

**College of Saint Mary**

Sarah Collen  
Mary Fischer-Golda  
Katie Krause  
Sharon Marlow-Perault  
Judy Masker  
Melissa Onstead  
LaKisha Taylor

**Western Nebraska Community  
College**

JoAnn Cervantes  
Paula Fonder  
Teresa Morris  
Cindy Miller  
Michelle Sterling  
Heidi Wheeler

**Central Community College**

Chris Collins  
Joanna Hattan  
Jessica Henn  
Jill Krause  
Kim Masters  
Jessica Matteson

The hard work and dedication you have shown in completing your degree provides the foundation for new and exciting job opportunities in the health information management field. We wish you much success as you start your career and look forward to your contributions to the profession and our organization.



**Good luck with your upcoming credentialing exams!**

*- Janice Sandquist, Carla Dirkschneider, Leslie Ziegler*

**Newly Credentialed in Nebraska (June 2007 thru May 2008)**

Melissa Aksamit, CCS-P  
Shannon Bartosh, RHIT  
Stephanie Burrus, CCA  
Melody Cackin, RHIA, CCS  
Dael Cron, RHIT  
Karen Everitt, RHIA, CCS  
Rochelle Feldt, CCA  
Cynthia Health, RHIT, CCS  
Heidi Johnson, CCA  
Amber Kalkwarf, CCA  
Danielle Kamler, RHIA

Amanda Liewer, RHIT  
Brenda Machmueller, RHIT  
Amanda Marsh, CCS  
Karolyn Martin, RHIA  
Erinn Medina, CCA  
Melissa Newman, CCS  
Shelley Palmer, CCA  
Megan Pelegrimas, CCA  
Amy Robino, RHIT  
Kelly Rodriguez, RHIA  
Trena Rogge, CCA

Joni Schlatz, RHIT  
Shannon Schwartz, RHIT  
Michelle Sikora, CCS  
Heather Simonsen, RHIA  
Denise Sinsel, RHIT, CCS-P  
Patty Tripp, RHIT  
Elizabeth Wayt, RHIT  
Brooke Wheeler, CCA  
Karen Wirtz, RHIT  
Lauretta Woods, RHIT  
Sharon Zach, RHIT, CCS-P

## AHIMA State Advocacy Workgroup

By Nancy Kinyoun

The past few months I have been privileged to participate in the AHIMA State Advocacy Workgroup. The official purpose of the group is: to address ways that AHIMA and its Component State Associations can enhance the CSA ability to advocate at the state and local level. The Workgroup will not delve into Federal policy matters.

Okay, so what does “advocacy” really mean and how can each member become involved – why should we become involved?

I was one of those members who believed that advocacy was something that was handled strictly at the AHIMA (national) level. I’ve been to Team Talks and Leadership Conferences and the only exposure I ever had to advocacy was the demonstration booth that showed you how to log onto the Advocacy Assistant or the e mail correspondence that requested you contact your representative in Washington regarding some pending legislation. I never made the connection with activities that might be going on at the state level in Lincoln.

The more I listened to some of the workgroup members from other states talk, the more I realized that I was really missing a golden opportunity. Realistically, I would probably have very little impact on decisions made at the Washington level. But, collectively our organization (in partnership with others such as the Hospital Association) could very possibly have a big impact on decisions made by the state legislators. Unfortunately, at the present time, most of them don’t even know that our organization exists. What’s worse, a lot of us don’t have any idea what bills have been introduced or will be introduced in the next session until they’ve already been passed and we have to deal with the decisions made. Do we need to start getting our opinions heard? Oh yeah. But how?

Each CSA currently has a volunteer position called the Legislative Liaison (some states have an advocacy committee). Up to now, this person has been asked to follow actions taken by the Legislature and report back to the membership via the News & Views each quarter. Okay, interesting, but not very interactive. One of the

items discussed by this workgroup is how to get membership more closely involved in issues at the local and state level. We would like to see the AHIMA provide some guidance and training so members would feel comfortable discussing issues with their peers and their elected officials. We would like the state legislators to know we exist and to hear our questions/concerns before some law is passed that makes our professional lives miserable. Following are just a few of the suggestions this workgroup will be making to the AHIMA:

- We need a “job description” for the legislative liaison – define the expectations from AHIMA and assist the CSA Board in making this a truly useful and valuable position for the CSA.
- Suggested that CSA’s incorporate advocacy efforts into their strategic plans. Sounds like those states that have active advocacy committees have at least one contact person within the state hospital association that they interact with to stay informed of legislative issues. They also communicate back to the hospital association the viewpoint of the AHIMA and the CSA. AHIMA would assist in the appropriate position statement so we aren’t in conflict.
- Possibly include advocacy information in student curriculum – part of legal coursework – to get those newer HIM folks involved and interested as they begin their careers.

I think this topic has some real potential for NHIMA members. Not all of us are going to want to get personally involved in a sit down conversation with a Legislative committee, but not all of us have to. What we need is a more open line of communication with someone who is already doing that type of activity. As we move forward, the NHIMA Board will need to be involved to steer us in the right direction. There is a CoP set up for this Advocacy Workgroup and I encourage all of you to check it out and read the minutes. Feel free to contact me if you have further questions or comments.

## e-HIM Roundtable

*Kim Hazelton, 2008-2009 NHIMA President*

### **Question: What is e-HIM?**

Answer: e-HIM is a term coined by AHIMA's eHealth Task Force to describe any and all transactions in which health care information is accessed, processed, stored, and transferred using electronic technologies. (Lynda Mitchell, RHIA, CPHQ)

### **Question: Why is it important to you?**

Answer: AHIMA states that "the future of HIM is electronic, patient-centered, comprehensive, longitudinal, accessible, and credible." The electronic record is coming, even if it hasn't arrived in your facility yet. An executive order by the President states that "as each agency implements, acquires, or upgrades health information technology systems used for the direct exchange of health information between agencies and with non-Federal entities, it shall utilize, where available, health information technology systems and products that meet recognized interoperability standards." While this statement refers to federal agencies specifically, it is clear that this is the future for all of us in HIM.

In line with the AHIMA strategic plan, the NHIMA board has identified the implementation of an e-HIM roundtable as a major goal. The purpose is to advance e-HIM practice and the migration to EHR, to establish NHIMA as a leader in EHR implementation and management in the state of Nebraska, to develop e-HIM leaders in the state, and to increase communication about e-HIM including interoperability and data standards. Our hope is that this roundtable will be a source of information and idea sharing, as well as provide additional educational opportunities for our members.

The first steps toward this goal have already been taken. Monies have been budgeted, and Policy 3.41 e-HIM Roundtable has been written and posted on the CoP. The next step is appointment of a Chair. One of Kari Eskens' first responsibilities as Past-President will be to make this appointment.

In order to make this roundtable a success, we need volunteers willing to share their expertise (or their interest and knowledge). Please seriously consider making a difference to your association and your profession. If you are interested in participating, please contact any board member. We look forward to moving forward in this new venture!

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**2008-2009 Chairpersons:**

- Legislative Committee.....Anne Skinner**
- Nominating Committee.....Pam Sweeney**
- Archivist .....Pam Koch**
- Spring 2009 Conference Committee.....Vicki Fugate & Sue Hamilton**
- Fall 2008 Conference Committee.....Lori Richter & Angie Gage**
- Coding Roundtable.....Theresa Rihanek**
- e-HIM Roundtable.....TBA**
- Professional Promotions .....Janice Sandquist**