

News & Views

July 2006



President's Message

Dear NHIMA Members:

Summer is nearly over and fall is upon us. It was a busy summer for the NHIMA Board of Directors and this year's delegates to the national convention. As mentioned in the July *News and Views*, in June we voted online to approve the AHIMA ethics and corporate membership changes. The Illinois proposal to delay the vote on inclusive membership and send it to the House for full debate in October was also approved. We anticipate that the House debate on this issue will be lively based on discussions at Team Talks and Leadership Conference and on the Community of Practice discussion threads. I encourage each of you to go to the AHIMA CoP and review some of these discussions. I would also encourage you to discuss this with your NHIMA delegates either at the Fall Conference or via e-mail or phone. We need to hear your concerns and questions.



This year's delegates also attended Summer Team Talks and Leadership Conference in Chicago in mid-July. The conference offered many good sessions and presentations regarding the AHIMA strategic initiatives for 2006-2007, leadership, and ideas and tips for developing strategic plans for CSAs. One of the highlights of the Sunday Leadership Conference was the second annual presentation of the Core Service Achievement Awards. Nebraska had submitted entries in two categories; one in Recruitment and Retention for Members and the other in Member Communications. The wonderful news is that Nebraska was awarded first place in the Recruitment and Retention for Members category for restructuring the Professional Promotions Committee to encourage membership in NHIMA and to increase interest in the HIM profession among students. Members of the Professional Promotions Committee are Alison Harms, Chair, Leslie Ziegler, Jennifer Mitchell, Ellen Jacobs, Shirley Carmichael, and Janice Sandquist. In addition, Nebraska also received honorable mention in the Member Communications category for the reorganization of our Web site. The members of this task force were Anne Skinner, Jennifer Dinslage, and Arlene Perry. A huge congratulations and thank you to those committee and task force members on accomplishing their goals and receiving this national recognition for our organization.

The Board is also working on the strategic plan for 2006-2007. We will align our plan with the AHIMA goals and initiatives during the November Board meeting. We plan to wait for the final outcome of the inclusive membership vote before updating our plan and our goals since this topic will drive some of our goals. Over the past three years we have had many accomplishments of which to be proud. This is in large part due to the great leadership of Nancy Kinyoun and Charlene Tilson who diligently lead us through developing a comprehensive strategic plan and identifying achievable goals. Many thanks to them for helping set the course for the future success of our organization and profession.

I look forward to serving as your President over the next year. And I look forward to seeing many of you at the Fall Conference in Omaha on September 21 and 22. Please see the brochure published in this edition of *News and Views*.

Donna A. Keller, RHIT

2006-2007 NHIMA President

Inclusive Membership - FAQs

The following questions are taken from the AHIMA FAQs on Inclusive Membership. The full sets of questions (Part 1 and Part 2) can be found on the Geographic: Nebraska CoP under Community Resources, Inclusive Membership FAQs.

1. What is the proposal? The proposal would change AHIMA's bylaws to combine the existing active and associate membership categories into one category, active.

2. What is the difference between active and associate membership qualifications and privileges?

Currently, the AHIMA bylaws state that any individual with an AHIMA certification in good standing is eligible for active membership. Active members are entitled to "all membership privileges including the right to vote." Currently, the bylaws state that individuals who do not have an AHIMA credential are eligible for associate membership. Associate members may serve on committees and subcommittees and vote on those committees, but they do not have other voting privileges and cannot hold office or serve as delegates.

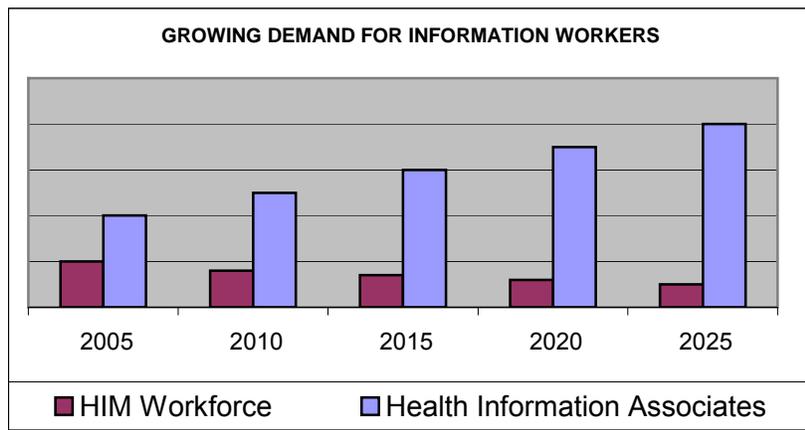
3. Why is this change necessary? We wish to expand the scope of the profession's influence and to ensure the growth in the number of well-qualified members in the field. AHIMA's work force research has shown that while the need for a health information work force is growing, the number of trained professionals is not keeping pace. In 2001, the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics projected a 49 percent growth in the number of HIM jobs between 2000 and 2010. The 2001 data did not take into account the tremendous work force ramp-up we now expect during the next several years. Today, AHIMA works very well as a professional association, and HIM professionals are very well positioned for the new e-HIM environment. But according to projections of the industry's growth, it is very likely that there will not be enough AHIMA-credentialed members to meet the coming demand. At the same time, healthcare is evolving and new clinical and information technology roles are appearing; many of these should be within the HIM domain.

The AHIMA Board of Directors believes we must find ways to bring professionals from other disciplines into HIM. One way to do this is to offer these people a professional "home." In doing so, we extend an invitation to share and uphold the values and principles we all recognize. In fact, we want AHIMA to be the best association of choice for HIM professionals in the future.

To maintain our industry influence and foster broader collaboration on issues important to the profession, AHIMA must encompass all who engage in HIM by considering a proposal for inclusive membership.

Strengthening the influence of the association will benefit all members. In addition, we believe AHIMA members would benefit from an expansion of the profession, which would create opportunities for new roles and jobs.

The graph to the right is an estimated projection of the demand based on statistics from the Department of Labor.



4. I've worked hard to earn and maintain my credential. Should I worry about its value being diluted by this bylaw change? AHIMA intends that HIM credentials will still represent a mark of achievement for members. A credential represents a level of expertise and a commitment to continuing education, and it has value in the industry. The bylaw change, in part, is meant to give health information associate members increased exposure to credentialed members and reinforce, first hand, the value of HIM expertise, resources, and materials.

5. A change in bylaws would mean health information associates would be able to vote. What does that mean? Each year AHIMA members vote to elect leaders to the AHIMA Board of Directors, the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education, and the Council on Certification. The ballot is determined by the Nominating Committee, whose members are elected by the House of Delegates. Candidates are selected based on their attributes to lead the association, commission, and council. Component state associations also conduct an annual vote of members to elect their leadership. Most important, voting decisions will continue to be in the hands of whatever members exercise their right to vote.

6. A change in bylaws would mean health information associates would be able to hold office. What does that mean? As noted above, the AHIMA ballot is determined by the Nominating Committee. If a health information associate possessed the attributes necessary to lead the association, such as a strong history in HIM leadership, ethics, communication and negotiation skills, he or she could be a candidate. Diversity in leadership, governance and decision-making is a desired goal for AHIMA and all professional associations in order to prepare for the future. In addition, input from a broader and more diverse group of healthcare professionals will enable the association to make more informed and better decisions.

7. Would a health information associate be able to serve as a delegate? Yes. If a CSA felt they had a worthy candidate to consider and vote into the delegate position.

8. Who will set and monitor the standards for professional ethics? AHIMA's Professional Ethics Committee implements the Code of Ethics and its interpretive guide; it also assesses possible violations of the code. The committee is appointed by the Board of Directors, while the House of Delegates approves changes to the code. The Code of Ethics applies to all members and credential holders. In future we may want to consider modifying the process; for example, specifying that the Professional Ethics Committee be made up of a minimum number of credentialed members.

9. How will this bylaw change affect AHIMA's finances? Currently, active and associate members both pay the same dues, \$155 annually. The bylaw change would probably not have an immediate financial impact unless there is a change in the number of members. However, the bylaw change is specifically a response to the changing health information work force, not a response to financial drivers.

10. How will the proposed bylaws change affect my state association? Component state association bylaws would need to be revised to reflect AHIMA bylaws. As with previous bylaws amendments, CSAs would have one year to make the necessary changes. The CSA bylaws template will be revised to reflect any change to the AHIMA bylaws. Given the difficulty of recruiting volunteer leadership at state and local levels, it is possible that a broader base of membership might benefit states with regard to selecting leadership and finding volunteers

11. How does this proposal help broaden the scope of the profession's influence? Having a more diverse membership strengthens the position of the organization as it broadens our contacts and our network. We would gain a more diverse perspective when we have colleagues in health information management, such as physicians and clinical documentation specialists that are in informatics at very high levels of academia, government, and other health care organizations. By virtue of their participation in our organization, they will influence the health care arena in ways that are consistent with our principles and standards.

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.

AHIMA National Election

By Charlene Tilson, RHIT – NHIMA Past-President

Well, another AHIMA National Elections has come and gone. I hope you took the time to review the candidates' bios and then voted on the various positions for the AHIMA Board. This year our Nebraska AHIMA members had 10.3% (37 of the 360) eligible voters participate in the elections. This is compared to the 2005 elections where 7.0% (25 of 357) cast their ballot. Nation-wide this year, there were 3,898 of 36,900 eligible voters participating, which is 10.6%. In 2005, 3,763 of 35,712 (or 10.5%) voters took the time to show their preferences for the AHIMA leaders. It is the goal of the NHIMA Board to continue to encourage our members to voice their desires by

participating not only in our own State elections, but also in the National elections. It is important for our Component State Association to keep active in what is happening nationally!

By the way, in case you have not heard, our new AHIMA President-Elect is Wendy Mangin, RHIA, from Indiana. She was Nebraska's AHIMA Board Liaison for the past three years and she came to our Fall 2005 Conference in Lincoln to give us an AHIMA update. If you are attending the AHIMA National Convention in Denver this October, please take the time to visit with her. She should be a great AHIMA President.

Welcome to New NHIMA Members

Brandi Arens
Jonathan Byrd
Nancy Clark

Allana Cummings, PMP, CPHIMS
Katie Krause
Lori Maley

Shelly Mues-Clarke
Jennette Sanders
Paulita Snyder



*NHIMA Fall Conference - September 21 & 22, 2006
Crowne Plaza Hotel - Omaha, NE*

Thursday, September 21, 2006

7:30 Registration
8:00 Welcome
8:15 Documentation Improvement and the Revenue Cycle
- Susan Peake, BS, RHIA, CPUR
10:15 Nebraska RHIO
- Michael Wescott, MD
11:15 Fulfilling the Promise
- Rita Bowen, RHIA, AHIMA
12:15 Lunch/Special Presentations
1:15 "Let It Go, Just Let It Go"
- Kent Rader
3:30 Legislative Update
- Barbara Pearson – Baird Holm
4:30 NHIMA Update
- Donna Keller, RHIT
5 – 7 Chocoholic Reception with Vendors

Friday, September 22, 2006

7:30 Registration
8:00 APR DRGs
- Susan Peake, BS, RHIA, CPUR
10:15 Speech Recognition Implementation
- Joanna Christensen
11:15 Healthcare Finance 101
- Ray Stoupa, MBA
12:15 End of Conference
12:30 to 3:30 Consumer Education Training
(Lunch provided for afternoon attendees only)
- Ellen Jacobs, RHIA

**View and print full conference
brochure and registration form at
www.nhima.org**

Legislative Update

By Anne Skinner, RHIA – Legislative Chair

No action alerts are currently active on the AHIMA Advocacy Assistant.

HR 4157 Update:

The House of Representatives passed the Health Information Technology Promotion Act (HR 4157) on Thursday, July 27 by a vote of 270-148. This legislation requires the implementation and use of ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS by October 1, 2010. The bill now moves on to the Senate.

Other legislative activity currently in progress is as follows:

Congress:

- S.3454 Independent Health Record Bank Act
- S.2170 Global Pathogen Surveillance Act
- S.1952 The Critical Access to Health Information Technology Act of 2005
- S.1418 The Wired for Health Care Quality Act
- S.1356 The Medicare Value Purchasing Act of 2005
- S.1355 The Better Healthcare Through Information Technology Act
- S.1262 The Health Technology to Enhance Quality Act of 2005 or the Health TEQ Act
- S.1227 The Health Information Technology Act of 2005
- S.1223 Information Technology for Health Care Quality Act
- S.810 Senator Clinton Introduces Outsourcing Privacy Bill
- S.544 Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005
- S.473 Support S 473, the Allied Health Reinvestment Act
- S.473 S. 473, the Allied Health Reinvestment Act
- S.306 Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act
- S.16 Affordable Health Care Act
- S.RES.506 National Health IT Week
- H.R.5605 The 10,000 Trained by 2010 Act
- H.R.4642 Wired for Health Care Quality Act
- H.R.4641 The ADOPT HIT Act
- H.R.4127 Data Accountability and Trust Act
- H.R.3617 Medicare Value-Based Purchasing for Physicians Services Act
- H.R.3607 The Granting Access to Innovation in America Act
- H.R.2234 21st Century Health Information Act
- H.R.1653 Rep. Markey Introduces Outsourcing Privacy Bill.
- H.R.1227 HR 1227, Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act
- H.R.747 National Health Information Infrastructure Incentives Act
- H.R.215 Allied Health Professions Reinvestment Act

For more information please see www. <http://capwiz.com/ahima/issues/bills/>

Nebraska Immunization Registry Coalition (NE-IRC) Update - No update available.



NHIMA Policy & Procedure Revisions

The following policies were revised at the August 4, 2006 Board of Directors meeting:

3.40 Scholarship Application and Fund – updated to show current practice of the Central Office publishing scholarship documents in the CoP and website

3.80f Vendor Conference Agreement – updated form to use wording of “sponsorship” rather than donations or gifts

All policies are available for review in the Nebraska Geographic Community of Practice, Resources section (click “View All” and then choose to view the NHIMA Policy Manual).

Member News



In 2001, Tom Cleary received "Sammy the Spirea" as a gift (rather than the usual flowers) when Tom was named the 2001 NHIMA Distinguished Member.



Charlene Tilson is proud to announce the birth of her first grandson – Gavin Charles Tilson. He was born August 19 on Charlene's 34th wedding anniversary.

NHIMA SPOTLIGHT

Central Nebraska Medical Clinic – Broken Bow, NE

On April 26, 2005, Central Nebraska Medical Clinic began a major conversion of their charting, billing and appointment operations by implementing Practice Partners Electronic Medical Records and Practice Management System. Appointments were made on the new system starting May 2. In October, paper charts were no longer used in examination rooms. In September, billing began. Now, one exhausting year later, we are fully implemented.

The importance of the second year of implementation is to keep tweaking and refining the system. Coders move 95% of the charges from the chart side to the billing side without re-keying the codes. Transcriptionists, rather typing the data, monitor and refine the templates to

make them easier for the providers and ascertain that the data supports the selected codes. Medical records continues to transfer paper charts onto the system as patient come to the clinic for appointments for the first time since implementation. Medical Records also scans incoming medical information and inputs it into the chart. As data in Health Maintenance increases, that information will be used to ensure that our operation meets appropriate standards of care.

It is a tremendous amount of work, but it is all worth it when the mountain of paper grows smaller and the data on the system increases so it is instantly available to staff and providers.



Nebraska HIM Professionals Credentialed in 2006

Janice Giitter, RHIT
Suzanne Goetz, RN, CCS-P
Jenifer Gregory, CCA, MT
Joy Haake, CCS-P
Christina Headrick, RHIT
Allison Jordan, RHIT

Christine Lee, RHIT
Stacy Lee, CCS-P
Christine Masat, RHIT
Tina Mazuch, RHIA
Beate Miller, CCA
Joann Paulson, RHIT

Patti Reisinger, RHIT, CCS
Kristen Rock, CCS-P
Janice Sandquist, RHIA
Dorothy Sunderland, RHIT
Michelle Talmon, RHIT
Ulrike Wagner, RHIT

Local Healthcare Association Receives National Recognition

NHIMA recognized for excellence in AHIMA's Core Service Achievement Award

CHICAGO, July —The Nebraska Health Information Management Association (NHIMA) was awarded first place in the Recruitment and Retention Activities for Members category from the second annual American Health Information Management Association's (AHIMA) Core Service Achievement Awards. The awards recognize excellence in the AHIMA's Component State Association's (CSA) efforts, as well as provide all of AHIMA's 52 CSAs with information and ideas that can be applied to their own state.

NHIMA was recognized for the restructuring of their Professional Promotions Committee to encourage membership in NHIMA, as well as to increase interest in the HIM profession among students. This committee has also worked closely with health information management (HIM) schools to help promote the profession and their specific programs. The association also received an honorable mention in the Member Communications category for the reorganization of its Web site, <http://www.nhima.org>.

"CSA's serve as an important forum for communicating national issues and keeping members informed of regional affairs affecting health information management," stated Jill Callahan Dennis, JD, RHIA, AHIMA president. "We are honored to award NHIMA with a Core Service Achievement Award for their work and for serving as an example to other CSA's."

The awards announcement took place Saturday, July 15, at AHIMA's 2006 Leadership Conference in Chicago.

NHIMA is an affiliate of the AHIMA, the premier association of health information management (HIM) professional. AHIMA's 50,000 members are dedicated to the effective management of personal health information needed to deliver quality healthcare to the public. Founded in 1928 to improve the quality of medical records, AHIMA is committed to advancing the HIM profession in an increasingly electronic and global environment through leadership in advocacy, education, certification and lifelong learning.



President (Delegate)

Donna Keller, RHIT
 Work: (402) 559-4891
 Fax: (402) 559-6200
 Email: kellerdf@cox.net

President-Elect (Delegate)

Kari Eskens, RHIA
 Work: (402) 481-8177
 Fax: 402-481-3104
 Email: kari.eskens@bryanlgh.org

Past President

Charlene Tilson, RHIT
 Work: (308) 324-8309
 Fax: (308) 324-8311
 Email: ctilson@atcjet.net

Secretary

Angie Gage, RHIA
 Work: (402) 489-5339
 Fax: (402) 489-7366
 Email: agage@dialysisnebraska.org

Treasurer (Delegate)

Ranae Hug, RHIT
 Work: (402) 274-6150
 Fax: (402) 274-4399
 Email: rhug@nchnet.org

1st Year Director

Monica Seeland, RHIA
 Work: (402) 458-4914
 Fax: (402) 475-4091
 Email: mseeland@nhanet.org

2nd Year Director (Delegate)

Stephanie Taylor, RHIA
 Work: (402) 955-3803
 Fax: (402) 955-7193
 Email: sjtaylor@chsomaha.org

NHIMA Central Office

HealthInfo Innovations, LLC
 223 East 14th Street, Suite 240
 Hastings, NE 68901
 Phone: (402) 463-6111
 Fax: (402) 463-6111
 Email: kim@consulthi.com

2006-2007 Chairpersons:

Legislative Committee Anne Skinner
 NHIMA Guide for Privacy, Retention &
 Disclosure of Health Information Pam Koch
 Nominating Committee Peggy Wolff
 Archivist Retha Hudkins
 Spring 2007 Conference
 Committee Ranae Race
 Fall 2006 Conference
 Committee Mary Meysenburg
 Coding Roundtable Theresa Rihanek
 Professional Promotions Alison Harms

2006-2007 Corporate Member



www.on-lineimaging.net