

# News & Views

September 2008



## President's Message

Greetings! Ready or not, summer's nearly over (at least the kids are going back to school)! Hope you were able to avoid most of the storms and enjoy some nice summer days. Our big adventure this summer was the adoption of a 6-week old Sheltie puppy, Sadie. It's been great fun watching her play and grow, and try to win the affection of our older dog, Ginger.

As the new school year begins, your NHIMA Board of Directors is looking forward to working with you, the members of NHIMA, to have an association that makes a difference for you and for the HIM profession in Nebraska. Many of us went to Summer Team Talks and Leadership Conference in Chicago last month. You'll read more about it elsewhere in this issue of News & Views, but I'll just let you know that it is always an event that sends us back to Nebraska with lots of ideas for the association.

One of the ideas we came back with involved posting the Mission and Vision of the NHIMA at every board meeting, so that our discussion and strategic planning stays focused. So, at our August board meeting, we reviewed and decided to update the mission and vision so that is truly reflective of what we see as our purpose. After much discussion, we decided to adopt AHIMA's vision statement (*Quality healthcare through quality information*), and rewrote our Mission statement to read:

*The mission of the Nebraska Health Information Management Association is to be the professional community that improves healthcare by advancing best practices and standards for health information management through education, advocacy, and collaboration.*

AHIMA is trying something new in the House of Delegates (HOD) this year. Each delegate is assigned to a delegate workgroup, which meets by phone every other month and via CoP. These workgroups are meant to be a way for the House to be more active and functional in handling various issues. I'm on the House of Delegates Operations workgroup. Recently we began discussing the issue of how delegates vote on issues that come up before the House. There are two main types of vote: instructed and informed. An instructed vote is where there is an opportunity for each member to "instruct" the delegates on how they should vote: basically every member in the state votes on the issues and the delegates vote accordingly. The informed method also incorporates the opinions of members, heard during meetings and on the CoP. In addition, it takes into consideration discussion that delegates participate in during team talks and HOD meetings, CoP discussion threads, and other information. NHIMA has typically utilized the informed vote. I'm interested in your feedback about this.

Well, time for me to go back and see how Team USA is doing in the Olympics. I look forward to seeing many of you at Fall Conference next month!

Kimberley Hazelton, RHIA - NHIMA President



*NHIMA Representatives in Chicago for Leadership and Team Talks – (L to R) Jean Scharfenkamp, Ranae Race, Kim Hazelton, Janice Sandquist, Mary Meysenburg and Rita Bowen (AHIMA Board Liaison to NHIMA and AHIMA President-Elect)*

## Summer Team Talks

*by Jean Scharfenkamp*

Summer Team Talks were held July 18, 2008 in Chicago at the Wyndham Chicago Hotel. Attending for NHIMA were President – Kim Hazelton, President-Elect – Ranae Race, 1<sup>st</sup> Year Director – Mary Meysenburg, Delegate – Janice Sandquist and Secretary – Jean Scharfenkamp.

AHIMA President Wendy Mangin opened the session by welcoming those in attendance and announcing the AHIMA 2009 election results:

### **AHIMA Board of Directors:**

President-Elect -	Rita K. Bowen
Directors -	Diann Brown, Beth Haenke-Just, Valerie Watzlaf

### **Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIM):**

CAHIM HIM Educator -	Abby Elizabeth Cooper
RHIA Practitioner -	Karen Scott

### **Council on Certification:**

CCS Professional -	Julie A. Swim
CCS-P Professional -	Susan Von Kirchoff
Privacy Professional -	Mary Thomanson
HIA Educator -	Elizabeth J. Layman

President-Elect – Vera Rulon presented an update to the AHIMA Strategic Plan weaving the “Ready for Success” theme throughout the presentation. There was an update on 2008 resolutions which included topics such as HIM Adoption of the Personal Health Record, Diversity, Resolution for e-HIM Professional Standards, and the Resolution for Quality Data and Documentation in the Electronic Health Record.

There was lively & passionate discussion regarding the Alternate Paths to RHIA Exam Eligibility which was a recommendation from the Council on Certification. The premise for this recommendation stems from the belief that the decreasing number of HIA programs validates the need for seeking an alternate path to the RHIA credential. The alternate path in this proposal for RHIA exam eligibility includes candidates possessing Bachelor’s degree with 5 years of HIM experience or a Master’s degree with 1 year of HIM experience in HIM. Delegates were asked to take this to their state to obtain further input and have additional discussion from their membership.

There was also discussion regarding a New Credential in Health Data Analytics from the Council on Certification. To qualify for this credential, you would need a Bachelor’s degree with 5 years of experience or RHIA with one year of experience. This credential combines the ability to acquire, manage, analyze, interpret and transform data into accurate and timely information.

## Welcome to New NHIMA Members

Cindy Carver, RHIT  
Susan Klima

Tracie Robles

Lakisha Taylor  
Suzanne Thompson

## HIM SPOTLIGHT – Nemaha County Hospital

*By Ranae Hug, RHIT, Director of Health Information Services*

Nemaha County Hospital is a Critical Access Hospital licensed for 20 beds. We have 5 active staff physicians and 8 PAs that cover the ER. We also have 45 Courtesy Staff and mid-levels that provide outpatient clinics. We have 20 Consulting Staff which include our radiologists and pathologists.

Our HIM department includes 4 employees that are all cross-trained on various tasks. We have one employee who does inpatient and outpatient coding and transcription, one employee that is a full time transcriptionist who also organizes peer review, one HIS clerk who does everything from assembly and analysis to ROI, filing, and loose reports and one director who is also the Privacy Officer, Trauma Registrar, Medical Staff Coordinator, and Audit Team Coordinator. I also code ERs and recurring accounts and participate in IT committee, Corporate Compliance Committee, Balanced Score Card, and Performance Improvement.

NCH introduced a new program entitled “Personalized Patient Centered Care”. This program is a collaborative program that incorporates the patient and their family as partners with the health care team. It is designed to provide high quality care with emphasis on patient safety and improved outcome for the patient. One part of this program is that each patient receives a personal representative when they are admitted. Personal representatives are non-clinical employees (including HIS employees) who meet with the patients once a day and serve as the patient advocate. This has been a very rewarding experience not only for the patients, but also for our staff.

Our facility uses CPSI for our facility computer system. All nursing documentation is done electronically, and we are scanning any reports that come from the outside. We are working on transitioning all miscellaneous paper reports to electronic so that we can be totally paperless in all departments. The doctors utilize electronic signature to sign all of their typed reports.

Our department completes a tremendous amount of work with limited staff. I am very proud of the efficiency of my department and the willingness to change. Thank you for allowing us to share our department with other NHIMA members.



**NHIMA Fall Conference – September 11 & 12, 2008**  
**TEAMWORK: In Action!**  
**Embassy Suites - Lincoln, NE**

**Thursday, September 11, 2008**

- 7:30 Registration
- 8:00 Welcome
- 8:05 AHIMA Update – *Rita Bowen*
- 9:00 Working Together to Fight Cancer:  
The Role of the Nurse – *Jay Swanson*
- 10:00 Time Out with Vendors
- 10:30 NHIMA Update – *Kim Hazelton*
- 11:00 A Play by Play Analysis of NHA  
CompareCare – *Monica Seeland*
- 11:45 HALF TIME - LUNCH
- 12:45 Merging HIM & IT – It can be done  
– *Amy Richardson*
- 1:45 Time Out with Vendors
- 2:15 There is an “I” in TEAM – *Sue Outson*
- 3:15 The HIM IT Advantage – *Brenda Bland*
- 4:15 ROI: FAQ’s – *Sheila Wrobel*

**Friday, September 12, 2008**

- 7:00 Registration
- 7:25 Welcome
- 7:30 NE e-Health Council – *Kim Galt*
- 8:30 Unintended Consequences of CPOE  
– *Michael Vigoda, MD*
- 9:45 Time Out
- 10:00 Maintaining a Legally Sound EHR –  
*Dr. Vigoda*
- 11:15 Post Game Wrap-Up

**Full brochure and registration form  
are available at [www.nhima.org](http://www.nhima.org)**



**2007-2008 Annual Fiscal Report**

A complete report for the entire fiscal year is available upon request to active members. Email [kim@consulti.com](mailto:kim@consulti.com).

**NHIMA Scholarship**

To download the Scholarship Fund Policy, instructions and application form, go to [www.nhima.org](http://www.nhima.org). Applications are due October 1, 2008.

## 2008-2009 Corporate Sponsors



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## Top 5 Reasons to Mentor

1. The mentees need your expertise.
2. It is a chance to review and validate your knowledge.
3. You will learn from your mentee (reverse mentoring).
4. It is satisfying to see your mentee succeed.
5. You have an opportunity to leave a legacy.



*Stay tuned for more information about becoming a NHIMA mentor!*

## NHIMA Policy & Procedure Revisions

*The following policy was revised at the August 1, 2008 Board of Director meeting:*

**3.30 Designation of NHIMA Delegates to AHIMA National Convention –**  
Updated to include direction for years when NHIMA has five delegates.

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).

Just for fun...we asked our new board members to share a little bit about themselves...

<i>See photos on page 2</i>	<b>Mary Meysenburg – 1<sup>st</sup> Year Director</b>	<b>Jean Scharfenkamp – Secretary</b>	<b>Ranae Race – President-Elect</b>
<b>Tell us a little bit about your family.</b>	My husband and I have been married for 33 years and have two grown sons. We have lived in Omaha for 20 years. We are both native Nebraskans and enjoy taking mini vacations visiting various areas of the state. My favorite past time is doing anything outdoors – gardening, fishing, walking, reading.	My husband, Alan, and I live in Omaha. We have a married daughter - Molly who is an ICU nurse at IA Methodist in Des Moines and her husband Tony is a 3rd year medical student at DMU. Our son Joe is a junior at UNL majoring in Physical Therapy. We have a dachshund - Bandit whom we rescued through the South Dakota Dachshund Rescue.	I am the oldest of six children and originally from Michigan where my parents and 3 siblings still reside. I have a sister in Italy and a sister who just returned from China who now resides in Virginia Beach. My husband and I moved to the Lake McConaughy area from Denver in the early 80's. My son J.D. is married and lives in West Point, NE where he is the Agricultural Banker and his wife, Lisa, is the Mortgage Loan Officer at the same bank. My daughter, Jenny, is a recent UNL graduate and lives in Lincoln. She works for a life insurance company and her significant other, Jeff, is a graphic designer. I moved to Omaha this past September from the western part of the state(Ogallala)and am just loving it.
<b>What and where was your first job as an HIM professional?</b>	HIM department at Schuyler Memorial Hospital working during the summer months. I did everything in the department – from filing to medical transcription to coding. My first job following graduation was a newly created position at Nebraska Methodist Hospital; that of evening supervisor.	Assistant Director in Medical Records at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Norfolk, Nebraska	Sedgwick County Health Center, Julesburg, Colorado where I was the HIM Director and Business Office Manager.
<b>What is on your mousepad?</b>	A picture of my husband and I standing in front of the Washington Monument in Washington, DC	Midlands Choice Logo	"The Nebraska Medical Center - Serious Medicine, Extraordinary Care"

	<b>Mary Meysenburg</b> – 1 <sup>st</sup> Year Director	<b>Jean Scharfenkamp –</b> <b>Secretary</b>	<b>Ranae Race – President-</b> <b>Elect</b>
<b>What book are you reading?</b>	Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy	"Rescue" by Nicholas Sparks	Night Fall
<b>What is your favorite food?</b>	Ice cream!	Grilled salmon with steamed veggies and a hot fudge sundae to top it off	Mexican
<b>Name the person you'd most like to meet.</b>	Warren Buffet	Living person - Glenn Fry from The Eagles Deceased person - My maternal grandmother - Josephine	Jesus
<b>What is your favorite movie?</b>	"What about Bob?" with Bill Murray	Gone with the Wind	Top Gun
<b>What was your first car?</b>	Buick Special	A 1969 Chevrolet Malibu	Baby blue Galaxy 500 (okay this dates me!!)
<b>Storms – scary or cool?</b>	Cool	Mostly cool if I'm not traveling!	Scarily cool
<b>Chocolate or vanilla?</b>	Chocolate	Chocolate with vanilla ice cream	Chocolate
<b>Describe your favorite shoes.</b>	Easy Spirits, slippers. Comfortable and easy to take off!	My red sandals	Flat black T-strap with silver buckles

The NHIMA Board would like to strengthen the relationships with the HIM Regions in Nebraska. Ranae Race, President Elect, will be contacting the region chairpersons with a short survey to assess the needs of the region and how best to collaborate to meet NHIMA's mission and vision for the State of Nebraska.

It is the NHIMA Board's strategic goal to develop a volunteer program to promote our professional community by advancing best practices and standards for HIM through education, advocacy and collaboration. Ranae Race, President Elect, will be seeking volunteers to design and implement the volunteer program for NHIMA. We need volunteers to help us carry out the mission and vision of our organization as well as our strategic plan for the future. Look for more information at the fall conference NHIMA booth in Lincoln. Stop by and visit with Ranae about your interests and complete a skills assessment so we can tap into the wealth of knowledge we have in our state. Please consider volunteering.

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**Appointed Delegate**

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**2008-2009 Chairpersons:**

Legislative Committee .....	TBA
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