

CONNotations

P.O. Box 39, Rockfall, CT 06481-0039

The Newsletter of the Connecticut Health Information Management Association, Inc.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow, where has the year gone! With several Coding Roundtables and business meetings this year, as well as our first Annual Holiday Party, it has and continues to be a growing and vibrant organization. For those who attended all or part of this year's 6 state conference in Rhode Island, you know there is more in store, and who can forget our popular t shirts and sweat pants! Watch this product line grow too. Our new Exhibit Board said it all; the CTHIMA association is riding the wave of change.

This is my first message as President of CTHIMA, and get ready for yet another jammed packed year.

The energy we all feel continues from the solid foundation of our organization, and I thank Marty Cohen who led a terrific effort. We started our session this year with our annual strategic planning summit at the North Haven Holiday Inn in June. While some of this meeting is set aside for necessary Board Member business, I remind the membership that this session is open to all members to attend. Our enthusiastic group of volunteers focused much of our time with discussion of emerging issues and core service initiatives to lead the organization now and for coming years. The outcome of this session sets the blueprint for the coming year, and drives many of our educational meetings. The PowerPoint used for this session will be added to the website so that all members will be able to view the key and critical issues facing Health Information Management.

It is clear that Connecticut is facing similar challenges of all other state organizations. Driving forces of retention, skill set development, preparing for new roles in E –HR, are critical to our continued success. We recognize that we are in an increasing consumer driven environment, where we need to pioneer efforts for public education on the Personal Health Record and privacy issues. Members also feel the ever present pressure to keep current with financial trends, including keeping an eye on the progress of ICD-10 and the severity weighted APR system. All of these issues we proudly brought forth to our elected officials at Hill Day in Washington this past March. Speaking on behalf of Marty Cohen and Deb Lobb, who also attended, we were honored to represent our association on the "Hill". CTHIMA is planning to hold its own Hill Day this year, as there is a great deal of information exchange that needs to occur with our Connecticut leaders regarding health information management and the state of our profession.

We also know that building alliances with other professional groups are crucial to our continued viability as an organization so we continue with strength and recognition of our abilities and leadership to the Health Care industry. I encourage members to review the threads of discussion on the AHIMA website (www.ahima.org) to educate yourself on all points of this critical juncture in our membership makeup. You as members can always communicate to our board members or me directly regarding your views on this topic. This topic will be a breakout session that we will conduct at our September meeting (see Save the Dates! Below). So again I encourage attendance and active dialogue on this subject. The resolution for inclusive membership is scheduled for review and vote at the House of Delegates at our annual meeting in Denver on Oct 6 – 13. I want to make sure that we represent our members' views on this topic, your participation

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in this discussion is critical. At the time of our Strategic Meeting in June, the Board Members voted to support inclusive membership; however, we would like to hear your thoughts on views on this important topic.

With the goal of communication in mind, our board is committed to engaging our members. We have an active volunteer group, who are spearheading various committees. I urge you to review the committees and their charge, for potential volunteering to assist their efforts. They are:

Legal - led by Jan Dombek (jdombek@srhs.org). The Legal Committee will update our Release of Information Manual, continue planning education on HIPAA, review bylaws and work with the Advocacy Committee on our own CT Hill Day.

Advocacy – co-chaired by Karen Lawler (klawler@cthima.org) and Donna Walker- Thomas (dwalker-thomas@cthima.org) The Advocacy Committee concentration is on member support, PHR training, Hill day, and collaboration with other associations.

Education - led by Phyllis Hilt (philt@cthima.org). The Education Committee will develop marketing tools for employers, explore virtual training, develop scholarships, and review expansion of accredited HIM programs in conjunction with Massachusetts.

Ways and Means - led by Deb Lobb (dlobb@cthima.org). The Ways and Means Committee is responsible for maintaining our website, obtaining corporate sponsors, planning fundraisers, and assisting with developing our marketing packages.

Coding Roundtable - led by Marty Cohen (mcohen@cthima.org). The Coding Roundtable will develop programs dedicated to APR DRGs, ICD-10, revenue cycle management, and collaboration with other professional societies dedicated to the coding and bill preparation function.

Again, if you would like to volunteer, please do not hesitate to contact the leaders of the committees directly. Also if you know of a speaker who would be interested in presenting on our key topics of interest, please feel free to contact me directly with this information.

There is a renewed focus on education of our members and offer programs to non members as well. Our advocacy efforts will not only concentrate on the Electronic Record initiatives, but offer other avenues for life long learning, particularly in our core business of revenue cycle management, including concentration on master patient index maintenance and managing the hybrid record.

Finally, I encourage all of our members to complete the survey and return them to either myself or Penny, via email so that we can answer and plan for your needs. It is never too late to have your voice heard, and we welcome your comments and suggestions.

<https://www.ahimanet.org/COP/GeographicConnecticut/Resources/Attachment.fusion?AttachmentID=18375>

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Wow, another ambitious year! Several dates you may wish to mark on your calendar now, are **August 2 -3 Regional Coding Seminar in Boston, September 13th coding roundtable, September 18th business and educational meeting, December 2, second annual holiday party.**

The September 18th meeting promises to depart slightly from our normal format. We will not only conduct our regularly scheduled business meeting, but are planning breakout sessions dedicated to the renaissance of the electronic record. In addition to this high energy meeting, we are also planning a "vendor" hour (or two) where vendors who are key stakeholders in the electronic record process will have an opportunity to schedule demos of their services and products as well as hold mini educational sessions. This is a wonderful time to schedule to see a vendor that you may not be able to have the time to meet with during your busy workday. Check the website often for important updates on this and all meetings.

Lastly, I am grateful to serve you this year as President of CTHIMA. As you can see from the length of my message there is much to be done, to continue on the heels of Marty Cohen's tremendous leadership of the past year. I am very proud and humble to represent all of you and our organization as we enter 2006-2007 on a very strong platform. As always, do not hesitate to reach out to me either by email or by phone.

Thank you!

Karen J. Lawler, M.P.S., RHIA
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203-789-4305

EXCITING NEWS

We are pleased to announce that the New England 6 State Meeting has won the 2nd place award for *CE Programs relating to HIM Practice Topics*. Joan Usher of Massachusetts will be presenting a 2 minute overview of the submission and accepting on behalf of New England at the Leadership Meeting in Chicago next week. Results will also be published on AHIMA Advantage and E-Alert. AHIMA will be presenting us with a certificate and taking a picture of the leaders of the New England States. Look for pictures and info from the Summer Team Talks, Leadership Conference, and Coding Roundtable Summit to be posted on the website by early August.

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Karen, Marty and Donna at the CTHIMA Booth at the 6-State Meeting

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SAVE THE DATES!

August 2 and 3, 2006

Boston, MA

Regional Coding Seminar – Achieving Coding Excellence

See this link for complete registration details

http://www.ahima.org/coding/coding_meetings.asp

September 13, 2006

Coding Roundtable

ICD-9 CM New and Revised Codes for October 2006

Complete Program Agenda and Registration Info will be posted soon

September 18, 2006

Holiday Inn, North Haven, CT

CTHIMA Business Meeting and E-HIM Summit

Complete Program Agenda and Registration Info will be posted soon

October 7-12, 2006

AHIMA 78th Convention and Exhibit

Denver Colorado

See this link for details and registration

<http://www.ahima.org/convention/>

November (Date TBA)

LTC Coding Roundtable

December 2, 2006

2nd Annual CTHIMA Holiday Party

Zandri's Stillwood Inn, Wallingford, CT

Come join us for great food, friends, music and fun!

Click below for complete details and registration information

http://www.cthima.org/pdf_docs/holidayparty2006.pdf

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January 17, 2007

Coding Roundtable

Details TBA

February (Date TBA)

CTHIMA Business and Education Meeting

Tentative Topic – Revenue Cycle Management

March 21, 2007

Coding Roundtable

Details TBA

April (Date TBA)

CTHIMA Business and Education Meeting

Tentative Topic – Compliance and Documentation Improvement

May 21 and 22, 2007

Annual Six State Conference

Portland, ME

Many Educational and Networking Opportunities

Please give us your input as we plan the program agenda

pdeotte@cthima.org

Support Our First Corporate Partner!

CARDONE RECORD SERVICES

Driving Solutions for the
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<http://www.cardonerecords.com/index.htm>

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Top Notch Coding & Clinical Documentation Improvement Consultants Wanted in Connecticut!!!

- Are you ready to expand your horizons?
- Are you looking for a friendly, collaborative environment that values life long learning and continuous improvement?
- Would you like your hard work to be rewarded with an excellent financial package, competitive benefits, PLUS eligibility for BONUSSES?
- Are you are proactive, positive, organized, flexible, and focused, with a passion for client service?

If you answered yes to the questions listed above, take the next step in joining HP3 to put your coding and clinical experience to work in a new way - in a new world - our world! Multiple positions are available including senior-level positions. No evening or weekend shifts required. Travel is essential and consulting experience is a plus. Coding positions require a minimum of two years healthcare coding/auditing experience and the AHIMA or AAPC credential. Clinical Documentation Improvement consultants require a minimum of five years experience in clinical nursing, UR or case management, along with DRG knowledge, and a minimum RN required. Apply online at www.joinhp3.com or send resume to mdjobs@hp3.com.

Adjunct Faculty Position – Briarwood College

The job responsibilities include teaching at least one (health Information Technology) course per semester; can be up to 4 credits. This will include one to two evenings per week. Semesters usually run about 15 weeks.

Must be credentialed (RHIT or RHIA), bachelor degree, masters preferred.

Along with teaching, the adjunct is expected to offer extra help or academic counseling to students on an as needed basis, usually scheduling one hour before class, after class or another day.

Contact: Phyllis Hilt, MBA, RHIA

Tel: 860 628 4751 Ext 186

hiltp@briarwood.edu

The September 2006 semester begins September 6 2006.

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Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Lisa Thierry and I own a direct placement agency called, Edwards & Greer Health Career Partners. We work with professionals in the healthcare industry who have made the decision to dedicate their lives to the well being of others.

I'm currently recruiting for an HIM Compliance Manager for a hospital in CT. If you are interested, or if you know of anyone else that is, please don't hesitate to contact me, or pass my contact information along.

Lisa Regan-Thierry
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North Providence, RI 02904
Direct: 401-451-4179
Fax: 401-353-1999
www.edwardsandgreer.com

Please help CTHIMA and AHIMA by completing this brief survey

All respondents will receive free access to an archived internet audio seminar as well as be part of a drawing for cash prizes!

The link below is all you need to get started - the survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete.

www.salaryprofile.com

We have a need to gather more comprehensive and detailed information on HIM work environments, traditional as well as non-traditional. We would like to be able to drill down the regional and even state level.

Your support is the key factor!

The only way this project can be accomplished is to have enough responses in our state and region to populate the various demographic categories so that the data can be sliced and diced in a meaningful way.

Thank you in advance for your time and effort.

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NOTABLE MEMBERS

Congratulations to **Beverly Clark, RHIT** on being named the CMHC Employee of the Year for 2005. Beverly was featured in March Issue of Center Focus the Newsletter for the Connecticut Mental Health Center. Beverly has worked in the Health Information field for more than 30 years. She started at New Britain General Hospital where she worked for over 22 years, moved on to UCONN Health Center, and for the last five years has been the Medical Records Supervisor at CMHC. Those of you who know Bev are familiar with her ever present smile and her willingness to lend a hand to the Association. The plaque presented to her to grace her office wall commends her for her “initiative, cooperation, attitude, and going the extra mile”.

Please join us in congratulating Beverly for achieving this honor!

Cynthia Pugliese, RHIA, Director of HIM and Privacy Officer at Hartford Hospital was profiled in the June 2006 issue of the Journal of AHIMA. You can find the article **Working in the Hybrid World** on page 92.

Remember, if you, a colleague, or a member of your staff has achieved a milestone, earned an award, been published, promoted, etc. please let us know so may cheer them on, and in turn encourage others.

BRIARWOOD COLLEGE UPDATE

The 2006 Briarwood College Valedictorian for 2006 was a graduate of the HIT program.

There are 30 students currently enrolled in the RHIT program.

For the past four years, 100% of the Briarwood graduates that sat for the RHIT exam have passed.

Look for more from Briarwood when the Fall Semester begins.

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REMEMBER TO VOTE IN THE AHIMA ELECTION

The polls opened July 3 and will remain open until July 31 at 11:59 pm Central Time. All active members as of May 31, 2006 are eligible to vote. Members can only vote via the AHIMA Website, through the AHIMA Communities of Practice at <http://www.ahima.org>.

The June *Journal of AHIMA* (pages 74–77) includes each candidate's brief bio, job description, and photo. The Resources section of the AHIMA CoP (located in the AHIMA Election–2006 category) will house more detailed profiles of the candidates and their position statements. Be sure to visit <http://www.ahima.org>, and go to the AHIMA Community for more information. A reminder will pop up when you log in so you don't forget to vote. Exercise your membership right today!

CTHIMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2006-2007

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