

CONNotations

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

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

First Quarter 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Seasons Greetings from the Board of CTHIMA:

It has been a busy time for CTHIMA in the past few months and it is important that I give you an update on what has been happening and where we are heading. Already this year we have had our boards annual environmental scanning session that outlined the goals to provide our members with a meaningful and full year of education programs, coding roundtables and new this year EHR roundtables.

This is what we have been up to so far this year.

- July 20 – 23, attended the summer team talks in Chicago
- August 2, first official meeting of the new board
- September 13, coding roundtable, MS-DRGs
- September 20, the second annual E-HIM Summit
- October 5 - 11, attended the house of delegates and national convention in Philadelphia
- October 26, asked to appoint a member to the Advocacy workgroup at AHIMA
- November 14, Sleepless in Connecticut EHR Dinner meeting

And, on December 1st, we had the 3rd annual Holiday party at Zandri's Stillwood Inn in Wallingford.

To view what's on the horizon please visit our web site at www.cthima.org and click on "calendar of events". Some areas of the new website are not quite finished yet, but, the construction process will be finished shortly.

We will also be gearing up for our annual elections for those of you interested in running for office, please contact Karen Lawler nominating committee chair. She will be heavily recruiting members to run for office starting in January 2008 with an additional opening for a 4th delegate to be voted in this year.

We still have plenty to do and would like to increase member involvement by actively pursuing members to participate in committees. If you are interested in getting more involved, please see one of the board members for more information. Please visit the web site for contact information.

To update you on the committees we are working on the following:

Legal committee chaired by Linda McKone is working on placing legal links on our web site to provide reference information to the things we never seem to be able to put our hands on when we need them. They will be working on a handbook to make available to our members as well, with legal resources that we all can use.

Ways and means committee, chaired by Debbie Lobb is working on marketing to increase corporate sponsorship, updating our web site and setting up pay pal so our members can register online for educational meeting. They will be investigating a chat room option for opening up communication and encourage diversity for our members.

Education committee, co-chaired by Karen Lawler and Cindy Zak are planning, organizing and presenting at least 3 more EHR roundtables before the end of June. Whew, that is a big commitment on their part. I

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hope that some of you have been or are planning to attend one of these wonderful and very informative sessions.

Advocacy committee Chaired by me has been actively pursuing an avenue into preparing a Hill Day in Connecticut and as mentioned before have been given the honor of being asked by AHIMA to appoint a former CTHIMA official to the advocacy workgroup on the national level.

Coding roundtable committee led by Martin Cohen had its first CCS prep class this year, will be presenting at least two more roundtables and continues to be a great resource for our coding members.

We continue to try to meet your needs and give you a diverse forum and in order to serve you effectively; we need to hear from you. Please call, write, or email one of our board members with ideas for speakers, suggestions for further educational sessions, or just to let us know how we are doing. We appreciate your support, and we would love to hear from you!

Happy Holidays
Donna

**The 2008 Annual 6-State Conference will be held May 18th,
19th and 20th in Worcester, MA**

Save the Dates!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Please check out the new Job Bank feature at www.cthima.org
Current listings can be found on the [Job Bank](#) page

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As Donna mentioned, at the end of October, CTHIMA received an invitation to appoint a former CSA officer to serve on the State Advocacy Workgroup. The invitation is excerpted here:

AHIMA has been making appointments to a new group that will focus on state-level advocacy and we've identified the need to expand this group. We would like Connecticut, Mississippi and Nebraska to participate on the State Advocacy Workgroup. This group's charge will be to address ways that AHIMA and its Component State Associations can enhance the CSA ability to advocate at the state and local level. We will be looking more at the structure of advocacy efforts rather than the legislative or regulatory issues. AHIMA believes that this new group has great potential to extend our outreach on the state and local level. As "Tip" O'Neill used to say, "All politics is local."

Karen Lawler was appointed by the Board of Directors to fill this position.

Karen Lawler filed the following report on December 14, 2007:

We held our first session today, invited workgroup members are from Arizona, Nebraska, Texas, Tennessee, Montana, Washington, and Pennsylvania.

Our charge is: how to build an advocacy network, provide tools, and structure for the CSAs. We will not look at policy, but establish grass root structure that CSAs can use. We will look at best practices from other associations and develop topics for discussion at the next leadership conference in July.

We have scheduled monthly calls. As there is more information, I will be sure to share. If you have anything that you would like me to bring forward, do not hesitate.

Thank you for asking me to be part of this national group.

Remember to check out the AHIMA Advocacy Assistant page at <https://secure.ahima.org/DC/AA/Index.asp>.

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Join us for the next Coding Roundtable!

January 23, 2008

Coding Roundtable

CPT-4 Updates

Presentation on Sacral Nerve Stimulation for Urinary Control

Discussions on Outpatient Facility Coding

And more to come

Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants

845 Brook Street

Building #2

Rocky Hill, Connecticut 06067

CTHIMA COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

With the goal of communication in mind, our board is committed to engaging our members. I urge you to review the committees and their charge, for potential volunteer opportunities in assisting their efforts. They are:

Legal - 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 – The Advocacy Committee concentration is on member support, PHR training, Hill day, and collaboration with other associations.

Education - The Education Committee will develop marketing tools for employers, explore virtual training, develop scholarships, and assist with the expansion of the accredited HIM programs at Briarwood College.

Ways and Means - 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 - The Coding Roundtable will develop programs dedicated to Severity DRGs, ICD-10, revenue cycle management, and collaboration with other professional societies dedicated to the coding and bill preparation function.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Donna, Marty, Karen, or Penny.

Also, if you know of a speaker who would be interested in presenting on our key topics of interest, please feel free to contact us with this information.

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ACE Action Community for e-HIM® Excellence

This fall, Karen Lawler has also become an AHIMA ACE member. (Information on this program is posted below) Her involvement in this initiative strengthens CTHIMA's commitment to guiding our members through the e-HIM migration. Due to the efforts of Cindy Zak, Karen Lawler, and the e-HR Roundtable Committee; we have a robust series of e-HR Roundtables in progress. The first meeting was held on November 14th; this dinner gathering featured Vera Rulon and Reed Gelzer. The next event in the series will be a breakfast meeting featuring facilitated brainstorming with Reed Gelzer, MD. Here is preliminary information on the rest of the sessions planned for this series.

February 25, 2008

E-HR Roundtable

“Fitting In, Standing Out, and Leading Effectively”

Planned: Mapping out workflow and other related topics; continuation of workgroups from January's breakfast meeting.

National speakers: Lynn Kuehn, RHIA, CCS-P, FAHIMA; AHIMA Director and Reed Gelzer, MD

Half Day Session

UCONN Health Center\John Dempsey Hospital

March, 2008 – Date TBA

E-HR Roundtable

“Are You Gambling With Your E-HR?”

Planned: Continuation of previous roundtable discussions and time for fun at the casino.

Saturday Session

Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

May, 2008 – Date TBA

E-HR Roundtable

“Exploring New Territory”

Planned: Subjects related to Personal Health Record, Outreach to Ambulatory Providers, eHealth Initiative and data transparency.

New Haven, CT

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ACE Action Community for e-HIM® Excellence

Through our electronic health information management (e-HIM®) initiative, AHIMA is committed to accelerating the migration to a fully electronic health information practice.

In support of this commitment, AHIMA is forming the Action Community for e-HIM® Excellence (ACE), a community composed of HIM professionals who are leading and influencing e-HIM® and making a difference in the healthcare environment.

What does this mean to you? An opportunity to make a difference by engaging in the e-HIM® initiative and becoming an ACE member. ACE member characteristics include the ability to produce results while navigating complex hierarchies, as well as:

- Leadership
- Imagination
- Passion
- Innovation
- Vision
- Sense of purpose

As an ACE member, responsibilities may include assisting colleagues, CSAs, and AHIMA in transforming HIM into the electronic practice of the future. You may be called on to offer your skills in areas such as:

- Mentoring
- Being interviewed
- Writing
- Speaking
- Giving testimony
- Volunteer appointments

For more information on the ACE program, please see the following link:

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

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Support Our Corporate Partners!

CARDONE RECORD SERVICES

Driving Solutions for the
Health Information Management of Today

Paving the Road for the
Electronic Health Records of Tomorrow

<http://www.cardonerecords.com/index.htm>

PHOENIX MEDCOM, INC.

Phoenix MedCom, Inc. is owned and operated by professionals who have been involved in the Health Care Transcription industry for more than twenty five years. Phoenix MedCom, Inc. was founded in 1998, and has quickly become one of the fastest growing providers of medical records in the Northeast. **All** of our **work** is done **here** in the **United States**.

Providing quality medical transcription in an electronic record environment is our only business, so all our resources and abilities are concentrated on that objective.

Prior to 1998, the principals were involved in a major east coast medical transcription service as Vice President of Operations, and Director of Technology and Customer Support. The experience of the officers cover every aspect of the HIM/Electronic record components, from training MTs, to operating procedures and interfacing with Information Technology departments, to providing support as partners, and insuring the satisfaction of the physicians on staff.

We maintain memberships in the major medical Health Information Management agencies that provide our clients with information on the latest technology, requirements and functionalities being offered. In this way, we are sure to always have the ability to meet the requests of our clients very quickly.

<http://www.phoenixmedcom.com/index.html>

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Briarwood College Update

Online:

The first two online courses in the health information technology program now have a combination of 16 students. The first of two was completed in October. The second one is currently in session and all is well. We will have two more up in January.

Four-year baccalaureate HIMM (Health Informatics Information) Degree:

Work in progress. Occupation statistics obtained indicating the need for well-trained health information professionals. Currently creating the necessary information for application to both CAHIIM and the State of CT. Third year courses will be completed by spring. It is expected to accept HIMM students in fall 2008. Fourth year courses to be completed by 2009.

Most of the HIT students at Briarwood are non-traditional, full-time working individuals who "multitask" every day trying to keep up with school, work and home. They are dedicated and invested. The Connecticut Healthcare industry is very lucky to have a pool of competent candidates from which to choose when filling those important positions. Currently, we have 35 students in our coding and health information technology programs.

I, too, have been blessed, as my call for help has been met with many inquiries from health information professionals who have expressed an interest in coming to Briarwood as adjunct faculty. I thank you for that.

Regards,

Phyllis Hilt

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If your facility would like to post a position, please have your Human Resource Department email us at:
pdeotte@cthima.org or dlobb@cthima.org

Call for Nominations for the 2008 AHIMA Ballot **Deadline – January 31, 2008**

Each year future leaders of the Board of Directors, the Commission, and the Council on Certification are selected through an election. The Nominating Committee, based on criteria for the elected positions, selects the slate of candidates for the election. As we begin the process of selecting those individuals who will assume office in January 2009, our first appeal is to you the member. We encourage you to seek one of the national elected positions or assist the Nominating Committee by identifying AHIMA members who will provide strong leadership for AHIMA in the years ahead. Visit the http://library.ahima.org/xpedio/groups/public/documents/ahima/bok1_028963.doc

Serving in an AHIMA leadership role helps you:

- Gain an AHIMA perspective on issues facing the profession
- Enhance your leadership skills and abilities
- Strengthen your professional network
- Become more valuable at your current employer and more marketable to potential employers
- Establish new personal friendships that last a lifetime

Feel free to submit your nominations electronically to Marilyn.render@ahima.org

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A FEW REMINDERS

Remember to keep your profile updated at www.ahima.org – this is where all our membership information and contact email addresses come from – make sure that you continue to receive all your Newsletters and Updates

If you would like to submit content for the Spring issue of CONNotations, please send information to cthima@comcast.net by February 15, 2008. Suggested items for inclusion:

- News about programs or practices at your facility
- Good news about an accomplishment (personal or professional) by you, a member of your staff, or a colleague
- Advertisements – see the website for rates and information

Please Join Us in Welcoming the Newest Members of CTHIMA

Priscilla Chase – Hunt, RHIT, CCS

Mark Friedman, MD

Maria Cielo Sumang, RHIT, CCS

John Kamishlian

Jeffrey Helfand, DO, MS

Kerry Kane, CCS

Marie Corriveau

Kim Amato

Terri Sheldon

Robin Bickerstaff

Zuli Ayvar

Jennifer Tyszka

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CTHIMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2007-2008

PRESIDENT	DONNA WALKER-THOMAS MBA, RHIA, CPC, CMA dwalker-thomas@cthima.org
PRESIDENT-ELECT	MARTIN COHEN, RHIT mcohen@cthima.org
PAST PRESIDENT	KAREN J LAWLER, MPS, RHIA klawler@cthima.org
Directors, 2 nd year	PHYLLIS HILT, MBA, RHIA philt@cthima.org
	LINDA MCKONE, RHIT lmckone@cthima.org
Directors, 1 st year	DEBORAH B LOBB, RHIA, CPH, CTR dlobb@cthima.org
	CINDY ZAK, MS, RHIA, PMP czak@cthima.org
Central Office Coordinator	PENELOPE R DEOTTE, RHIT, CCS, CTR PO BOX 39 ROCKFALL, CT 06481-0039 pdeotte@cthima.org phone: 860-347-5778 fax: 860-499-5046

Please feel free to contact any board member with your ideas, issues or concerns.