



AKHIMA
Mission Statement

Our Mission is to promote the art and science of health information management by achieving and maintaining high standards of competency, developing education programs, and promoting professional growth.

Along with physicians, hospital administrators, and other health professionals, we continually strive to improve the quality of health care information for all Alaskans. We endeavor to meet challenges of a changing health care delivery system by providing competent assistance and contributions within the scope of our profession.

THE NORTHLINE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sharena Sanders, RHIT

Wow, can you believe the summer is almost over? The kids are starting back to school and I am already working on Christmas presents (I make most of mine). That also means that the Fall Coding Workshop is coming up soon, as is the National Convention in Denver. There are some really big issues to be voted on this time. Inclusive membership seems to be the hot topic this year! If you have strong feelings about this topic or any of the others being voted on, please feel free to e-mail me your comments. Our President-Elect, Renee Skeels, and I would really like some feedback from our members so that when we vote in the House of Delegates in October we are placing our votes for the membership of AKHIMA.

Plan on coming to the Fall Coding Workshop, take an extra day and start that Christmas shopping! Hope to see you there!

PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Cathy Gross, RHIT

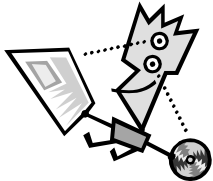
I am looking forward to another year on the AKHIMA Board of Directors, and the opportunities for professional growth this position brings with it. The current board members, as well as those in the past few years, have worked diligently to bring this organization forward and meet the challenges presented to us. As a result, we have a very sound financial base to work with. Part of this growth has resulted in expanding our website to allow for online registration and payment for dues as well as conference fees, which should be up and running in the near future. We finally made it to the 20th century . . . and now we will work towards joining the 21st century.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message	1
Past President's Message	1
2 nd Year Director Report	2
Fall Conference Agenda	2
Board News	3
HIM Humor	3
HOD Issues	4
CoP Corner	4
Jobs	4

EDITOR: Cathy Gross, RHIT

You will notice that the Northline is being delivered to you via your e-mail. This has greatly decreased the cost of bringing AKHIMA news to you. Because of some trouble transmitted the newsletter last quarter, and struggling with that, I gave up and reformatted the whole thing in a Word document and e-mailed that to our membership. I've had many positive responses from the membership. I appreciate any feedback from AKHIMA's members on this process as it evolves. I can be contacted at: cathy@akhima.org.



2ND YEAR DIRECTOR/PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Renee Iler, RHIT, CCS

The fall conference is scheduled for October 20th at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage. The flyer that was sent out mistakenly has last year's date on it; please note that October 20th is the correct date. Since this is only a one-day event, I have tried to include topics that will interest a wide range of coding professionals. Topics will include an educational session by James V. Zirul, D.O., ENT specialist, and his wife, Diana Zirul, MPA, RHIA, who is a coding professional, regarding the coding challenges these present. Also tentatively scheduled is a coding roundtable session addressing endoscopic surgeries. We have also planned a presentation regarding the new ICD-9-CM coding updates for FY 2007, and coding and compliance issues.

The Residence Inn is our conference hotel. Be sure to mention AKHIMA for discounted rates. I hope to see you in Anchorage!

AKHIMA Fall Coding Workshop DRAFT AGENDA

- 8:00 a.m. Registration
- 8:30 a.m. Endoscopic Sinus Surgery
- Anatomy & Physiology
 - Medical Terminology & Techniques
 - Coding Issues
- 10:45 a.m. Coding Roundtable
- 12 Noon Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. ICD-9-CM Coding Update for FY 2007
- 2:00 p.m. Mt. Pacific Quality Health Foundation
- 3-Day Payment Window
 - Update Hospital DRG Project
 - Coding & Compliance

Speakers/Topics Subject To Change Without Notice

A NOTE TO OUR AAPC ASSOCIATE PARTNERS . . .

The American Academy of Professional Coders has very strict guidelines for the process of applying for continuing education credits, which must be done approximately two months prior to the conference. Unless we receive approval from AAPC prior to printing our flyer advertising our coding workshops, we are unable to print the notice that the CEUs have been applied for and are pending. For those of you who are AAPC-credentialed coders, please be assured that AKHIMA will continue to apply for AAPC CEUs for each coding workshop we sponsor, both in the fall and spring. We value the professional relationship we have formed with the Alaska Chapters of AAPC, and will strive to continue this relationship in the future.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

AKHIMA SPRING CONFERENCE

April 24-27, 2007

**BP Energy Center
Anchorage, Alaska**

AHIMA NATIONAL CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Denver, Colorado

~ Oct. 7-12, 2006

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

~ Oct. 6-11, 2007

Seattle, Washington

~ Oct. 11-16, 2008

Coding Roundtable Report

Kathy Kunemund & Nicole Hunt

We are exploring coding education options through AHIMA. Once this is outlined we will submit a budget to the board for their approval. Future updates will be available on the AKIMA website and Northline.



HIM Humor

The CEO of a large HMO dies and goes to heaven. St. Peter shows him to a lovely villa, wonderful music, great views, full staff of servants, gourmet meals, etc.

The CEO says, "This is terrific!"

"Don't get too comfortable," says St. Peter. "You're only approved for a three-day stay."

AKHIMA Board Report

The Board of Directors met on August 10, which was the first meeting following the transition of office-holders. Our minutes, once approved, will be posted on the Geographic: Alaska CoP for review.

2006-2007 Board of Directors:

Sharena Sanders, RHIT, President
Renee Skeels, RHIT, President-Elect
Cathy Gross, RHIT, Past-President
Renee Iler, CCS, CCS-P, 2nd-Year Director
Cherie Raines, CCS, CCS-P, 1st-Year Director
Michael Gage, RHIT, Secretary
Terry Keith, RHIA, Treasurer

Nominating Committee

Cathy Gross, RHIT, Chair
Janet Kvernick, RHIT
Maggie Lehn, RHIA
Leslie Nightingale, RHIA, CCS-P

Update Your AHIMA Profile



Remember to update your profile – e-mail blasts are being sent out to the membership by the current president. Without correct information, you may not receive important updates from your professional association.

RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEERS – 2006 STAR AWARDS

Is there someone you know who goes above and beyond? Would like you like to nominate that person for a STAR Award? Contact any board member. E-mail address links can be found at akhima.org.



CoP Corner – it works for you!

The Geographic: Alaska CoP is your opportunity to keep in contact with AKHIMA members throughout the state. If you are having HIM issues in your facility or practice, chances are someone else out there is as well. Visit akhima.org, click on the link for the Geographic: Alaska CoP, and follow the instructions to log in. Be sure to check out all the community resources and discussions. This is a valuable tool AHIMA allows each member to use, with no additional charge. Please take advantage of this!

Inclusive Membership Vote Postponed

Submitted by Sharena Sanders, RHIT, President

The House of Delegates voted to postpone the vote on the Inclusive Membership Bylaws amendment. Instead of the scheduled June vote, it will now take place during the House of Delegates meeting on October 8 in Denver, CO.

This Bylaws amendment proposed by the Board of Directors calls for a more inclusive AHIMA Active membership category to strengthen our ability to meet current workforce demands and to influence the industry to change from HIM to e-HIM®. The new Active membership category would be amended to “Individuals interested in the AHIMA purpose and willing to abide by the Code of Ethics.” The Associate membership category would be combined with the Active category. The proposal comes from discussions at the 2005 and 2006 Team Talks and House of Delegate issue forums.

Members are discussing this proposed Bylaws amendment in the AHIMA Community of Practice (CoP), State Leaders and House of Delegates CoP, and many geographic and practice CoPs. You can participate in the discussions and find documents explaining the proposal posted in the Resources section of the State Leaders and HOD CoP as well as in the April issue of *AHIMA Advantage*. To participate, go to <http://www.ahima.org> and select the Communities of Practice logo. Enter your AHIMA ID number and password. Please note that your password may be your last name if you have not changed it or joined AHIMA online.



Make your voice heard . . . On October 8, 2006, Sharena Sanders, RHIT, AKHIMA President and Renee Skeels, RHIT, AKHIMA President elect will attend the House of Delegates in Denver, Colorado, prior to the National AKHIMA Conference. Now is the time to make your voice heard. First, visit the State Leaders CoP (you don't have to be on the board to join this CoP). Take a few minutes and review the information relating to this year's delegate issues, and the article submitted by Sharena above. Then contact either Sharena or Renee and let them know how you feel about the issues. Remember, they vote based on a representation of opinions voiced by AKHIMA members. Make your voice count.



Health Information & Technology Week November 5-11, 2006

No matter what area you work in, if you're involved in health information management (HIM) or health information technology (HIT), your work is vital to delivering quality healthcare. Without the information and privacy and security safeguards you provide, the field of healthcare could not advance. More and more, your work is becoming visible to those outside the industry.

The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) instituted Health Information and Technology (HI&T) Week 17 years ago to educate your peers, family, friends, and the public about the critical role played by HIM and HIT professionals in healthcare. The week has continued to grow into an increasingly visible opportunity for education and celebration. For 2006, the Canadian Health Information Management Association (CHIMA) continues to cosponsor HI&T Week.

This year, we're celebrating our profession and educating people on its importance from November 5-11. This year's theme reflects the important role HIM and HIT play in providing information between healthcare providers and settings for improved continuity of care: "Managing Information, Improving Care." The work we all do helps advance the cause of quality healthcare. HI&T week is your means to let everyone know about your crucial contributions to health information, so that people can truly see how improved patient care results from reliable data and the professional management of information. Make the most of HI&T Week, 2006! It's all about you! Visit ahima.org for more information and ideas.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

CODING REIMBURSEMENT SPECIALIST (CODER), South Peninsula Hospital, Homer, Alaska. For more information, call 907-235-0386.

HEALTH RECORDS ANALYST, MANAGER, HIS MANAGER, HEALTH INFO SERVICES—SNF, HIM TECH I, HIS COORDINATOR: Providence Alaska. For more information, call 800-478-9940.

HEALTH RECORDS ANALYST II: Mat-Su Regional Health Corporation. For more information, call 907-861-6578.

HIS SECURITY OFFICER: ANTHC. For more information, call 907-729-1319.

ASSISTANT HEALTH INFORMATION SERVICES MANAGER: ANTHC. For more information, call 907-729-1319.

HEALTH INFORMATION DIRECTOR: Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation, Dillingham, Alaska. Contact 907-842-5201.

COMPLIANCE SPECIALIST: ANTHC. For more information, contact Angel Dotomain at 907-729-3690.