



THE NORTHLINE

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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Doreen Booth, RHIT

Hello everyone!

Have you noticed that it is getting lighter outside? Winter is almost behind us and spring is approaching fast. I hope that you are coming out of your winter slumber and getting ready to attend the 2009 AKHIMA Spring Conference. The conference committee has been working hard to bring you a comprehensive and interesting agenda. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

The AKHIMA Board of Directors is pleased to announce that it has signed a contract with KnowledgeConnex to provide website services. Keep your eye out for a new look and improved functionality on the AKHIMA website. We are very pleased to have connected with Andrea Koppleman, RHIA. Please see the enclosed article about Andrea. She will also be giving a presentation on the new AKHIMA website at the Spring Conference.

It is time to accept nominations for new board members. Renee Skeels and the Nominating Committee are looking for a few good men and women to serve on the AKHIMA board. If you or anyone you know would like to serve, please contact Renee. You should have received an e-mail from her with details regarding Nominations. If our association is to continue to grow and serve our profession, we need YOU. We will have online voting again this year so be expecting instructions with your ballot. This year we are going to have a session at the Spring Conference regarding the future of AKHIMA. Please plan on being there and bring your ideas. We all need to work together as a team.

AHIMA has challenged all CSAs to grow their memberships! The contest offers 3 categories based on CSA membership size (small, medium and large). The CSA achieving the highest percentage increase in membership, for their category, from June 30, 2008-June 30, 2009 will receive convention registration and airfare. Take a look at Alaska on the attached table. Right now Hawaii and Alaska are running neck and neck. Out of all CSA's, whether they are small, medium or large, we are experiencing one of the highest growth rates across the country!! If you know of anyone interested in joining AHIMA/AKHIMA, now is the time.

This is an exciting time for AKHIMA; we need all of you to be successful as we grow. Please contact any board member with concerns, complaints or ideas. We are here to serve you.

CHAPTER	Total # Members 6/30/08	6/30/2008 % AHIMA Membership	Total # Members 12/31/08	Growth %	6/30/2009 Membership	State Size
Vermont	59	0.1%	62	5.08%		Small
Delaware	89	0.2%	86	-3.37%		Small
Rhode Island	115	0.2%	106	-7.83%		Small
Wyoming	126	0.2%	117	-7.14%		Small
Hawaii	133	0.2%	147	10.53%		Small
Puerto Rico	158	0.3%	154	-2.53%		Small
New Hampshire	191	0.4%	194	1.57%		Small
Alaska	193	0.4%	213	10.36%		Small
North Dakota	232	0.4%	252	8.62%		Small
Montana	263	0.5%	265	0.76%		Small
South Dakota	263	0.5%	260	-1.14%		Small
Maine	289	0.5%	300	3.81%		Small
Nevada	294	0.5%	297	1.02%		Small
New Mexico	298	0.6%	297	-0.34%		Small
District of Columbia	321	0.6%	316	-1.56%		Small
Utah	322	0.6%	329	2.17%		Small



AKHIMA is pleased to announce that we have signed a contract with KnowledgeConnex, LLC to provide our website services. Watch for the new AKHIMA website to emerge soon. Our partnership with KnowledgeConnex will bring you easier conference registration, enhanced job board, electronic Northline, services that will in the future allow for e-learning and much more.

Andrea's Mission Statement says it all: KnowledgeConnex, LLC is a privately held company in Atlanta, Georgia. The company is focused on the educational and web strategy needs of professional associations.

As an active board member with national, state, and local professional associations, company founder Andrea Koppelman quickly realized that time, cost, and geography were some of the major barriers for both member and board involvement. Today, KnowledgeConnex provides website strategy solutions to numerous healthcare and financial services professional associations.

Drawing from her academic background as instructor and instructional designer for the online Department of Health Informatics Program at the Medical College of Georgia, she became passionate about the opportunities in distance learning. That is why KnowledgeConnex provides e-learning solutions with audio conferencing and webinar technology. Constraints of geography, combined with busy personal and professional schedules, allow for e-learning to become a valuable solution for professionals seeking lifelong learning.

Andrea obtained her graduate degree in Health Care Policy and Administration from Mercer University and her undergraduate in Health Information Management from the Medical College of Georgia. In addition, she earned a Certificate in Distance Education from the University of West Georgia.

Her leadership led to honors such as the Medical College of Georgia's Distinguished Alumnus Award, Georgia Health Information Management's Distinguished Member Award and Distinguished Service Award, and the Greater Atlanta Health Information Management Outstanding Member as well as Distinguished Service Award.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

AKHIMA spotlight goes to Jennifer Meyer, RHIT, CCS, who graciously stepped forward last year to fill the vacancy left on the board of directors when Terry Keith, RHIA, moved to California with her husband. Jennifer is a lifelong Alaskan, starting her HIM career as a file clerk at Providence Medical Center. She moved forward in that organization and is now holds the lead coder position. Jennifer completed her AAS in HIM in 2003, and is currently working towards her RHIA.



AKHIMA would like to thank Jennifer for her contributions to the HIM profession and the state organization!

In February, the 2009 AHIMA Nominating Committee met in Chicago to prepare the ballot for the leadership positions in 2010. The candidates are listed as follows:

President-elect

- Bonnie Cassidy, MPA, RHIA, FAHIMA, FHIMSS (GA)
- Mary Beth Haugen, MS, RHIA (CO)

Directors for the Board of Directors

- Cassi L. Birnbaum, RHIA, CPHQ (CA)
- Tasha Green, MS, RHIA (DC)
- Beth A. Kost-Woodrow, RHIA (GA)
- Chrisann K. Lemery, MS, RHIA, FAHIMA (WI)
- Anne M. Mahalik, MPA, RHIA, FAHIMA (IL)
- Lois M. Yoder, RHIT, CCS (FL)

Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education

Associate Level Educator

- Bonnie L. Hemp, MBA, RHIA, CPHQ (OH)
- Rosalie M. Majid, RHIA (CA)

Baccalaureate Level Educator

- Marilyn R. Davidian, MA, RHIA (CA)
- Melinda Wilkins, PhD, RHIA (AR)

Master Degree Educator - The newly created CAHIIM ballot position of Educator HIM Master's Degree Program will be deferred until next year's election cycle. Representation on CAHIIM by AHIMA elected representatives constitutes 50% of the Commission Board and that representation is satisfied by the ballot proposed.

Commission on Certification

HIT Educator

- Hertencia V. Bowe, MSA, RHIA (FL)
- Carolyn J. Gaarder, MLA, RHIA (ND)

RHIA Professional

- Donna L. Barnard, MBA, RHIA (NY)
- Amanda S. King, RHIA (TN)

Join us in our efforts to be heard. We invite you to interact with the ballot candidates on the Candidate CoP. The Candidate CoP will open May 26, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. CST thru June 5, 2009 5:00 p.m. CST. The polls will open June 8, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. CST and close on June 26, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. CST. Members will be able to cast their vote via the AHIMA Web site only. The June *Journal of AHIMA* will have the candidate's brief bio, job description and photo, while the CoP will house a more detailed profile of the candidates, and their position statement. Be sure to visit www.ahima.org for upcoming details of the AHIMA election.



AKHIMA Board of Directors



2008-2009 Board of Directors:

Doreen Booth, RHIT, President
 Vicky Ament, RHIA, CCS, CCS-P, President-Elect
 Renee Skeels, RHIT, Past-President
 Karen Glaser, RHIT, CCS, 2nd Year Director
 Michael Gage, RHIT CCS, 1st Year Director
 Cindy Fyfe, RHIT, Secretary
 Jennifer Meyer, RHIT, CCS, Treasurer



Health Information Privacy and Security Week

April 12–18, 2009, is Health Information Privacy and Security Week

Health information is vital to the delivery of care, and so is keeping it secure. Health information management and technology professionals work diligently throughout the year to ensure valuable information is only available to those who need it and no one else. It's more than a commitment. It's a mission, and it's essential to maintaining the trust of the people and communities we serve. It's a cause we celebrate and reconfirm each year during Health Information Privacy and Security Week.

"Protecting Information—It's a Top Priority" is the selected theme for the 2009 celebration. The message will be on prominent display April 12 through 18, 2009, as we reassure the public their information is in safe, reliable hands. Equally important, this week is a time to recognize and reward the hard work and tireless commitment of valued staff members who help you keep health information private and protected throughout the year.

For more information and resources for celebrating this important week, go to:

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



Be an Early Bird -- Register Now!

2009 Annual AKHIMA Conference information included in this newsletter. Registration form can be found at the end of this document.

SPRING PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

We are in the final stages of completing the agenda for the spring program, which will be held from May 5-8, 2009 at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage. Your program committee has been working very hard organizing and planning this conference. Be sure to visit AKHIMA's website for updated information and registration forms for attendance. The registration form is also at the end of this document.

Speakers scheduled:

- Gwen Hughes and Kathy Johnson from Care Communications
- Keith Olenik from Olenik Consulting Group
- Renae Spohn, AHIMA Liaison

Topics to be covered:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| ➤ HACs, RACs, MACs | ➤ Electronic Health Record | ➤ Legal Health Record |
| ➤ Medical Identity Theft | ➤ Management | ➤ ICD-10 |
| ➤ Electronic Discovery | ➤ Alaska State Registries | ➤ AHIMA Update |
| ➤ Genetic Law Changes | ➤ Impact of the Stimulus Package on Health Care | |

All sessions will be held at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage. Our conference hotel is again the Residence Inn, and they can be contacted at 800-314-0718. Be sure to mention AKHIMA when making your reservations for the discounted room rates. Please go to our website: akhima.org to view updated information on the conference. We hope to see everyone in Anchorage!

ARE YOU READY FOR THE RAC?

The Medicare Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) seems to instill fear in all of us, and why not? RACs are paid on a contingency basis, so the more they recover, the more they are paid. Incentive to find your facility has billed in error – that's a yes! If the RAC concludes after review that Medicare has overpaid, there is an appeal process. However, CMS reported that only an estimated 7.6% of the appeals have been overturned after further review at this time.

The four contractors designated by Medicare are:

- Diversified Collection Services, Livermore, California
- GCI Technologies and Solutions, Fairfax, Virginia
- Connolly Consulting Associates, Wilton, Connecticut
- HealthDataInsights, Las Vegas, Nevada

CMS has divided the US into four regions, (A, B, C and D). Alaska was not included in the first wave states, however, additional states will be added in 2009. When you look at the statistics, the highest percent of recovery by provider type has been hospital inpatient (46%), and the highest percent of recovery by error type has been incorrect coding (38%).

Costs for the three year demonstration project: \$205.1 million. Overpayments recovered were \$900 million, with \$38 million in underpayments found by RAC reviews.

AKHIMA CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

For the year 2009-2010, AKHIMA is seeking nominations for President-Elect, Treasurer, First Year Director, Nominating Committee, and is also seeking nominations for the Distinguished Member Award.

To qualify to hold office in AKHIMA, nominee must be an active member in good standing of AHIMA/AKHIMA. For the office of President-Elect, the nominee must have served in an elected office within the previous five years.

The **president-elect** shall serve as second delegate to the national House of Delegates and perform all duties of the president if the president is absent or unable to act. Following this term, the president-elect will continue serving AKHIMA as president for one year and past-president for one year. This elected position requires bonding.

The **treasurer** shall keep all financial records for the organization, including accounts payable, accounts receivable, providing detailed reports to the executive board on all income and expenditures, and as directed by the president. This elected position requires bonding.

The **director** in the first year of a two-year term shall serve as co-chair of the Program Committee, shall be introduced to the activities of and act in a supporting role to the AKHIMA Board, and then move into the second year director position.

The **nominating committee** consists of three association members elected by the membership each association year. This committee shall solicit names to fill Board vacancies and to identify candidates for the Distinguished Member Award, and shall develop a ballot, receive and tally votes, and report results to the Board and Membership at the Annual Membership meeting.

The **Distinguished Member Award** is AKHIMA's highest honor. This award celebrates an individual with a long, exceptional history of HIM contributions, and is awarded to an outstanding individual whose record of contributions to the field over many years is truly exceptional. A qualified individual is an HIM professional who has made significant contributions to the HIM profession through dedicated volunteer service, innovative professional practice, education, research or publishing.



**Alaska Health Information Management Association, Inc.
CANDIDATE NOMINATION FORM**

Mark the Appropriate nomination type:

- I/we wish to recommend the following person to the Nominating Committee for the position checked below.
- I am interested in placing my name before the Nominating Committee to be considered for the ballot for the AKHIMA. I am willing to run for the position(s) checked below. I have read the duties and responsibilities of this/these position(s).
- President-Elect (3 year term) 1st Year Director (2 year term)
- Treasurer (2 year term) AKHIMA Nominating Committee

SUPPORTING STATEMENT:

State any facts which may qualify this individual for AKHIMA office:

Has this nominee been contacted about this recommendation? Yes No

Has this nominee agreed to this nomination? Yes No

I wish to nominate the following person for Distinguished Member Award. Please attach a supporting statement.

Name: _____ Credential(s): _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

_____ Email: _____

Nomination submitted by: _____

Mail form to: AKHIMA P.O. Box 230335 Anchorage, AK 99523-0335

ATTN: Nominating Committee

Email form to: Renee Skeels @ renee@akhima.org

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jennifer Myyer, RHIT, CCS

In this current economic climate money is a concern for us all. The AKHIMA board made the decision to move most of our savings accounts to CDs a while back in an effort to earn a little more interest. This decision has proven to be a wise move, with the some of the lowest interest rates we have seen for some time. We are continually looking for ways to improve our financial situation and get the most bang for our buck when possible, all the while keeping our members interests at the fore front. We look forward to more growth opportunities in 2009.

A full report of our previous fiscal year's activities will be presented at the annual business meeting, held in conjunction with the spring educational conference at the beginning of May. The business meeting will be held on Thursday during lunch.

Reminder: January 1 is the "start over" date for all members! Your old membership expires and your dues are due for 2009! We have some who have already renewed online and even some new first time members!! If you are renewing online (having joined online once) you will need your membership # and password – no, this isn't your AHIMA number, it's the auto generated AKHIMA number when you joined online with us. If you don't have it, e-mail Michael or I and we'll get it to you.

For those first time online joiners:

Don't forget that it's a two-step process. The **first step** is to enter your information, including selecting your password. Please include an e-mail address because we plan to transition to e-mail communication vs. snail mail. The **second step** comes to you in the form of an e-mail confirmation letter thanking you for joining and letting you know you can pay on-line or by mail. Please note, you are NOT a member until payment is received! If you do not get the e-mail confirmation letter please notify me immediately. Again, if you have any questions just call or e-mail me or Michael with questions!

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Spring surely is on it's way . . . although we have snow falling today and the temperature is in the 20s, the longer days assure me that yes, spring will soon be here.

Please take a moment of your time and consider volunteering for one of AKHIMA's committees. Too often, volunteering is left up to STP – the Same Ten People! Be one of those ten – contact one of your board members and offer to volunteer!



Update Your AHIMA Profile

Remember to update your member profile at AKHIMA's web site: akhima.org. Follow the link from the main page to AHIMA's website and update your information.

The contact information provided through this link helps AKHIMA contact you with important updates and information on upcoming events and interests. Help us keep you informed. Verify that your contact information is correct!

BULLETIN BOARD

Jobs

(Updated 2.15.09)

[Coding Supervisor Trainer ,Coding Tech, & Assistant Director](#)

[Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation](#), Human Resources, PO Box 130, Dillingham, AK 99576
Toll Free-800-478-5201 ext 6325 or Direct 907-842-9235. [Email](#) or apply [online\(pdf\)](#) or [online \(word\)](#). 1.06.09

[HIMS Manager](#)

[Tanana Valley Clinic](#), 1001 Noble Street, Fairbanks, AK 99701. Call 1-888-836-4677 and ask to speak to a recruiter. Job ID 59828.

[HIM Manager](#)

[Maniiaq Association](#), P.O. Box 256 #733 2nd Avenue, Kotzebue, AK 99752
Toll Free: 1-800-478-3312 Phone: 907-442-7660 Fax: 907-442-7830 [Email](#) or apply [online](#). 1.06.09

[Director HIM](#)

[Mat-Su Regional Medical Center, 2500 S. Woodworth Loop, P.O. Box 1687, Palmer, Alaska 99645](#). Phone: 907. 861.6000 FAX: 907. 746.8767 . Please contact [Cathy Nadeau](#) 907-861-6733 or [Terry McCarty](#) 907-861-6576 or apply [online](#). 1.06.09

[Inpatient coder, remote and intermittent Coding Concepts, Inc.](#)

505 W. Northern Lights Blvd. #218, Anchorage, Alaska 99503
877-277-2501 Office Toll Free
907-277-2501 Office



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

AKHIMA SPRING CONFERENCE

May 5-8, 2009

FALL 2009 CODING WORKSHOP

October 29 & 30, 2009

AKHIMA Conferences held at:

BP Energy Center
Anchorage, Alaska

AHIMA NATIONAL CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Grapevine, Texas
~ Oct. 3-8, 2009

Orlando, Florida
~ Sept. 25 – 30, 2010

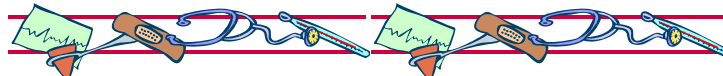
Salt Lake City, Utah
~ Oct. 1 – 6, 2011



HIM Humor

A little boy was taken to the dentist. It was discovered that he had a cavity that would have to be filled. "Now, young man," asked the dentist, "what kind of filling would you like for that tooth?"

"Chocolate, please," replied the youngster



An eighth-grade teacher was leading a discussion on the qualifications for being President of the United States. After the teacher commented that a person must be a natural-born citizen, one of the students raised her hand. "Does that mean that if you were born by Caesarean section that you can't be President?"

