



# THE NORTHLINE

August 2002

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Joanne L Reed, RHIT, CCS

As we begin our new fiscal year, I can't believe how quickly our beautiful summer has flown by. I hope everyone has had a chance to enjoy some of the gorgeous weather.

I am excited to be able to announce AKHIMA's second annual Fall workshop, this time to be held in three different areas: Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Sitka! Many thanks to Ann Waters, the chair of the Fall Workshop Committee, and to those who are working with her to make each of these

The AKHIMA Board will be holding it's 2nd annual retreat in Anchorage the first week in October. This is the time when we review our goals and outline our strategic plan for the upcoming year. We would like to get as many ideas and suggestions as we can from the membership in order to help us plan workshop and annual meeting topics, provide additional membership services, and create better communication tools.



## H.O.D. APPROVES

As incoming President for the 2002-2003 year, I would like to give a special thank you to the outgoing Board members from 2001-2002: Barbara Norbeck (President) and Ann Waters (Director). They, along with the rest of the 2001-2002 Board, have provided excellent leadership and direction for our association. Because of Ann's tireless efforts and those that assisted her, we had an outstanding annual meeting. Thank you to all of the volunteers that take time out their busy schedules to help our association achieve its goals. Your time and input are truly what makes AKHIMA a strong and viable association.

Don't forget to regularly check our web site for updated information on what is happening in our state. A huge thank you to Cindy Fyfe who has done an excellent job with keeping the web site current and informative!

I look to the coming year with excitement, and a determination to continue improving our member services and our networking with other health care professionals in our State.

### Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Privacy Credential	2
Annual Meeting Recap	2
News Board Members	3
News Bytes	3
Position Openings	3
HIPAA	4

AHIMA recently approved standards for the Certified in Healthcare Privacy (CHP) credential, a new credential that formalizes HIM professionals' competencies in privacy. In a series of votes, the House of Delegates approved a motion approving standards for initial certification and maintenance of the CHP credential. It will be offered as part of a collaborative agreement with the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS).

The motion was put forth by AHIMA's Council on Certification and Board of Directors and passed with 164 votes in favor and 16 opposed. The vote marks the first time that members voted on an issue online using Web-based voting software.

Additional information can be found in the Communities of Practice at <http://www.ahima.org> in the community news section of the AHIMA



## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL MEETING

Anchorage was again the setting for AKHIMA's 2002 Continuing Education Seminar, and many of you were able to take time away from your busy jobs and family to make for a great turnout. It was wonderful to see those who attended. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I'd like to thank each of you for participating. For those who couldn't join us, here is a summary of what you missed.

We converged on the Sheraton Anchorage, which provided a nice backdrop for the event. Based on your evaluation forms, we were pleased to discover that both the setting and the content met your high standards.

The meeting opened Wednesday morning, April 24, with an introduction from Board President Cindy Fyfe, RHIT. Afterward, guest speakers from the HIM field, and others, presented interesting and useful material on topics ranging from Diabetes and Hepatitis, to HIPAA updates; from ideas on promoting our profession to trends in psychiatric medicine; and from coding guidelines to refreshers on the all-important medical privacy issue. We wrapped up on Friday afternoon, April 26.

Once again, we were able to entice top-notch speakers, returning Gloryanne Bryant, RHIT, CCS, Dawn Carman, Esq., RHIA, CHE and Elizabeth Floersheim, RN, JD; and introducing Dr. Nicholas Kletti, Dr. John Robertson, Carole Gilbert, RHIT, and Al Zangri (MA, PHA). We're grateful for their willingness to share their expertise with the group.

Thanks also to the vendors who helped make this event happen by sponsoring breaks, purchasing booth space and advertising space in our program. It's always a challenge to put on a conference in comfortable surroundings while keeping within a budget that will make attending the event affordable for all. This year, a silent auction – for goods and services donated by association members and vendors – helped tremendously. We hope to do that again in the future and are open to other ideas for fund raising, as well.

Finally, our thanks go out to all who attended. As a professional association, we try to bring relevant, useful and stimulating information to our members. Your participation – and especially your candor in providing us with feedback through evaluation forms – will help guide us toward improving our overall quality of annual meetings and all events that tie us together as health information professionals.

Anyone interested in learning more about any of the presentations may contact Ann Waters for information on how to obtain notes, if available. Ann's e-mail address is [annwaters@msn.com](mailto:annwaters@msn.com).

It's never too soon to think about next year's event, again in April, at

---

## AKHIMA PUTS ON FALL MINI-

In response to feedback given by attendees at the AKHIMA Annual Education Conference, the AKHIMA Board has moved ahead with Fall conferences. With the frequent changes in coding and compliance regulations affecting HIM practice, it was felt that a Fall conference covering these topics would be valuable.

These mini-conferences are set up in Anchorage (Sept 6), Fairbanks (Sept 7) and Sitka (Sept 9) and will cover outpatient and physician office coding. These sessions are sponsored by AKHIMA, Innovative Coding and Documentation, and 3M Health Information Systems. *(Editor regrets the late publishing date of The Northline in relation to these conferences.)*



## WELCOME NEW AKHIMA

2002– 2003 AKHIMA were elected by the membership and approved at the annual conference. We recognize the commitment and work it takes to be a volunteer member of a Board of Directors. Thank you Board volunteers! Contact information available at [www.akhima.org](http://www.akhima.org)

**PRESIDENT:** Joanne (Jodi) Reed,  
RHIT, CCS (Soldotna)

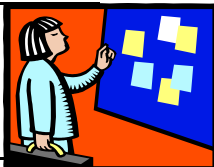
**PRESIDENT ELECT:** Anita Sommerfeld, RHIA  
(Anchorage)

**PAST PRESIDENT:** Cyndy Fyfe, RHIT (Dillingham)

**1ST YEAR DIRECTOR:** Cathy Gross, RHIT  
(Wrangell)

**2nd YEAR DIRECTOR:** Karla Duckett, RHIT  
(Wasilla)

## JOB



### **CODER— Full Time**

#### **CODING COORDINATOR—Full Time**

*Fairbanks Memorial Hospital—Fairbanks, Alaska*  
Contact: Nicole Welch in Human Resources  
(907) 458-5578 [nicole.welch@bannerhealth.com](mailto:nicole.welch@bannerhealth.com)

### **NURSE PROJECT MANAGER—KENAI PENINSULA**

*Send letter of Interest and resume to:*

#### **QUALIS HEALTH**

Human Resources, 10700 Meridian Ave N, #100,  
Seattle, WA 98133

FAX: 206-368-2419 Email: [jobs@Qualis Health.org](mailto:jobs@Qualis Health.org)

### **HIM DIRECTOR**

*Cordova Medical Center, Cordova, Alaska*

Contact Linda @ (907)424-8225



## NEWS

### **CERTIFIED RADIOLOGY**

A recent ADVANCE for HIM article highlighted this relatively new credential. For more information see the web site: [www.rccb.org](http://www.rccb.org)

### **MORE HIPAA HELP**

Looking for more resources for HIPAA education and compliance? Here is one to try. HCPRO (familiar to many) has a HIPAA web site that offers free newsletters, news briefs and their “market place”. Check it out at [www.hipaapro.com](http://www.hipaapro.com)

### **P.R.O. IS NOW QUALIS**

Known as the Professional Review Organization of Washington and Alaska, PRO is now called Qualis Health

Visit their website at [www.](http://www.)

### **NEW AHIMA RESOURCE**

AHIMA has launched a new resource on their web site. “Employer Resources” provides tools and information on how to recruit, hire and retain certified HIM professionals.

### **74TH ANNUAL AHIMA NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

The vendors! The food! San Francisco!! Oh, ya...the sessions too.

Don't forget the upcoming AHIMA Convention. September 21-26. It promises to be full of learning, networking, and fun. Get signed up and head