

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — *Cathy Gross, RHIT*

I can hardly believe that spring is fast approaching, which means AKHIMA's conference is a few weeks away. This year, we have booked the entire conference center for the week, and plan to have break out sessions on Thursday and Friday. Barbara Talley has been very busy working on all the details — please be sure to thank her for all her hard work.

Volunteering is a very important part of this organization. At past conferences, we have had sign up sheets for different committees. Please be sure to check these out, and plan on volunteering your time. If you have signed up for a committee and do not hear from the chair, please contact the current AKHIMA President who can refer you to the committee chair. Remember, volunteering is what makes this organization a success!

Winter team talks were held in Seattle, and unfortunately, I was unable to attend due to an injury. Please be sure to check out Sharena Sander's report on page two for details on AHIMA delegate issues.



## OFFICIAL CALL TO MEETING

This is the Official Call to Meeting of the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Alaska Health Information Management Association. The business meeting will be held May 4, 2006, during the luncheon break. The conference will be held at the BP Energy Center on May 2-5, 2006. Our program committee, chaired by Barbara Talley, has put together a program that will provide varied continuing education opportunities for attendees. Please note that we are offering break out sessions this year, which are new to our spring conference. Barbara has worked very hard to put this together — please take a moment of your time to thank her for all the time and effort she has put into this program.

The Silent Auction is back! All proceeds from this auction go towards our annual FORE donation and AKHIMA's scholarship fund. Please take some time and peruse the auction area and bid on items that may interest you. Shipping on large items is available.

Thursday evening's entertainment has been a huge success over the past three years. AKHIMA is planning for a fun filled evening at Benihana Restaurant, as well as the Volunteer Appreciation Social on the patio of the Residence Inn. Please plan to attend both of these functions for great networking opportunities with the AKHIMA membership.

## 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.

## Privacy & Security Week

April 9-15 is Health Information Privacy & Security Week. HIM plays a major role in protecting patient privacy and dealing with HIPAA related issues. Check out the resources and suggested activities on AHIMA's web site: [ahima.org](http://ahima.org).



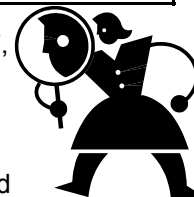
## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	1
Official Call to Meeting	1
Proposed Regulatory Changes	2
Winter Team Talks	2
2nd Year Director Report	4
Nominating Committee	4
Bulletin Board	5
Spring Program Information	6&7

EDITOR: *Cathy Gross, RHIT*

## PROPOSED CHANGES TO STATE REGULATIONS

The Department of Health and Social Services proposes to adopt regulation changes in Title 7, Chapter 12 of the Alaska Administrative Code (7 AAC 12), dealing with licensing and other requirements for health facilities and local units.



Included in these revisions are some changes to Medical Records Service: Update and expand the medical records requirements, including adding provisions dealing with records ownership, use and disclosure of confidential records, records retention, completion of records, and transfer of records.

The public notice of these regulatory changes, with instructions on how to comment can be viewed at:

<http://notes4.state.ak.us/pn/pubnotic.nsf/019f6cab525ebf3f89256dd0006b1b22/9dd1ed6fa153b3568925712400013728>

The full text document detailing the proposed revisions and additions to the current regulations can be viewed at: <https://www.hss.state.ak.us/publicnotice/PDF/151.pdf>

Please take a moment to read through these proposed changes. The AKHIMA board of directors has submitted a letter specifically in relation to the use of old terminology for AHIMA credentials and recommended a change in the verbiage to Registered Health Information Administrators and Registered Health Information Technicians.

## WINTER TEAM TALKS

By Sharena Sanders, RHIT, President-Elect

Winter Team talks were held in Seattle in March; Sharena Sanders, President-elect and Ann Waters, Past President represented AKHIMA. AHIMA's strategic plan for 2006 was presented. The Board of Directors stated that it was a work in progress and they wanted input from HIM and industry leaders. They felt there were four interrelated priority issues that are the basis for 2006-programming and performance measurement: they are e-HIM; education; outreach and Success by Association.

1. e-HIM – Electronic health information management (e-HIM) is becoming a reality for all members of the AHIMA community and the organizations they serve in order to achieve full deployment of EHR, PHR and the national health information network (NHIN).
2. Education – Graduates must be prepared to succeed in an e-HIM environment; practicing professionals need to develop new skills to demonstrate current and advanced specialty skills with certifications that reflect the changing roles and competencies.
3. Outreach – Inform public policy regarding health information management and raise the profile of the profession in the health information industry, throughout healthcare, and with the general public.
4. Success by Association – AHIMA members judge the value of their experience based on interactions with local, state and the national Association so all components must work effectively together to deliver maximum value.

The new Corporate Connections Program was also presented. This program was created because of the dwindling opportunities to place HIM students in traditional acute care settings. HIM professionals now share 125 job titles, 40 different work settings and over 48% of AHIMA members are in non-traditional work settings. It is time to give our students the chance to experience some of these new opportunities as well.

Proposed bylaws amendments were also presented and the most discussed one seemed to be about inclusive membership. This would mean that “*any individual interested in the AHIMA purpose and Code of Ethics*” would be allowed to be an active member. The reasoning behind this is due to the change in the workforce from HIM to e-HIM. Workforce numbers are decreasing and we need to welcome those in the industry who share our common goals and ethics. Inclusive membership would allow AHIMA to have more industry influence, which means we, as members would have more influence. There was much debate on this issue and you may state your opinion or follow the debate via the CoP: <https://www.ahimanet.org/COP/StateLeadersandHOD/>

## Health Fairs

Spring is just around the corner, and with that comes Health Fairs. These events offer great opportunities to provide information on Advance Directives, My PHR, and other HIM-related issues. Take a moment of your time and volunteer at your local Health Fair — promote the HIM profession!



## Update Your AHIMA Profile

It is very important to update your AHIMA Profile. Without current contact information, information from your current AKHIMA board of directors and your newsletters may be misdirected to an incorrect email or mailing address. Please log onto [ahima.org](http://ahima.org), click on members only, update my profile, and keep your contact information updated.



## BOARD APPOINTMENTS

AHIMA board of directors appointed Sheila Burgess, RHIT, RN, and will fill this position until July 2006. Doreen Booth, RHIT, held this position for many years, but due to increased work responsibilities, has resigned. This position is up for election this year; if you are interested in helping AKHIMA, please contact Ann Waters, RHIT, CCS: [ann@akhima.org](mailto:ann@akhima.org).



Kathleen Kunemund, RHIT has been appointed as AKHIMA's Coding Roundtable Coordinator. She will be working with the program chair on future coding workshops and roundtable activities throughout the state.



## RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEERS — BECOME A STAR!

Volunteer recognition is an important part of any organization. AKHIMA has instituted a new reward program for members and nonmembers who donate their time to AKHIMA. Each year during the business lunch, STAR Awards (Special Thanks And Recognition) will be presented to these individuals in recognition for their efforts and support in the continued success of this organization.

If you would like to nominate someone for this award, please contact any board member:

Cathy Gross, RHIT, President: [cathy@akhima.org](mailto:cathy@akhima.org)

Sharena Sanders, RHIT, President-Elect: [sharena@akhima.org](mailto:sharena@akhima.org)

Ann Waters, RHIT, CCS, Past-President: [ann@akhima.org](mailto:ann@akhima.org)

Sheila Burgess, RHIT, RN: [Sheila@akhima.org](mailto:Sheila@akhima.org)

Terry Keith, RHIA: [terry@akhima..org](mailto:terry@akhima..org)

Barbara Talley, 2nd Year Director: [barbara@akhima.org](mailto:barbara@akhima.org)



## 2ND YEAR DIRECTOR REPORT *by Barbara Talley, RHIA, CHP*

Over the past two years on the Board I had the opportunity to develop the Fall Coding Workshop and serve as the Program Chair for the upcoming Annual Spring Conference. Quite the experience! I would like to thank the other Board members and volunteers from our organization who were kind enough to guide me, share their resources and knowledge, and be patient with me along the way. I hope that the agenda for the upcoming conference will provide quality education on a variety of HIM topics and give members a chance to network.

I would like to thank our AKHIMA members for allowing me the good fortune and the opportunity to have volunteered my time over the past two years. Too many times the duties of running our organization fall on a select few who give so freely of themselves, over and over. I had no idea of the amount of time and hard work that was required for this position when I accepted the nomination but it has proven to be a wonderful learning experience and a chance to work with several dedicated board members. There is always a need for assistance planning workshops, coding roundtables, the legal manual committee, etc. Whatever your passion within the HIM field, I challenge each of you to volunteer within our organization in some small way. Your time and efforts would be very much appreciated and after all, this is **YOUR** organization.

## Nominating Committee Report *by Ann Waters, RHIT, CCS*

For the year 2006-2007, AKHIMA is seeking nominations for the following positions:

- President-Elect
- Secretary
- First Year Director
- Nominating Committee members for 2007-2008
- Distinguished Member



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 serves as second delegate to the national House of Delegates and performs 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.

The secretary shall keep a permanent record of meetings of AKHIMA and the Board of Directors, be responsible for all official correspondence of this association under the direction of the president, and assist with membership duties.

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.

If you would like to nominate yourself or another professional, please contact Ann Waters at 360.422.6818 or email her at: [ann@akhima.org](mailto:ann@akhima.org).

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

**MEDICAL RECORDS MANAGER:** Maniliaq Association.  
Contact Hugh Haligren, Adminsitrator, at 907.442.7344

**OUTPATIENT CODING COMPLIANCE SPECIALIST:** ANTHC.  
For more information, call 907.729.1319.

**HIS SECURITY OFFICER:** ANTHC. For more information, call 907.729.1319.

**ASSISTANT HEALTH INFORMATION SERVICES MANAGER:**  
ANTHC. For more information, call 907.729.1319.

**CODER:** Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation, Dillingham, Alaska. Contact 907.842.5201

**CODER AND HIM TECHNICIAN:** Southeast Alaska Health Consortium. Contact SEARHC Human Resources Office: 907.966.8311

**YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED . . .** The winter issue of Northline is a month late. Because of the schedule change of the spring conference to the first week of May, Northline was published in March to meet bylaws requirements for notice of the annual business meeting. AKHIMA apologizes for this delay.

### HIM Bloopers

*courtesy of a few medical dictators and some awesome transcriptionists!*

- "Patient continued to help and burch."
- "Patient has two teenage children, but no other abnormalities."
- "The operation was a success, but the patient died."
- "She is numb from her toes down."
- "Abdomen: Round, distended, with positive food wave."
- "Patient vomited GI cocktail and left-over foot."

Please submit your bloopers to:  
Editor, Northline, AKHIMA  
PO Box 230335  
Anchorage, AK 99523-0335



## THE BULLETIN BOARD

### SILENT AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED!

Please plan to donate an item for our silent auction — and plan to bid on some really great items!  
All proceeds go towards our annual FORE donation and AKHIMA's scholarship fund.



### CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

If you would like to be an AKHIMA volunteer, please contact an AKHIMA Board member



### FALL CODING WORKSHOP

Oct. 20, 2006

### SPRING CONFERENCE

April 24—27, 2007

BP Energy Center

Anchorage, Alaska



### Don't Forget the AKHIMA FORE Pig!

All proceeds from the FORE Pig go towards our annual FORE donation



### AHIMA NATIONAL CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Denver, Colorado ~ Oct. 7—12, 2006

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania ~ Oct. 6-11, 2007

Seattle, Washington ~ Oct. 11-16, 2008



**2006 ANNUAL AKHIMA CONFERENCE**  
**Registration is Now Open!**

**This year's conference will be four days filled with presentation on HIM hot topics!**  
**Over 30 AHIMA CEU's available for the four day conference!**  
**AAPC CEUs pending approval!**

***Tuesday, May 2, Pre-Conference Privacy Workshop***

David Sobel, Ph.D., Confidentiality Matters, Inc.

A full day workshop: Protecting Patient Rights: Meeting a Daunting Challenge

***Wednesday, May 3 Conference Day 1***

Nelly Leon-Chisen, RHIA – National Coding Initiatives Related to Pay for Performance

- ICD-10-CM & ICD-10-PCS Update

Danelle Kelly, RN - OPSS Coding Changes for 2006 ~

- Common Coding Errors & Confusions with Infusions

***Volunteer Appreciation Patio Social*** — time to be announced. Join us for an evening of networking on the patio at the Residence Inn! (*sponsored by Charter College*)

***Thursday, May 4, Conference Day 2, with Breakout Sessions***

Gloryanne Bryant, RHIA - Outpatient Wound Care Coding

-Coding for Cardiac Cath & PTCA procedures

Sarah Troxel, M.D. – Disease process: Breast Reconstruction

Kathy Kunemund, RHIA - Coding roundtable

Keith Olinek MA, RHIA, CHP- The Legal Electronic Health Record; Data Standards and Interoperability

Ann Waters, RHIT, CCS & Cathy Gross, RHIT - Communities of Practice

***Thursday Evening Dinner & Networking*** — Join us at Benihana Restaurant and network with your AKHIMA Board of Directors and Peers from around the State!

***Friday, May 5, Conference Day 3, with Break Out Sessions***

Keith Olenik, MA, RHIA, CHP - AHIMA Update

Brian Taylor - Medical Necessity

Dawn Carman, Esq., RHIA, CHE - AK Legal Update

Terry Keith, RHIA - Mt. Pacific Quality Health Foundation

Dr. Jerome List - RHIO Update

Dee Land, RHIT - CAC

MaryAgnes Fields-Hinkle, RHIT - Remote Coding & Outsourcing

Jeanne Molitor, RN - Coding & Data Collection for AK Trauma Registry

Doreen Booth, RHIT & Carol Hayes, RHIT - DSM-IV Coding



www.akhima.org

Visit us at

See you at the Spring Conference!  
May 2-5, 2006  
BP Energy Center  
Anchorage, Alaska

# THE NORTHLINE

ALASKA HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION



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