



## 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

## INCOMING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Vicki Ament, RHIA, CCS, CPC*

Summer is now upon us and I am sure everyone is busy and trying to squeeze as much fun in as possible before it is over!

This past year has been both busy and successful thanks to the hard working AKHIMA Board and the participation of a dedicated membership. These efforts have resulted in an updated AKHIMA website. It now allows our association to move into a more electronic environment and provides us with some wonderful tools and opportunities.

The 2009 Annual Spring conference was a great success and provided the attendees with a wealth of education. We were not able to hold an official business meeting due to the lack of a quorum, but for those who were there, some great information was shared which resulted in some good discussions.

As the incoming President I want to thank the outgoing AKHIMA Board and all the volunteers for the hard work and dedication they have provided this past year. Without their hard work our organization would never be as successful as it is. They truly have helped us move into the future.

We have a busy year coming up and I want to thank the membership for their trust in me and allowing me the opportunity to serve them. I also want to extend a "congratulations" and "thank you" to the newly elected board members and look forward to another successful year for AKHIMA.

Please take the time to visit the new and improved AKHIMA website and don't hesitate to contact myself or any other board member to assist you with your needs.



## AKHIMA Outgoing 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Director  
 Michael Gage, RHIT CCS, 1<sup>st</sup> Year Director  
 Cindy Fyfe, RHIT, Secretary  
 Jennifer Meyer, RHIT, CCS, Treasurer

## AKHIMA Incoming Board of Directors

### 2008-2009 Board of Directors:

Vicky Ament, RHIA, CCS, CCS-P, President  
 Maggie Lehn, RHIA, President-Elect  
 Doreen Booth, RHIT, Past-President  
 Michael Gage, RHIT CCS, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Director  
 Leslie Gordon, BA, RHIA, 1<sup>st</sup> Year Director  
 Cindy Fyfe, RHIT, Secretary  
 Kathy Boulton, MS, RHIA, CPHQ, Treasurer



## SPRING 2009 CONFERENCE REPORT

*Karen Glaser, RHIT, CCS, 2008-2009 AKHIMA Program Chair*

It is hard to believe that our spring conference has come and gone yet again! Where does the time go? AKHIMA's (Alaska CSA) 40<sup>th</sup> year conference was very successful; we were able to offer a large variety of different speakers, covering many up and coming topics related to the every changing world of Health Information Management. We were fortunate to have return speakers this year: Phillip Mitchell, Bureau of Vital Statistics; Dawn Carman, The Denali Compliance Group, LLC; Renae Spohn, AHIMA liaison; Barbara Symmes and Frances Jones, Operational Excellence, Providence Alaska Medical Center; Leslie Gordon, UAS; and Keith Olenik, The Olenik Consulting Group. A HUGE Thank You for their continued support!

I would like to offer special thanks to the following members for their help in coordinating food: Frances Maier, Gerri Garbig-Fields and Debbie Jeske. Without their help, we might have all wasted away! While it might not seem like a big deal, every little bit helps when it comes to coordinating such a large event.

There many changes this year; later registration/check-in time and "Going Green" with on-line hand outs, just to name a few. AKHIMA (Alaska CSA) once again provided on-line registration and payment of conference fees, as well as AKHIMA (Alaska CSA) dues. I realize there were a few technical difficulties with "Going Green" (not as many as I had originally thought!) and I think that with the feedback provided from members and working with our new web-master KnowledgeConnex, next year's program will flow even smoother.

I would also like to recognize Jennifer Meyer for her wonderful idea of donating our left over food to Bean's Café. Thank you Jennifer for supporting our local community!

Member interest in volunteering was very positive and I would like to thank everyone who signed up to serve on one of the many committees (you know who you are ☺). If anyone is interested in serving or chairing one of the following committees please e-mail either Michael Gage @ [Michael@akhima.org](mailto:Michael@akhima.org) or Leslie Gordon @ [Leslie@akhima.org](mailto:Leslie@akhima.org)

## ***YOUR VOTE COUNTS!***

You are invited 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](http://www.ahima.org) for upcoming details of the AHIMA election.

### **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.

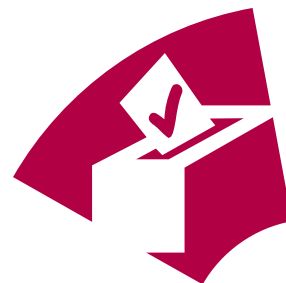
### Commission on Certification

#### **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)



Election Results

Renee Skeels, RHIT, Nominating Committee Chair

- President Elect: Maggie Lehn, RHIA,
- 1<sup>st</sup> Year Director: Leslie Gordon, BA, RHIA,
- Treasurer: Kathy Boulton, MS, RHIA, CPHQ, Treasurer

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

- Doreen Booth, RHIT, AKHIMA Past President, Chair
- Cathy Gross, RHIT
- Desiree Holm, RHIT, CCS
- Dawn Carman, JD, RHIA, CHC, FACHE

AKHIMA 2009 DISTINGUISHED MEMBER AWARD

- Cathy Gross, RHIT



**A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR**

Check out our AKHIMA's website! It has a new look, and is very intuitive and interactive. You can renew your AKHIMA membership, check out the past electronic versions of the Northline, and connect with your elected board members. Go to [akhima.org](http://akhima.org) and peruse the site!

Volunteering for AKHIMA has been one of the most challenging but rewarding experiences in my HIM career. I've extended my professional contacts not only throughout the state, but on the national level as well. I was quite humbled and surprised to be nominated for and receive the Distinguished Member award at the 2009 conference, and regret that I was unable to attend due to medical problems in my family and budgetary constraints at the facility where I am employed.

I encourage you to consider volunteering for your organization, AKHIMA. Don't be afraid to get to jump in and get your feet wet . . . our current pool of volunteer members are very willing to step forward and help you along the way!



**Update Your AHIMA Profile**

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

**UPCOMING CONFERENCE NEWS**

*Michael Gage, RHIT, CCS,  
AKHIMA Program Chair*

We are already planning for our Fall Coding Conference and the program committee wants to hear from you! Check the AKHIMA website during the next week or so for a short online poll that can help us determine what coding content / education our members are looking for at the conference. The results will give us enough time to work at finding the best presenters based on member input.

Remember the dates: October 29th and 30th in Anchorage at the BP Center. Due to the conference dates this year, we're hoping to include some Halloween-related themes! Check the AKHIMA website over the summer to stay caught-up on preparations!

## BULLETIN BOARD

### *Jobs Opportunities:*

- HIM Opportunities, Evan Thomas Associates
- Senior Compliance Analyst/Privacy Officer, Southcentral Foundation
- Compliance Specialist, Southcentral Foundation
- HIM Manager, Maniiliq Foundation
- Certified Coder, TCAssociates

For detailed information on the above listed jobs, please connect through the link listed below:

<http://akhima.org/jobboard.htm#HIM%20Opportunities>

AKHIMA is looking for Volunteers for our committees. If you would like to volunteer, please submit a letter of interest to Vicki Ament, AKHIMA President at [Vicki@akhima.org](mailto:Vicki@akhima.org)

- Bylaws Committee, Karen Glaser, Chair
- Program Committee, Michael Gage, Chair
- Scholarship Committee, Leslie Gordon, Chair
- Silent Auction Committee, Chair Vacant
- Legislative Committee, Chair Vacant



### *MARK YOUR CALENDARS*

#### **FALL 2009 CODING WORKSHOP**

~ October 29 & 30, 2009

#### **AKHIMA SPRING CONFERENCE**

~ May 4 – 7, 2010

#### **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



### ACTUAL EXCERPTS FROM STUDENT SCIENCE EXAM PAPERS:

#### HIM Humor



- Three kinds of blood vessels are arteries, vanes and caterpillars.
- Blood flows down one leg and up the other.
- The hookworm larvae enters the human body through the soul.
- It is a well-known fact that a deceased body harms the mind.
- For fractures: to see if the limb is broken, wiggle it gently back and forth.
- For nosebleed: put the nose much lower than the body.
- For drowning: climb on top of the person and move up and down to make artificial perspiration.
- To remove dust from the eye, pull the eye down over the nose.
- For head colds: use an agonizer to spray the nose until it drops in your throat.
- For asphyxiation: apply artificial respiration until the patient is dead.
- Before giving a blood transfusion, find out if the blood is affirmative or negative.