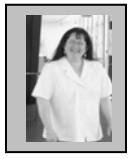




THE NORTHLINE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sharena Sanders, RHIT

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.

Can you believe that Christmas is almost here? This year has gone by so fast. There have been a lot of things happening in our association this year with the biggest one being the elimination of the associate membership category. The House of Delegates voted to change the Bylaws requirement that active members must hold an AHIMA certification in order to be a member. They also voted that the president-elect, president and past-president must hold AKHIMA credentials. There was an enormous amount of debate on this topic during the year in online chats, the AHIMA Communities of Practice and in Team Talks and state meetings. The AKHIMA Board of Directors asked members how they wanted their delegates to vote and that was how they voted. It was an important issue that we felt the membership needed to address.

It is time to start thinking of being more active in AKHIMA. We need volunteers to run for office and to help prepare for tomorrows leaders in our organization. Building relationships with peers is not always easy, however being active in your state association is a great way to build a network of people with a world of knowledge they are more than willing to share. It can be a very worthwhile experience and you meet some of the nicest people!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

AKHIMA'S Board of Directors is pleased to announce that AKHIMA member Ann Waters, RHIT, CCS, has been appointed to serve on the nominating committee for the American Health Information Management Association. She currently serves as an RHIT Practitioner for the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management (CAHIM) and is a member of the AHIMA FORE Board.

Ann is a long-time member of AKHIMA, and has served in many volunteer positions on the AKHIMA board and committees, as well as receiving the Distinguished Member Award for her continuous efforts to promote our profession. Congratulations Ann – we are proud to have you as a member of AKHIMA!

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EDITOR: Cathy Gross, RHIT



PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Mark your calendars! Our spring conference is scheduled for April 24-27, 2006, again being held at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage, Alaska. Conference headquarters will again be at the Marriott Residence Inn, just across the parking lot from the conference center. We currently have Jerry Lewis, who will speak to leadership issues, scheduled for Tuesday, April 24th. Plan for a full day coding workshop on Wednesday, Jill Callahan-Dennis, AHIMA Past President, who will present the AHIMA update, and also e-HIM and other important HIM issues on Thursday and Friday!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Terry Keith, RHIA

We have successfully filed our 2005 tax return. A complete end of year financial statement will be provided at the annual meeting in April, however we are in excellent financial shape at this time. Revenue from the Fall Coding Workshop was down this year due to attendance. However we will more than make up for it with the spring conference so start rounding up co-workers to register! We will also have the on-line registration/credit card payment available soon.



AKHIMA DUES ARE DUE!

This is the first time we are truly in the new cycle of January through December dues period. Please remember to pay your dues! It's a clean slate, that is, except for those eight fantastic people who have already paid for 2007. If you have any questions, please email Terry Keith, our treasurer, at terry@akhima.org.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

AKHIMA SPRING CONFERENCE

April 24—27, 2007

**BP Energy Center
Anchorage, Alaska**

AHIMA NATIONAL CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

~ Oct. 6-11, 2007

Seattle, Washington

~ Oct. 11-16, 2008

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

If you would like to submit an article, or have any HIM news, please email Cathy Gross, RHIT, at cathy@akhima.org



AHIMA's NEW LOG-IN: "myAHIMA"

Access to your favorite members-only areas of the AHIMA Web site is now available with one convenient log in. The familiar icons and links for Communities of Practice, FORE Library: HIM Body of Knowledge and other members-only sites no longer appear on the www.ahima.org home page. However, you can use your AHIMA ID and password via the NEW myAHIMA log in box at <http://www.ahima.org> for one-stop access to Communities, the FORE Library, Job Bank, Bookstore, CEU Center, and more.

You can customize your "myAHIMA" page to include your most used AHIMA member only sites and access them from one handy location. The creation of "myAHIMA" was based on member feedback, focus groups and conducted surveys.

AKHIMA Board Report

The Board of Directors met on December 12, 2006, and discussed issues outlined in the agenda prepared by President Sharena Sanders. Minutes will be posted on the Geographic: Alaska CoP once they are finalized.

If you have any questions for the Board of Directors, please contact them through the link provided at akhima.org. We look forward to hearing from our members; we are here to serve the organization.

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 Nightengale, RHIA, CCS-P

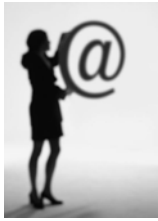


Some Thoughts About Life . . .

- One of life's mysteries is how a two pound box of candy can make a person gain five pounds.
- Brain cells come and go but fat cells live forever.
- Life not only begins at forty, it begins to show.
- I had to give up jogging for my health. My thighs kept rubbing together and setting my pants on fire.
- Amazing! You just hang something in your closet for a while and it shrinks two sizes.



Update Your AHIMA Profile



It is imperative that AKHIMA members update their contact information through AHIMA's member profile. I receive approximately 30-40 returns on emails sent to our members due to inaccurate email addresses. My information is downloaded from their data base through an access restricted process. Please help AKHIMA keep in touch with you!

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS – 2007 Elections Coming Soon!

Call for nominations for the 2007 Board of Directors will soon be headed in your direction. Please take a moment of your time and consider volunteering to help your organization – it's both professionally rewarding and an opportunity to extend your contacts throughout the nation, and to form lasting friendships. If you don't have the time to volunteer, please ask one of your fellow members to consider running for office.

Cathy Gross, RHIT, AKHIMA past president and nominating committee chair, will be seeking nominations for the following positions:

- President-Elect
- First Year Director
- Treasurer
- Distinguished Member Award



HOUSE OF DELEGATES – DENVER, COLORADO

by Cathy Gross, RHIT, Past- President

The House of Delegates voted on the proposed amendment for a more inclusive AHIMA Active membership category, with the thought being that this would strengthen our ability to meet current workforce demands. After some very heated discussions in the pre-meeting forums, the proposal was approved by a slim margin: one more negative vote would have changed the outcome and membership would have remained the same. More information on the House of Delegates can be found on the State Leaders CoP.

AKHIMA Board of Directors would like to wish you a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year!





HEALTH INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY WEEK

Governor Frank H. Murkowski proclaimed November 5-11, 2006 Health Information and Technology Week in the State of Alaska! This is the 2nd year AKHIMA has worked with his office and received this proclamation. A copy was emailed to AKHIMA membership and Alaska Hospitals.



BULLETIN BOARD

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

HIMS Manager & Privacy Officer. [South Peninsula Hospital](#). Manager is responsible for all HIM functions; active involvement in process enhancement teams, revenue cycle enhancement; and enforcement of HIPAA regulations. Minimum of 3-5 years HIM management experience within an acute care setting. Must possess current credentials, RHIA and CHP preferred. [South Peninsula Hospital](#). [Apply online](#) or [email](#) or mail to: South Peninsula Hospital, 4300 Bartlett St., Homer, AK 99603 Telephone: (907) 235-0386/0265. FAX Resumes to: (907) 235-0281

Coding Reimbursement Specialist

[South Peninsula Hospital](#) Full time position. Coding Reimbursement Specialist will be CCS, RHIT, or RHIA and 2+ years of acute care coding experience required. Knowledge of LTC, Cancer Registry, UM, and 3M encoder experience is a plus. Must possess an enthusiasm and passion for coding. [Apply online](#) or [email](#) or mail to: South Peninsula Hospital, 4300 Bartlett St., Homer, AK 99603 Telephone: (907) 235-0386/0265. FAX Resumes to: (907) 235-0281

[HIMS Director & Privacy Officer, Corporate Compliance Officer, Coding Supervisor/Trainer, Records Analyst, Financial Counselor, Biller Collector I, and Biller Collector II.](#)

[Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation](#), PO Box 130, Dillingham, AK 99576. [Apply online](#) or Toll free in Alaska: 1-800-478-5201, ext. 6325, Direct: 907-842-9325. Mailing address: BBAHC's Human Resources Department, P.O. Box 130, Dillingham, Alaska 99576.

Medical Transcriptionist (HIM TECH I): Fulltime position. Transcribes confidential medical records dictated by health care providers. Work from home! HS grad or equivalent and one-year's medical transcription experience or course-work in medical terminology required. RHIT or CMT preferred. Must accurately type min. 65 WPM and have one-year experience with word processing systems. Open until filled. Call Bartlett HR (796-8418) for application and send to HR, Bartlett Regional Hospital, 3260 Hospital Dr. Juneau, AK or apply [online](#).

Coding Concepts, Inc.

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



HIM Humor

The patient awakened after the operation to find herself in a room with all the blinds drawn.

"Why are all the blinds closed?" she asked her doctor.

"Well," the surgeon responded, "They're fighting a huge fire across the street, and we didn't want you to wake up and think the operation had failed."

