



President's Message

Marion V. Swaim, RHIA

At this year's AHIMA House of Delegates (HOD) I was truly impressed by some of the discussion topics and strategies some of the issue forums addressed. I will cover some of the HOD action items later in my address. The delegates spent time discussing an upcoming change to the Code of Ethics, one that makes it more value-based and provides a list of shoulds and should nots. There was a session on HIM Education Framework that delineated a certificate and Master's educational levels. The framework also provides a professional definition and example roles for these as well as the current associate degree and bachelor degree professionals. Also covered were the Workforce Study and an update on the e-HIM initiative that was

sent to you in the Journal.

The HOD addressed four action items. Approved were the change of the name of the Professional Conduct Committee to the Professional Ethics Committee, the resolution to move accreditation of HIM programs to CAHEA, and a change to the maintenance of certification. This change is significant as it defines for individuals who hold multiple credentials a total number of hours for reporting. Additionally, it requires HIM professionals who allow their CE certification to lapse for two cycles (four years) to retake the certification exam to restore their credential. The House did not approve the by-laws amendment to allow the Board of Directors to make cost of living adjustments to dues.

Special thanks to the delegates who represented you in Minneapolis: **Connie Grechanik, RHIA, CPC; Carol Smith, RHIA; Linda Vernon, RHIA; and Karen Phipps, RHIA.**

Remember to mark your calendars for May 5-7, 2004 for the Annual Meeting of VHIMA in Roanoke. **Margaret Hulvey, RHIA** is our Program Chair, **Cindy Phelps, RHIA** is our Arrangements Chair, and **Linda Vernon, RHIA** and **Sandy Knapik, RHIA** are coordinating the vendor exhibits.

In closing and on a personal note, many of you know that my 14-year old daughter Sarah is currently being treated for leukemia at Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters in Norfolk. I want to thank you for

many warm wishes and prayers, and I want to especially thank the Board for their support to ensure the business of VHIMA moves forward regardless of my availability due to Sarah's illness.

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Leadership Expert Nancy Hunter Denney to Deliver Keynote Address at 2004 Annual Meeting



Nancy Hunter Denney

Do you have the right kind of energetic force that attracts others to your message and mission, or do you send

people running in the opposite direction? Come find out at the 2004 VHIMA Annual Meeting keynote address with Nancy Hunter Denney, a nationally recognized speaker whose most recent book *Let Your Leadership Speak: How to Lead and*

Be Heard, was co-authored with other prominent leadership experts including Dr. Will Keim and Marlon Smith. Nancy's chapter, "The Voice of the Charismatic Leader" is the basis for her address.

Denney has appeared with Dr. Phil at the iWoman Conference in Indianapolis, on ABC and NBC morning shows in Chicago, and in the Spring of 2004 will appear with finan-

Marion

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Tidewater Community College HIT Advisory Board Update

The Tidewater Community College (TCC) Health Information Technology (HIT) Advisory Board met in Virginia Beach on October 7, 2003 to discuss the revision of the HIT curriculum.

Members present were **Jere Mundy, RHIA**, **Leslie Minschke, RHIA**, **Gloria Litton, RHIA, CCS**, **Kathryn Bresnan, RHIA**, **Naomi Holmes, RHIA**, **Gwen Carr, MBA, PT** (Dean of Health Professions), and **Gussie Hammond, RHIA**.

The goal of the revisions was to make the curriculum meet the needs of the students and the facilities that are in such desperate need of trained HIM professionals. With the need of coders increasing faster than the supply and the lack of educational programs available to students, the proposed changes allow for the first year's curricu-

lum to include the courses needed for completion of the AHIMA coding certificate program. This would enable students to complete the courses required to begin a career in coding, potentially helping to fill coding vacancies while providing immediate employment for TCC students.

Since the revisions involve moving certain courses typically taught during the second year (such as statistics) to the first year of study, the curriculum change will still allow the continuation of coursework through the following year to obtain an Associate's degree in



Proposed TCC HIT curriculum revisions have quicker coder employment as goal

HIT and eligibility to sit for the RHIT exam.

The development of a distance learning program was also discussed. Many options for web-based learning and videotaped lectures are being investigated. Stay tuned for more information regarding the development of these programs.

While the finalization of these proposed changes have not been completed, the hope is to have them in place for the Fall 2004 incoming class.

Inquiries or input regarding these curriculum changes or the HIT program at TCC can be directed to **Gussie Hammond, RHIA**, HIT Program Director, at tchammg@tcc.edu.

Nancy Hunter Denney is Keynote Speaker (continued)

cial advisor Suze Orman and television personality Star Jones at the Biennial Women's Conference at the University of Illinois.

A Florida training consultant enthusiastically endorses Denney: "If you have any doubts as to your capacity for achieving your personal potential, you won't after her session!"

"As an author, educator and speaker, I must admit to quoting myself... laughing at my own jokes... and having fun on stage. I don't stand behind a podium because, well, I'm short. I move around. I even jump. I inspire from the heart."

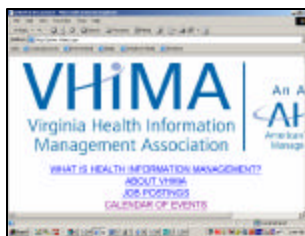
—Nancy Hunter Denney

VHIMA Website Gets an Update

By Gloria Litton, RHIA, CCS

Have you taken a look at the website lately?

Recognizing that internet resources have become the best and most used media source for organizations, the VHIMA Board has taken on the task of updating the web-



VHIMA website sporting new logo

site and making it more useful to the membership.

Each Board member accepted assignments to update different areas of the website and suggest enhancements that might make it more useful and attractive. Although many revisions are still pend-

ing at this time, much of the information has been updated.

After reviewing more than a dozen other state HIM websites, the Board discussed many of the attributes that they found most appealing and set out to make changes that would enhance *vhima.com*. Some of the other state websites were very elaborate and employ companies to manage their

VHIMA Website Gets Update (continued)

sites. However, the Board decided that we would make as many revisions and enhancements as we could ourselves in an attempt to monitor the use of the website by the membership. If, in the future, we find the activity high, they will revisit the idea of hiring a company to manage the website.

One of these changes was to add the new VHIMA logo and include information regarding our affiliation with AHIMA, which has now become a legal relationship, since all Component State Associations (CSAs) were required to sign affiliation agreements with AHIMA.

All Board member names and contact information was updated, and information regarding the upcoming annual meeting was added for save-the-date purposes.

One of the goals of the website is to provide information to our current and potential members as well as our vendor population. Many of the addresses and places of employment for our members and vendors change and are not updated with AHIMA in a timely manner, so mailings are often returned. This makes it difficult to keep everyone updated.

Another goal of the website is better communication. The Board wants to use the website to post job openings, publish annual meeting registration information, and provide details about what is happening at the state level. Using the website in this fashion is less expensive and more timely than traditional methods (such as a hard copy newsletter or other mailings).

Future website enhancements include adding graphics of landmarks and attractions of our beautiful commonwealth as well as downloadable annual meeting registration packets and newsletters.

The Board is committed to using vhima.com and to making it more user-friendly and useful to the VHIMA membership. The next time you log on to the internet, head to vhima.com BEFORE you go to ebay or webshots.com.

And let us know what you think.

Changes to Required Continuing Education Hours

The new [STANDARDS FOR MAINTENANCE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS IN CERTIFICATION](#) are effective January 1, 2004 for members and non-members whose maintenance cycle begins January 1, 2004.

Associate-based Credential

Eligibility for an associate-based AHIMA credential requires, at minimum, a high school diploma (or equivalent) up to an associate's degree from an AHIMA approved or accredited college or university.

The following would classify as an associate-based credential: Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT); Certified Coding Associate (CCA); Certified Coding Specialist (CCS); and Certified Coding Specialist – Physician-based (CCS-P)

Requirements for the Maintenance of Certification for an Associate-based Credential

- Completion of acceptable CEUs during a two-year period (cycle). Individuals with a minimum of one associate-based AHIMA credential must complete 20 CEUs. Every individual who obtains an additional AHIMA credential thereafter must complete an additional 10 CEUs, not to exceed 60 CEUs during the two-year cycle, plus an annual self-assessment for each coding credential. Each mandatory annual coding self-assessment is worth 5 CEUs and can be used towards fulfilling CEU requirements discussed above. **If any baccalaureate-based credential is obtained, the minimum requirement for maintenance is based on that credential.** Fifty percent of all continuing education units must be earned within the educational core content areas. To receive credit, coding self-assessments must be completed annually and all other activities must be completed within the assigned cycle period. All two-year cycles begin on January 1 and end on December 31 the following year.

Baccalaureate-based Credential

Eligibility for a baccalaureate-based AHIMA credential requires, at minimum, a baccalaureate degree from an AHIMA approved or accredited college or university. The following would classify as a baccalaureate-based credential: Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA); Certified in Healthcare Privacy (CHP); and Certified in Healthcare Privacy and Security (CHPS)

Requirements for the Maintenance of Certification for a Baccalaureate-based Credential

- Completion of acceptable CEUs during a two-year period (cycle). Individuals with a minimum of one baccalaureate-based AHIMA credential must complete 30 CEUs. Every individual who obtains an additional AHIMA credential thereafter must complete an additional 10 CEUs, not to exceed 60 CEUs during the two-year cycle, plus an annual self-assessment for each coding credential. Each mandatory annual coding self-assessment is worth 5 CEUs and can be used towards fulfilling CEU requirements discussed above. Fifty percent of all continuing education units must be earned within the educational core content areas. To receive credit, coding self-assessments must be completed annually and all other activities must be completed within the assigned cycle period. All two-year cycles begin on January 1 and end on December 31 the following year.

From www.ahima.org



"The Many Hats of Success"

VHIMA 53rd Annual Convention

Wednesday-Friday, May 5-7, 2004

The Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center

Roanoke, Virginia

Topics to be presented:

ICD-10 Update and other coding topics

2004 JCAHO Standard

e-HIM

AHIMA Update

Achieving Balance in Your Life

Leadership Topics



Look for your registration packet in February 2004

Annual Convention Events Promise Fun, Excitement

Contributions are needed for the 6th Annual Silent Auction to be held at the Annual Convention in May at the Hotel Roanoke.

Donations can include items such as dining/golf/gift certificates, crystal, china, baskets (filled/unfilled), jewelry, professional items such as

briefcases, etc.

Donations are tax deductible contributions to FORE, and can be made by contacting **Kristin Setliff, RHIT**, at 540-985-8429, or at ksetliff@carilion.com.

Then, plan on attending the "Hats Off Gala" on Wednesday evening, May 5th. Music and entertainment will be provided, along with Jonathan Austin of Richmond, who will perform magic, comedy, and juggling.

Additionally, think of what HAT you will wear! A contest for THE BEST HAT will be held, and different prizes will be awarded by the judges. You've got plenty of time, so start creating your original chapeau for the Gala!

Be sure to tell your vendors about the convention; those interested in exhibiting can contact **Sandy Knapik, RHIA** at 804-360-9167 or **Linda Vernon, RHIA**, at 804-754-3302.

Volunteers Needed at IFHRO-AHIMA Joint Meeting in October

By **Linda Vernon, RHIA**

The president-elect of the DCHIMA has asked for volunteers for the joint meeting of IFHRO and AHIMA in October, 2004. Maryland's HIMA has



agreed to assist, and VHIMA would like to provide volunteers as well.

Volunteers are needed in the hospitality area and for speaker introduction at various sessions.

DCHIMA will have its first official volunteers' meeting on Friday, June 11, 2004 at SoftMed Corporation in Silver Spring, MD. The volunteers' meeting will be a part of

DC's annual business meeting. CE credits for those attending the volunteers' portion of the meeting will be provided.

If you are interested please contact **Linda Vernon, RHIA**, at 804-754-3302 or via email at 2-2-22@worldnet.att.net. You can also contact **Gloria Litton, RHIA, CCS** at 434-982-7651 or email her at Gloria.Litton@mjh.org

The Newsletter of



Virginia Health Information Management Association

Lou Ventura, RHIA
Newsletter Editor
725 Kingsale Road
Suffolk, VA 23437

We're on the web!
www.vhima.com

Phone: 757-857-8384
Fax: 757-857-8114

Did you know...

Martha Jefferson Hospital in Charlottesville was mentioned in the December issue of AHIMA Advantage?

Bonnie Diehr, CCS, HIS Supervisor at Martha Jefferson, was contacted and interviewed for the article "Where's the Pay-off?: Justifying Training Costs in Tough Economic Times." The article discussed the need for continued funding of the education of HIM professionals and provides ideas for stretching those tight budgets we're all dealing with these days.

Congratulations MJH and Bonnie!



That **volunteers** are needed for the **COP/VHIMA Website Committee?**

Contact **Gloria Litton** at 434-982-7651 or at Gloria.Litton@mjh.org for more info.

2004 AHIMA-IFHRO



Registration begins March 1, 2004

Make your housing
reservations now!

Go to www.ahima.com and click on the
2004 IFHRO Congress and AHIMA National
Convention
button.

See related story on page 4

The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) is sponsoring **April 11-17, 2004 as National Health Information Privacy and Security Week.**

The event is to highlight the importance of protecting the privacy and security of patient information and we encourage you to use the Free PowerPoint presentation, Articles, Quizzes and much more that will be on the AHIMA Web site.

There are also special posters, statement stuffers, t-shirts and much more to brighten up the event for you and your facility.

Go to www.ahima.com to order items and get more information.