



Newsletter

May 2003

President's Message

By LeAnne Bouma

“How beautiful a day can be when kindness touches it.”
-unknown

AHIMA is celebrating its 75th anniversary, 75 years of service to the healthcare industry and our profession. Without them, the positions we hold today would likely not exist, at least not in the manner they exist today. I am thankful for their insight and ability to take AHIMA in the direction it needs to go, to keep all of us in the driver's seat of HIM.

Who have you thanked lately and what was it for? I feel like I have not said thank you enough to those who have helped so much this past year. One thing that I think most of us do not do very well is to say that simple “Thank You” whether it is to our spouses, our families, friends, co-workers or staff.

I want to thank my board for all their hard work and support this past year. I consider this year a great success and it could not have been without each of you. For those going off of the board, Kathy, Deb and Val – thank you. The positions you held are not easy ones and you handled them with ease. To Renae, Michelle & DeAnne, welcome and enjoy your time on the board. Our members placed their trust in you when they elected you and I know that you'll do a wonderful job for our association. Finally to Christal, Angie & Jane, thank you for everything. You have been such a big help to all of us.

Thank you to my family, staff and the management team at Sioux Valley for allowing me the time and flexibility to hold this position. I could not have done it without you.

Finally, thank you to you the membership for placing your trust in me to lead this organization for the past year. While I enjoyed holding the position of president, the best part was getting to know each of you better and learn more about what is important to you. I know you will continue to support our association in an exciting future that lies ahead.

Thank You again and have a wonderful and safe summer.

Triumph Awards

Do you know someone from our state who deserves to be recognized for all their hard work and dedication to HIM? This is the call for nominations for the 2003 AHIMA Triumph Awards and 2003 SDHIMA awards. Nominations for these awards can be in the following categories: Distinguished member, Achievement, Champion, CPR Breakthrough, Discovery, Educator Legacy, Mentor, Motivator, New Frontier, Research, Rising Star, Visionary and Volunteer. In addition to these, the Distinguished Member award is given to a SDHIMA member.

If you know of someone who is deserving of one of these awards, please write a letter of nomination and forward it to Julie Anderson, RHIA - Awards Chairperson – 3735 E Mission Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57103.

Nominations are due to Julie by **Tuesday, May 20, 2003**. For more information on these awards, please visit www.AHIMA.org and click on the Triumph award link.

AHIMA 2003 National Election Voting Begins April 14

AHIMA is celebrating 75 years of service. Eligible voters (members with active, senior, and honorary status holding a valid AHIMA credential as of April 4, 2003) can choose between voting online or voting via the telephone, toll free. **Voting begins at 1 a.m. EST on April 14 and continues until 11 p.m. on May 30, 2003.** You are permitted to cast only one ballot. Individuals who use both voting methods will have both ballots declared invalid. Biographical details and position statements for each candidate are available online in AHIMA's Communities of Practice. Brief biographies and photos of all the candidates will also be in the May *Journal of AHIMA*. Follow the instructions below to vote.

To vote online: Log in to <http://www.ahima.org> and go to the Communities of Practice site. On your personal page, select the link that says Vote for the 2003 National Election, above the section on the left side above the Search box (only eligible voters will have this link on their personal page). Your browser will open a new window, complete with detailed, easy-to-follow instructions.

To vote via telephone: You can call (866) 512-6995 to vote toll free with a touch tone phone. You will need to give your valid AHIMA member ID number and speak your last name to vote. The system will take you step-by-step through the voting process. Please review the candidate information prior to calling, because that information will not be available via the phone. The May issue of the *Journal of AHIMA* will include a brief biography and photo of all the candidates.

For assistance with voting, contact AHIMA Customer Relations at (312) 233-1100. All ballots will be verified and tallied. Election results will be announced in July.

AHIMA Membership Benefits

By Christal Pummel, RHIT

If you had the opportunity to speak with 450 people who could assist you with work-related issues such as HIPAA, policies, coding questions, transcription productivity, or other health information/technology topics, where could you find a group as large and as knowledgeable? Joining or maintaining membership in AHIMA is the answer. In fact, the 450 mentioned above represents less than one-percent (1%) of the current AHIMA membership of 46,000. Listed below are some of the membership benefits:

1. Communities of Practice--over 200 separate communities online. You choose which community (general topic) and you decide how you will participate. A suggestion is to join about three and spend approximately 15 minutes a day to stay abreast of the discussion. You are welcome to read or actively participate. If you do not have access to a computer, try the public library, which will have one with internet access.
2. FORE Library (AHIMA's Foundation of Research and Education)-- On the internet you will find the library as the Body of Knowledge (BOK). The entire breadth of HIM is at your fingertips. Articles from the Journal of AHIMA, practice briefs, position statements--all the most current HIM information available. The ease with which you can locate articles is fantastic. You can "Browse," do a "Quick Search" or an "Advanced Search."
3. AHIMA Job Bank--FREE to members. You can search for jobs by state, country, keyword or job category or if you want to post a searchable resume, other members and registered companies have the ability to find you.
4. Electronic newsletters called E-Alerts , sent weekly covering the most current professional news and monthly you will get a copy of the E-Resources newsletter.
5. E-Learning--a few of the courses offered online are Coding Basics, APC Training, Coding Assessment and Training Solutions, HIPAA Online, Privacy Training and HIS Training.
6. Print Benefits--Included are AHIMA Journal ten times per year, AHIMA Advantage eight Issues on career management, In Confidence, at a member-discounted price online every month with access to a two-year archive of past issues. Members also receive a 20% discount on all AHIMA publications.
7. Face-to-Face benefits--AHIMA National Convention; 19 privacy and security seminars in 2003; membership in SDHIMA, your Component State Association (CSA).
8. Discounts between 15-30% on overnight stays in AmeriHost, Days Inn, Howard Johnson, Knights Inn, Ramada, Travelodge, and Wingate Inns.

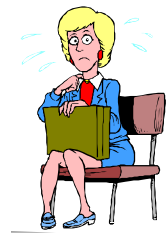
There are other member benefits as well, such as various group insurance plans, disability insurance, customized major medical, short-term medical plan, long term care plan and professional liability plans.

AHIMA works to not only strengthen the profession, but also to improve healthcare by:

- Supporting members with practice guidance and lifelong learning opportunities
- Guaranteeing excellence to the healthcare industry through certification and relevant resources

- Disseminating best practices and innovations
- Promoting education and research in the field
- Providing public policy leadership

AHIMA has developed two important strategic initiatives—Vision 2006 and the [FORE Campaign](#)—to sustain these activities and advance the profession into the future. Vision 2006, a progressive career strategy, forecasts changes in the industry, investigates new professional opportunities, and encourages advancement in the workplace. The FORE Campaign, an important part of the Foundation of Research and Education in Health Information Management, promises to provide the leadership, research, and education necessary to move the health information management profession forward.



Have you ever felt out of place? Have you ever felt like you didn't know a soul?

That is how I used to feel when I would attend the SDHIMA meetings. I first began going to the meetings as a student, only knowing the other students who attended. We would stick close together; fearing anyone whom tried to talk to us. We would save seats and move together in flocks. I looked in awe upon those that sat on the Board. And when I heard other members ask questions during question and answer forums, I felt clueless; wondering how I was ever going to get a job in this field since, without job experience, I had no idea what anyone was talking about.

As my classmates and I all graduated and moved on in our careers, I began to look forward to going to the meetings to see familiar faces and find out what path my friends had taken. Since all my friends didn't attend all the meetings, I still only knew a couple of people. However, since I had become so much wiser now that I was a career woman, I could look around the room and know who worked where and who did what. I certainly wasn't bold enough to approach an unfamiliar face and strike up a conversation, but I didn't feel as out of place as I once had.

Over the years, the familiar faces have gradually outnumbered the unfamiliar faces. This year I even branched out and struck up a conversation with a gal I didn't know. (Okay, I cheated a little. I recognized her from my college days, but I had never actually *talked* to her before.) We talked for quite awhile and found we had some things in common. It wasn't as hard as I thought it would be to strike up that conversation. Sure, it was uncomfortable at first – my pulse was racing, my mouth felt dry; but I obviously lived to tell about it.

Many of us are in the same boat when it comes to approaching unfamiliar faces. It is totally out of our comfort zone. Next year I plan to step “outside the box” and introduce myself to someone I have never talked with before and I challenge you all to do the same.

Can you hear my heart pounding already?

Editor's Note: Thank you to Pam Schmitt for submitting these encouraging words!

Each One Reach One

The Each One Reach One drawing was awarded to Rose Goeden, DSU Faculty, during the SDHIMA Spring Meeting. Rose has generously donated the \$50 prize money to defray the costs for a student to attend a future SDHIMA meeting. The Each One Reach One program is an opportunity for members to support the recruitment efforts and advancement of the Health Information Programs in South Dakota. Dorine Bennett, DSU Program Director of Health Information Management, keeps track of all volunteer activities provided by members throughout the year to be included in the drawing. Please submit your name to Dorine Bennett at dorine.bennett@dsu.edu if you or anyone you know has provided any activities such as speaking to a high school class or attending a job fair. "Each One Reach One" is a program established in South Dakota that initiated the creation of "Member Get a Member" on the national level for AHIMA.

Report on SDHIMA Legislative Day 2003 Held in Pierre, SD February 12, 2003 By Mary H. Stanfill, RHIA, CCS, CCS-P

There were no pressing bills related to HIM to be presented in this legislative session. However, Sheri Zimmer, SDHIMA Legislative Chair, organized speakers to address current regulatory issues. What follows is a summary of the day spent in the South Dakota state capitol.

Kathlene Mueller, Bureau of Vital Statistics, SD Department of Health:

Kathi presented an update on birth certificate reporting, specifying upcoming changes in data collection. Participants were given the opportunity to review the proposed birth certificate and asked for input on which of the new data items may be difficult to obtain. Kathi also relayed information on the fetal alcohol syndrome reporting requirement, which began in September 2002. She asked for input on how to identify these cases. Currently the burden for reporting rests with the physician who either refers a patient for FAS testing or diagnoses a patient as FAS. Reporting essentially hinges on the use of ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes for FAS.

Note: For more information on South Dakota Fetal Alcohol Syndrome data reporting, visit SDHIMA's website or the SD Geographic Community of Practice

Lastly, Kathi presented upcoming changes in the death certificate process. These included revisions to the form and the electronic filing process, which will be implemented soon. They hope to see 70% of death certificates completed electronically by 2005 and anticipate that this will cut 60 to 90 days off the processing time.

The meeting with Kathi was very timely as SDHIMA members were able to give her valuable input into the new processes for both birth and death certificates, before these new processes are implemented.

Roxanne Tipton, RN Public Health Advisor, SD Department of Health Office of Facilities Licensure and Certification (State Surveyor):

We received a wealth of information from the office of licensure and certification including the following:

- Interpretive guidelines relative to clinical record requirements for: hospitals (A tags), critical access hospitals (C tags), and long term care facilities (F tags)
- SD state requirements for clinical records
- Survey tool, designed by CMS, used by hospital surveyors, for determining compliance on VO/TO (tags A90-92)
- Recent memorandum on updates to conditions of participation for hospitals (related to assessment and performance improvement)
- Statistics from the OSCAR data system comparing the number of deficiencies written for the state, the region and the nation on specific A tags, C tags and F tags
- Samples of actual deficiencies written for specific A tags, C tags and F tags in SD

Videoconference on HIPAA , Dennis Laughlin, Privacy Officer, Rapid City Regional Hospital. The presentation included an overview of the privacy regulation with a helpful question and answer session.

SD Legislative session overview, Dave Hewett, President, SD Association of Healthcare Organizations:

We have a new governor in SD and approximately 40% of the legislators in both the House and Senate are new. The most pressing issue currently is the budget deficit. Depending on the outcome of the Governor's tax bill, medicaid spending may be cut yet again. There are also bills under discussion related to health insurance coverage issues. HB181 would create a risk pool for the state to address uninsurable individuals. This is a very expensive proposition and there is much debate (not likely to pass). In SD we only have three individual insurance companies and approximately 1200 uninsurable individuals.

We had the pleasure of meeting Lt. Governor Dennis Daugaard and a group picture was taken in the Rotunda. We ended the day with a tour of the capitol building complete with details on the history of the building itself and significant legislative events in history.

Back: Angie Monson, LeAnne Bouma,
Jane Klemme, Val Royal

Middle: Mary Stanfill, Vicki Carsrud

Front: Lt. Governor Dennis Daugaard,
Jolene Nelson, Christal Pummel, Sherri
Zimmer, Jodi VanArondonk



Report on Winter Team Talks **By LeAnne Bouma**

Winter Team Talks was held in Denver, just 2 days after over 4 feet of snow fell in Denver and the surrounding area. Both Christal Pummel and I were there to represent South Dakota and the information below was presented..

Strategic Goals: More information about these can be found in the Body of Knowledge (BOK).

Workforce: Did you know that by the year 2010, over 100,000 new HIM workers will be needed to fill new jobs and replace retiring workers? Considering we are only graduating approximately 2,000 from our HIT and HIA programs each year, we have a lot of work to do. The information derived from this study will help us to meet the demand that is needed now and in the future.

Membership: In 2002, there was a 5.1% increase in active/associate membership in AHIMA, a 48% increase in associate members and the number of student members was 2070 members over budget.

e-HIM: This is the third initiative for AHIMA in 2003. Technology is greatly impacting our job roles and healthcare in general. Many healthcare facilities are moving from paper to electronic medical records and as HIM professionals the opportunities surrounding e-HIM are endless. The HIT and HIA curriculum, workforce research, standards development and communications to all members to increase HIM recognition are all areas that AHIMA will focus on as the e-HIM project evolves.

HIM academic education and research: There are many challenges facing HIM today including small academic programs, too few baccalaureate programs, faculty shortages and new academic programs impinging on HIM. The good news in this area is that enrollment in our schools is on the rise and the tools supporting the students and recruitment are invaluable.

Leveraging our Federation: The CSA Advisory Task Force was created to respond to the environment in which we work, increase membership, discuss key issues relating to CSAs, and set corporate accountability. Breaking into groups, we discussed issues such as CSA revenue and collaboration with AHIMA; CSA assessments and services; the CSA rebate and what core services we provide our members; membership categories and services - defining what CSA membership categories are and entitled services within each category; and the CSA relationship to AHIMA – branding and member data.

The House of Delegates (HOD):

Proposed Bylaw Amendment #1. Currently the bylaws read that dues are approved by the HOD for all membership classes except Corporate. The proposed amendment would allow dues approval for all membership classes except for those powers and duties delegated to the AHIMA board of directors.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment #2: The AHIMA board of directors may authorize a cost of living adjustment (COLA) to dues. Such an adjustment would be based on the actual prior year cost of living adjustment. Any proposed increase over 8% would require approval by the HOD.

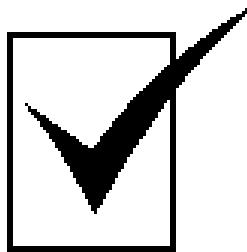
We also celebrated AHIMA's 75th Anniversary, celebrating 75 years of service to the health care industry and the HIM profession.

Spring Meeting 2004

Mark your calendar now for an excellent HIM educational opportunity.

SDHIMA Spring Meeting 2004 will be held at the Spearfish Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center on **May 6th and 7th, 2004.**

We hope to see you there.



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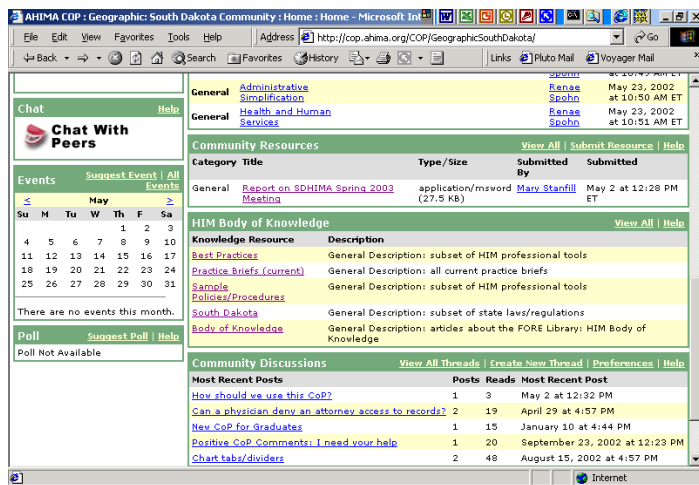


Let's go surfin' now, let's go surfin'...

We've all heard about "surfin the Internet", and it sounds like something we should all be doing, right? There is so much information out there and so much of that could be helpful to our personal and professional lives. But we all also know that it is hard to find time to get on the Internet and look around, right again?

I'd like to take just a moment to tell you about just two places on the Internet that SDHIMA would like you take a look at. Your comments and suggestions would be greatly appreciated!

We have started a SD geographic Community of Practice site through the wonderful resources available to AHIMA members. Members can just go to www.ahima.org and use the links to the Communities of Practice. Find the SD geographic CoP and browse around. There are helpful websites listed, South Dakota HIM news, and opportunities for asking questions and networking with other HIM professionals through a discussion board – we could even set up a chat and visit!



Renaee Spohn is the facilitator for the CoP and you should contact her with any questions, comments, or suggestions.

The other site is the SDHIMA website that has been developed in cooperation with Dakota State University's Health Information Management Program. That website is www.sdhima.dsu.edu



The newsletter and bylaws are just a couple of resources available at that site, as well as information about scholarships and association leadership. The on-line directory is a wonderful tool (and you can help make it better by making sure that your information is correct 😊)

For members who have any questions about the site or their login/password information, just contact Dorine Bennett at DSU in Madison (dorine.bennett@dsu.edu or 605-256-5137)

Education & Arrangements Committee - SDHIMA Spring Meeting 2003

Thank you to Patti Brooks, RHIA and Melissa Bruinsma, RHIA - co-chairs of the SDHIMA Spring Meeting 2003 Education and Arrangement Committee. Thanks also to committee members Carol Person, RHIA, LeAnne Bouma, RHIA and Jane Klemme, RHIA. Also thanks goes to Deb Dethlefsen, RHIA, CCS - SDHIMA Director of Marketing and Recruitment who lined up the meeting sponsors and to Vicki Carsrud, RHIT who helped with set up, as well as to many SDHIMA members who shared their expertise in presenting educational sessions at the SDHIMA Spring Meeting held in Chamberlain, SD on April 9, 10 and 11th, 2003. The committee wishes to express gratitude to the membership for your continued willingness to volunteer your time and talents for the good of the association.

Health and Fitness Fair – Empire Mall – April 11 and 12

Thank you to everyone who helped at the Health Information Management booth in Sioux Falls at the Health and Fitness Fair. We gave away a \$25 gift certificate to the Empire Mall as a door prize, and judging by the number of people who registered, it was a busy time and there were lots of visitors! It's not easy to fit these "extras" into our busy schedules – so a big THANK YOU to everyone who helped out!

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SDHIMA Election Results

This year SDHIMA held elections for three positions on the Executive Board. The Nominating Committee would like to thank everyone who was willing to hold office and put their name on the ballot. In addition, they would like to thank all of the SDHIMA members who cast votes in the election. The new board members elected are: President Elect Renae Spohn, Director of Public Relations DeAnne Kribell, and Treasurer Michelle Almquist. The current board members, President Elect Christal Pummel, Director of Public Relations Deb Dethlefsen, and Treasurer Kathy Dorale will hold those positions until June 30, 2003. Christal will be moving into the President's position and Val Royal will be leaving the board. All of these people are to be commended for their wonderful service for SDHIMA during their terms. Thank you!

Report on SDHIMA Spring Meeting

The SDHIMA 2003 Spring meeting was held at Cedar Shores Resort in Chamberlain, SD with a good number of attendees. The event started with a pre-conference coding roundtable workshop on Wednesday afternoon, April 9th, with the main convention held on Thursday and Friday. For a summary of the Spring meeting sessions, please check on the South Dakota Geographic Community of Practice by going to www.ahima.org and logging into the CoP's. Thank you to Mary Stanfill for posting her report and making that information available to members.



Mark your calendars now to attend the Fall 2003 SDHIMA meeting scheduled in conjunction with the SDAHO Annual Convention in Sioux Falls on September 24 – 26

Watch for more details coming later this Summer!

Isn't it exciting to have the National AHIMA Convention in our neighboring state?

Will you be going to Minneapolis, Minnesota for that?

October 18 – 23, 2003

Information available at www.ahima.org



Do you know someone who might be interested in health information management educational opportunities? DSU offers a healthcare coding certificate, an associate degree in health information technology and a baccalaureate degree in health information administration. Courses are available at the DSU campus in Madison, or at the USDSU Center in Sioux Falls, or via distance delivery. For more information, visit www.departments.dsu.edu/him or call 1-800-641-4309.

Change of Address Form

In order to maintain an accurate database of the SDHIMA membership, please update the following information as needed. This information can be mailed, faxed, or e-mailed to: Mary Nelson, Sioux Valley Hospital & USD Medical Center, 1100 S. Euclid Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57105; fax: (605)333-1575; email nelsonm@siouxvalley.org You may also update this information at the SDHIMA website by logging into the SDHIMA on-line directory.

(Please Print)

Name _____ Credential _____

Home Mailing Address _____

Street City, State Zip (+4 if known)

Employer _____ Job Title _____

Work Mailing Address _____

Street City, State Zip (+4 if known)

Contact Numbers

Location	Telephone	Fax	E-mail
Home			
Work			

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter!