

April, 2011

President's Message



Patrice Spath, BA, RHIT,
OrHIMA President
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“We cannot become what we need to be by remaining what we are.”
- Max DePree, Author of Leadership Is an Art

Are you new HIM graduate? Have you worked in the field for a few years or nearing the end of your HIM career? Regardless of where you are on the professional continuum, one truth is unmistakably clear – we are (and will always be) facing the challenge of keeping up with constant change. The alphabet soup of workplace and healthcare industry initiatives are different in every decade, yet our success at adapting and transforming has always been grounded in the same principle: life-long learning is essential. I hope you will join us in celebrating this tradition of life-long learning at the 69th Annual Convention, May 19-21. The complete program can be found on the OrHIMA website.

Adapting and transforming is also a subject of discussion within AHIMA. At the Winter Team Talks in March, Bonnie Cassidy, AHIMA President, asked state leaders to start discussing how AHIMA can best put into practice governance structures that promote agility, and long-term sustainable growth. Proposed AHIMA bylaws revisions will be discussed this summer with tentative plans to vote on changes at the House of Delegates meeting in September. If you want to learn more about this transformation initiative, Bonnie's video presentation at the Team Talks is available on the AHIMA website
<http://ovation.streamlivemedia.com/ovation/ovevnt01/ahima2011WTT03282011gov/msh.htm>

Similar discussions of the governance and support structure within OrHIMA are also occurring. That's why we are continuing to reach out to members for feedback on strategic priorities and to gain a better understanding of member needs. Your input is vital to this process.

All OrHIMA members are invited to attend the annual business meeting which will take place on Friday, May 20, 2011 from 11 AM to 12:30 PM at the Crowne Plaza in Lake Oswego. You do not need to be registered for the educational sessions on that day to attend the business meeting. Please come and join us to learn more about your association's activities and plans for the future.



Education Committee Activities

Yvonne Stiller, MA, RHIA, Education Director
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TRADITIONS, TRENDS AND TRANSITIONS: NO LIMITS TO LEARNING
OrHIMA STATE CONVENTION
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Lake Oswego, Oregon
May 19 – 21, 2011

Register on-line at www.orhima.org

We hope that you will be able to join us for the annual state convention at the Lake Oswego Crowne Plaza. Your education committee is busy with the final details. We have a full agenda with a wide range of topics on current issues.

A silent auction is being planned as part of this convention. The money raised from the auction will be used to continue to provide affordable quality education to our membership. Details of the auction will be provided in an upcoming e-blast.

Friday morning of convention, the Board of Directors is inviting those students in attendance to join us for breakfast. We will have a brief program and allow time for students to interact with the Board of Directors.

The next coding roundtable will be June 16th at 2:00 pm with Lynne Spryszak (CDI Education Director) of HCPro. Lynne will discuss ***Clinical Documentation Improvement (CDI) Programs***, the staff and what they do, who they are, what they are needed for, and how one becomes a CDI specialist from a coder's background.

The August roundtable is with Susan Wallace of Administrative Consultant Services, LLC. She is a director of compliance and an inpatient consultant. She will be presenting August 18th at 2:00 pm on ***Accurate Reporting and Coding of Postoperative Conditions***.

The Fall Institute is tentatively scheduled for September 16, 2011 in Albany. We are just beginning to plan the agenda and would like to hear from our membership regarding suggested topics. If anyone is interested in serving as program chair please contact me.

We continue to seek volunteers to serve on the Education Committee. It is a great way to get to know some of your peers in the state and to have a hand in the planning of education for OrHIMA membership. All of our meetings are via conference call and do not require any travel. Sign-up sheets will be available during convention or you may contact me directly at yvannes@mcmc.net.

Invitation to Student Members of OrHIMA:

The Board of Directors is hosting a ***Breakfast with the Board*** on Friday morning, May 19th, at the convention. We'd love to see you there from 7-8 a.m. There will be signage at the continental breakfast so assemble your breakfast and come to the room designated on the signs. It will be an informal event where you can ask questions, networking opportunities, give us feedback on how the CSA and its leadership can help support students and new graduates, etc. The attendees will drive the discussion topics.





Nominating Committee Report

Dody Burke, RHIT, Strategic Projects Director
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2011-12 Election Results

President-elect: Christina Grijalva, RHIA

Secretary: Molly Siebert, RHIT, CCS

Director, Legal/Legislative: Lynne Shoemaker, RHIA, CHP, CHC

Director, Public Relations: William (Whit) Watkins, RHIA, BA, BA

Nominee to the AHIMA Nominating Committee: Bonnie Altus, MS, RHIA, CPHIMS, CHPS

OrHIMA Nominating Committee: Teresa Benson, RHIT; Joan Bradshaw, RHIT;
Deborah Scott, RHIA

Ballots were sent to 580 members with valid email addresses. The 23.96% response rate was higher than the past few years. Thank you for helping elect next year's Association leadership.

The Board promised you an update on the **member survey** sent out in February. Thanks to all who responded, the Board of Directors (BOD) received great ideas and suggestions for the future, and the results of the survey will be used in the Board's June strategic planning meeting. OrHIMA is a very diverse organization representing many different credentials and workplaces. You gave us more information about what you need and want; the BOD is responding as follows:

- ✓ You have asked for a wider range of topics for the May Convention and the Education Committee has delivered! Take a look at the agenda; there is something for everyone 😊.
- ✓ You are concerned about ICD-10 education. OrHIMA has appointed a committee that reports to the Education Director. Watch for more information in coming months.
- ✓ You are concerned about the cost of the May Conference. The cost is driven by what OrHIMA pays for the venue, speakers and food. The BOD will continue to look at ways to keep the cost as low as possible and still provide quality education and networking possibilities.

- ✓ You asked for Roundtables that aren't limited to coding and that is on its way to happening. We are entertaining offering possible webinars too. The new OrHIMA website will support offering more opportunities that were not available just a few years ago.

All this is to say the Board of Directors is listening to you---the most important asset that OrHIMA has. Please keep the ideas coming! On behalf of OrHIMA, thanks for your time and your candid feedback.



What Has Your Board Been Up To?

Laurie Tanita, BSHA, RHIT, CCS, President-Elect
laurie.tanita@providence.org

At the April meeting of the Board of Directors, the HITOC Work Group was discussed. OrHIMA is very fortunate to have two representatives on this workgroup. The HITOC Group is sorting out issues surrounding privacy and security and subgroups have been formed as a part of the larger group to discuss all the issues.

The AHIMA environmental scan will be available to OrHIMA members on the OrHIMA website May 1, 2011-May 31, 2011. All members are encouraged to go on the website and take the survey. This is your opportunity to let the Board know your thoughts and in what direction you would like OrHIMA to go. The results of the environmental scan will be discussed at the Strategic Planning Meeting in June.

The Board of Directors is considering a proposal to develop a Facebook page for OrHIMA. The proposal for this page will be placed on the strategic planning meeting agenda for discussion by outgoing and incoming officers. Please let us know what you think. Would you use the Facebook page to communicate with OrHIMA and other HIM colleagues?

Finally, OrHIMA has been approached many times to do an updated version of the video on confidentiality. The previous version was done in 1988, and due to the interest in an updated

version, the board is investigating the costs. We are looking for a member to champion this effort; if you are interested please contact Debra Harris.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the Annual Convention in May.



Public Relations

Joanne Valerius, MPH, RHIA, Public Relations Director
Valerius@ohsu.edu

The Public Relations committee has investigated recruitment strategies with high schools. Pam Yokubaitis and Judy Oswald, committee members, researched their children’s high school career sites and found that information about the HIM careers are out of date. We found that the commercial career systems do not accurately reflect the role of the HIM professional. They rely on the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics for information. Pam contacted Patt Peterson, Director of Education at AHIMA about our concerns. Patt responded with the following: “We encourage members to continue to communicate with our public officials and our high school career centers to update the national occupational data base to accurately reflect our profession.”

From Patt Peterson: About the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

“...And the BLS isn’t trying to identify each profession in detail; that would make the statistics unwieldy. Think of BLS definitions like the DRGs for occupations: just like DRGs, the intent of the BLS tapes isn’t to accurately identify each position, but to create broad categories of similar jobs and give it a classification. There is a lot lost in the translation – just as there is from ICD-9 code to DRG code. Here is the link: <http://www.bls.gov/bls/proghome.htm> And here is a quick explanation of the BLS role:

The 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system is used by Federal statistical agencies to classify workers into occupational categories for the purpose of

collecting, calculating, or disseminating data. All workers are classified into one of 840 detailed occupations according to their occupational definition. To facilitate classification, detailed occupations are combined to form 461 broad occupations, 97 minor groups, and 23 major groups. Detailed occupations in the SOC with similar job duties, and in some cases skills, education, and/or training, are grouped together.

Workers are classified into occupational categories based upon work performed, skills, education, training, and credentials. Two examples of occupations are *accountants and auditors* and *janitors and cleaners*. Some occupations are found in just one or two industries <http://www.bls.gov/bls/industry.htm> ; however, many occupations are found in a large number of industries.

Most BLS occupation data use the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) System <http://www.bls.gov/soc/> However, some National Compensation Survey data are still based an older occupational classification system. The BLS conversion to the SOC is expected to be completed by 2011. (See the SOC Implementation Schedule <http://www.bls.gov/soc/socimp.htm> for more information.)

To review the BLS definitions visit www.ahima.org/newsletters/2011/AprilBLSDefinitions.pdf

What AHIMA is doing

AHIMA reaches out and encourage other companies and search engine sources to link their search engines to our own very successful www.hicareers.com website as that is the definitive site for prospective students to our profession. 64% of visitors to this site find us by a referring site which means the efforts AHIMA is putting forth are working very well. 18% are directed to AHIMA through search engines like Google or Bing, and 19% are finding AHIMA by being directed to the site specifically (visitors to AHIMA).

Clearly, the lion's share of visitors are referrals. Almost 5,000 visitors tap this site per week. Many students are finding their way here. AHIMA continues to encourage more accuracy from BLS. Patt can be contacted at AHIMA: patt.peterson@ahima.org

To review the Google Analytics report visit <http://www.ahima.org/newsletters/2011/AprilAnalytics.pdf>

Call for Applications for AHIMA's New Student Advisory Council

As a health information management (HIM) student, you've got a bright future ahead of you in a growing industry. You're bringing a lot to the table—enthusiasm, intelligence, and a new perspective—but you've got more to learn about how it all comes together. Supplement your knowledge and resume by gaining an insiders' view on the HIM field—apply for a position on the new AHIMA Student Advisory Council!

This team of student members will represent AHIMA's student population, helping shape the Association's future student programs and initiating new activities vital to membership as a whole.

Advisory Council Activities

Students chosen for the Student Advisory Council participate in activities such as:

- Providing input and feedback for projects designed for AHIMA student members
- Developing the program for the student academy at AHIMA's annual convention
- Participating in conference calls and an in-person meeting at AHIMA's annual convention
- Acting as liaisons to key AHIMA bodies such as the AHIMA Board of Directors, AHIMA Foundation Board, CAHIIM, CCHIT, House of Delegates, and others
- Writing, editing, and creating other content for AHIMA's student publications
- Fostering the future model and agenda of the student advisory council

Required Core Competencies for Student Advisory Council Membership:

- Follow and advocate for the AHIMA Code of Ethics, and other appropriate codes of conduct, and value honesty, integrity, and transparency.
- Demonstrate commitment to AHIMA's mission, vision, values, and strategy.
- A team player and collaborator who works well with and fosters trust among group members, adjusts personal behavior in order to establish relationships with the team, and completes assigned duties and tasks.
- Respect diversity and foster inclusion; values all people equitably; deal effectively with all races, cultures, disabilities, ages, and genders; and ensure all voices are heard and respected.
- Display patience with others and sensitivity to due process and proper pacing.
- Present a positive professional image.

Submitting Your Application for the Student Advisory Council

Applicants must be AHIMA student members currently enrolled in an AHIMA-approved coding program or a CAHIIM-accredited HIM program. To apply, **fill out an application** and e-mail it with your resume to allison.vance@ahima.org. Visit <http://hicareers.com/Toolbox/advisorycouncil.aspx> for more information.





Communications Director Report

Debra Harris, MA, RHIA, Communications Director
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Since AHIMA changed the format for the Communities of Practice (CoP), it seems members are still struggling with how to locate information in the CoP. Tracy Stott, RHIA, a member of the Communications Committee and CoP Facilitator, will be available at the Registration Desk during the annual convention to assist attendees with CoP navigation. Look for Tracy at the Registration table during breaks, lunch and exhibit hall hours or whenever the attendees are not in sessions. Thank you Tracy for reaching out to our HIM colleagues!

Each time I write this column I include a reminder to update your member profile on AHIMA's website (www.ahima.org). Sorry for the repetition, but if you don't update us on how we can reach you when you have a new email address, you will not receive eBlasts and other important OrHIMA communications. OrHIMA gets member contact information from AHIMA. When the AHIMA database is not current, we lose touch with members. If a fellow OrHIMA member is not receiving these communications, please remind them to update their AHIMA member profile.

Communities of Practice Update

Tracy Stott, RHIA, OrHIMA CoP Facilitator

The profiles of our 2011 AHIMA Board candidates are posted on the AHIMA CoP. There are pictures and experience commentary. Polls open on May 2, and close on May 29th at midnight. I hope you will take the time to go to the CoP and vote. Our national representatives can represent us only if we make ourselves known. Oregon is a small HIM community compared to other states and if we do not speak up, our thoughts and wishes will not get the attention they should.

In other news, it appears the Oregon CoP is very rarely used. I wonder if it is our busy schedules, or maybe each of us knows everything we need to know right now and so we do not

communicate using the CoP. No, I do not think that could be it. Could it be that it is still the new format? Learning new things is tough, but that really is one of the main characteristics of people who choose an HIM career; that is why we enjoy what we do. I do hope though that if you are ready to try the CoP to communicate with other professionals, you will take advantage of one of the daily training sessions that will be offered at the annual convention. I will be at the Registration Desk during breaks and lunches to share with you how to navigate the CoP's. There are so many new and even unique CoP's, there is sure to be one that sparks your interest.

I look forward to meeting you so please stop by and introduce yourself.

OHSU Looking for Advisory Committee Members

The graduate HIM certificate program at the OHSU is looking for advisory committee members who can donate up to ten hours a year. We are particularly interested in subject matter experts in Operational Management, Data Sets, Implementation of an EHR, legal and privacy issues in HIM, and non-acute care settings.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Joanne Valerius, MPH, RHIA, Program Director at valerius@ohsu.edu We need your time and expertise. Please consider this valuable volunteer opportunity.

Calendar of Events

OrHIMA Events:

- **Board of Director Meetings:**
 - First Friday of every month, 3-5 PM
- **Coding Roundtables:**
 - June 16th, Clinical Documentation Improvement
 - August 18th, Accurate Reporting and Coding of Postoperative Conditions
- **Annual Spring Meeting:**
 - May 19-21, 2011 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Lake Oswego

AHIMA Events:

Audio seminar/webinars: Further information can be found at <http://ahima.org/events/eventcalendar/eventcalendarlist.org>

Coding Inpatient Cardiac Surgery Procedures
Audio Seminar/Webinar
4/21/11, 12 p.m.-1:30 p.m. CST

CPT Coding for Otolaryngology
5/5/2011, 12:00-1:30 p.m. CST

Managing Legacy Systems for Compliance and Data Protection
5/17/11, 12-1:30 p.m. CST

Managing the Query Process: Developing Effective Queries
5/19/11, 12-1:30 p.m. CST

Expediting Payment and Increasing Revenue in Physician Practices
On-Line
5/19/2011, 12:00 PM–3:00 PM CST

ICD-10 Prep: Assessing Coders' A&P Proficiency
6/9/11, 12-1:30 p.m. CST

Electronic Tools for Patient Privacy and Compliance
6/14/11, 12-1:30 p.m. CST

Keeping Current with RAC
On-Line
8/31/2011, 12:00-3:00 p.m. CST

- **National Conventions:**
 - **2011 National Convention**, October 1-6, 2011, in Salt Lake City, Utah
 - **2012 National Convention**, September 26-Oct 4, 2012, in Chicago, Illinois