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FHIMA

Florida Health Information Management Association

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President's Message

July/August 2001

"Pioneers of the 21 Century Following the Rhythm of Time."

Mario A. Perez, III, RHIA, CCS, CCS-P

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The FHIMA Annual Convention, "HIM Odyssey...Exploring the Seas of Change", held on June 19-22, 2001 at the Caribe Royale in Orlando, FL was a resounding success. The attainment of this achievement is attributed to the dedicated volunteers of our association. The arduous work of the Arrangements Committee chaired by Tanya Kuehnast, and Program Committee co-chaired by Mindi Rogers and Beth Simmons, was evident in providing the attendees an excellent educational and festive networking milieu.

Acknowledgments are in order to the Iliana Magunagoicoechea, Betty Berson, Elton Cust, Blanca Barreto, David Lugo, Floribel Peralta, and Geyga Reyes for providing a remarkable and spectacular installation ceremony of the incoming 2001-2002 FHIMA Board of Directors, their efforts are greatly appreciated.

This years vendor exhibit hall was a sold out event, attributed to the efforts of Lori E. Lucas, FHIMA's Executive Coordinator. Our deepest of gratitude to all of the participating vendors; their support to our association makes it possible for FHIMA to thrive as an organization to meet our member needs.

Since the founding of the Florida Medical Record Association in 1940, it has grown to become diversified in its membership and in the professional roles we execute, allowing us to expand into new frontiers within the healthcare industry. What most of us studied and prepared for in our careers, is not what we actually studied or prepared for in the roles we now identify with. In essence we have always been "pioneers" re-defining the infrastructure of our association and professional personification, following the rhythm of time and constant metamorphosis, brought about more so by the influx of healthcare regulations and the speeding bullet of technology.

Let's recap our pioneer spirit following the rhythm of time and metamorphosis using music and lyrics, which have a distinct methodology to describe social frame of mind that depict then and now on how our professional roles are in constant transformation.

During the 1940's the radio waves were blasting away with songs, such as the Chattanooga Choo Choo, with the lyrics, "if you could afford it, you paid your fare, and got on track 29," so it was with FMRA. It was evident to our first pioneers, that as professionals they had to afford the time and pay the price of dedication and volunteerism. In doing so, they began to cultivate the beginnings of forming an organizational structure and set the tracks of motion to set out on a journey with no specific destination, but a journey of constant evolution.

In the 1950's, 45 rpm records gave us songs such as Ebb Tide, with the lyrics, "First the tide rushes into shore, then rolls out to sea and the sea is still once more." FMRA a decade old, witnessed a tide of change in the healthcare settings in the United States. Development of government and private health insurance programs would soon begin to impact on the roles of FMRA members and set precedence for the future. This was a period of planning to prepare, they realized that in not planning to prepare; one prepares for failure.

The 1960's had stereo's demanding, "Respect", with the lyrics, "What you want, baby I go it, What you need I got, All I need is respect." As the Medicare and Medicaid program came to fruition the wheels of motion previously

set in the 1940's were now setting new tracks for us. Our roles would be dramatically impacted, we were developing skill sets that were needed to make these programs administratively and financially viable, yes what they needed we had it, and we would eventually get a newfound professional recognition.

The 1970's, became a period to be defined by the lyrics of "Staying Alive", "live to see another day", "I'm going no where", "somebody help me," playing on our 8 track tapes. If the federal, state and even private health insurance programs would live to see another day, they needed our help, the skill sets we had long ago began to cultivate would elevate our profession to a warp speed never seen before, and we would come out to conquer new roles.

As the 1980's began and our cassette tapes played the song, "I'm coming out," with the lyrics, "I want the world to know," "Got to let it show," "There is a new me coming out, like you never knew it." The '80s, clearly re-defined our roles in the health care industry. Yes, you guessed right, with the implementation of the inpatient prospective payment system, we definitely got a newfound recognition and respect in the clinical financial arena, we began to ride the tracks set back in the 1960's. Furthermore, electronic data interchange, modems, faxes, voice technology, grouper software and the planning of computerized patient records, would thrust us further into "pioneering" the administrative policies to manage the spectrum of health information. During this decade our state association re-defined its infrastructure initiating a House of Delegates; still one of five component state associations to have one, that are in existence to this day.

The 1990's we would slide in our CD's to be rocked by the lyrics, "She Bangs, and you light my fuse." Yes, we would certainly be banged by a rapid change in technology and healthcare regulations. The fuse would light up like a bomb with the implementation of Compliance Guidelines, HIPAA and OPPI/APC's and the Internet forever changed the way we received, submitted and managed information in our personal and professional roles. We changed the association name to FHIMA, and our credentials, to reflect how the rhythm of time and innovation was creating a new generation of pioneers. We had to quickly learn to switch sides like a Gemini to cope with redefining our identity and once again be thrust into a new frontier, executing diversified professional roles and rocking the broad spectrum of the healthcare & technology industry with our evolving skill sets.

The issues of Y2K prepared us for the "fiction" of the great technological apocalypse of the year 2000. However, this preparation served its purpose well. It brought to foresight that technology in the 21st century is now part of the fiber

of everyday existence and will be a constant component in re-defining FHIMA's infrastructure, our professional roles and identity as health information management professionals.

E-Coastlines is now a reality not part of a strategic plan. Online balloting and communities of practice is just on the horizon. Who knows perhaps our future members will be logging on to a "Virtual" Convention, as they re-define themselves as transportable digital entities, enrobed in the latest wearable computing apparel, such as belts that double as an Internet server, making them a mobile Webcaster.

Coming into the 21st century, the lyrics, "All I need is the Rhythm," and "Feel the heat of passion" of the song "Rhythm Divine", exemplify our continuous need to follow this rhythm of time and metamorphosis with a fervent passion. We must feel the heat of passion for our profession and embrace the diverse opportunities that we can make for ourselves by being involved, so that we can evolve. We must be proactive and live this moment together as 21st Century pioneers responsible for redefining our association, profession and ourselves by following the rhythm of time.

Join me as your president and spread my theme of:

" Pioneers of the 21 Century Following the Rhythm of Time."



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FHIMA 2001 SERVICE AWARDS PROFILES

Distinguished Member Award Pamela J. Rollins, M.M., RHIA

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The **2001 Distinguished Member Award** is presented to **Pamela J. Rollins, M.M., RHIA**. Pamela has been an active member of FHIMA for 15 years serving from the regional level to the national level of the profession. Pam is presently serving as Chief Delegate to AHIMA in 2000-2001. She was President of FHIMA in 1995-1996. She has served on the Board of FHIMA since 1990 and has chaired the Editorial Committee, Arrangements Committee, Budget Committee, Nominating Committee and the Recruitment Committee. At the National Level, Pam is currently an AHIMA Nominating Committee Member. In 1998 and 1999 she was a member of the AHIMA Professional Practice Committee. Pam as also served as a Delegate from Florida to AHIMA's House of Delegates in 2000, 1999, 1995, and 1994. In addition, she was a presenter at the AHIMA National Convention in 1991. She was Director of the Michigan Health Information Management Association from 1984-1986. Pam has

held numerous offices at the regional level including president of Southwest Florida Health Information Association and Southwest Michigan Medical Record Association and chaired and participated on numerous regional committees. She serves as an HIM Affiliate Site Coordinator for a multitude of HIM students and serves on the HIM Advisory Board at Santa Fe Community College in Gainesville Florida.

Pam started her career in 1969 in Michigan upon graduation from Mercy College in Detroit. Her first career position was at Donald F. Sharp Memorial Hospital in San Diego, California as an Assistant Director. Since then her career has progressed from Assistant Director to Director of HIM at Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids, Michigan to Systems Director at Lee Memorial Hospital, Fort Myers to Consultant. She is currently employed as Director of HIM at Shands Healthcare at the University of Florida and Shands Hospital in Gainesville, Florida.

Pam has been described as a student mentor, extremely competent, innovative and hard-working professional. She is known to be a wonderful role model by professional peers. She is always willing to share her knowledge, insight and expertise with her colleagues without reservation. As stated by one of her colleagues "Pam is a friend, confidant and mentor to those she comes in contact with and we are proud to have her represent our profession".

Pam has made an exemplary contribution to our profession and is truly deserving of **FHIMA's Distinguished Member Award**.

Outstanding Professional Award
Michelle Mock, MSM, RHIA



The **2001 Outstanding Professional Award** is presented to **Michelle Mock, MSM, RHIA**. Michelle has been an active member of FHIMA since 1990 and AHIMA since 1987. Michelle has served as Chairman of the Arrangements committee in 1998 –1999, was a Delegate to AHIMA in 2000 and is currently a FHIMA Chief Delegate to AHIMA. In addition, she has served on the Florida HIM Task Force in Technology in 1994-95. Michelle has served from the regional level to the national level in the profession. She was President, President- elect and Program Chair for the Gulf Coast Health Information Management from 1996-1998. Michelle has also contributed to the profession through Speaking Engagements which include: AHIMA annual convention in 1994, Presentations for the Tampa Bay Physician Office Management council in 1995-1996, Greater Area Atlanta Health Information Management Association, and Co-Authoring an article "Unreliable Medical Information on Birth Certificates", American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology in 2001.

Michelle started her career in the HIM profession in 1987 and received her Masters of Science Management in 1995. She has held positions of Director of Quality Assurance at Hughston Sports Medicine Hospital in Columbus, Georgia, Director of Medical Records at Lakeview Community Hospital in Alabama, Director of Medical Records at Gulf Coast Hospital in Panama City, Florida. She is currently employed as the Director of Health Information Management, a multi-system corporation, at University Community Hospital in Tampa Florida. Additionally, she has consulted to physician practices and clinics.

Michelle has been described by her college as having excellent leadership qualities and very innovative. She exemplifies dedication to the profession and is truly deserving of the **FHIMA's Outstanding Professional Award** for 2001.

Outstanding New Professional
Rebecca Dicus, MHSA, RHIA, HCRM

The **2001 Outstanding New Professional Award** is presented to Becky Dicus, MHSA, RHIA, HCRM. Becky has been a member of FHIMA since 1995, serving on the Scholarships Committee in 1999 and 2000 and the Service Awards Committee Chair. She is currently Editor of Coastlines, and was Assistant Editor in 1999-2000 and participated in the first online edition of **e- Coastlines**. She has served as the FHIMA Program Chairperson for the Annual Convention in 2000-2001. She is a member of the Lake-Sumter Community College RHIT Advisory Committee Board. In addition she is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives and serves as a Clinical Site Coordinator for both RHIA and RHIT program students. Becky also received the Golden Key National Honor Society award from UCF and the Health Information Professional of the Month Award in November 2000. She is currently Serving as the Program Chair for the Central Florida Health Information Management Association.

Becky graduated from University of Central Florida in 1997 with a high academic achievement. She is an Adjunct Faculty member at Lake-Sumter Community College since 1997 and teaches courses in Health Information Management, CPT-4 coding and reimbursement. She is currently the Operations Supervisor for Health Information Services at Leesburg Regional Medical Center and supervises 19 employees. Becky has been recommended by her peers, superiors and colleagues as being very organized and professional. Her pursuit of life long learning has been demonstrated by her earning her Masters Degree in Health Services Administration and Risk Management licensure in just 1 year.

Becky has made significant strides in a short period of time and is truly deserving of **FHIMA's Outstanding New Professional Award**.

Literary Award
Thomas J. Falen, M.A., RHIA

The **2001 Literary Award** is presented to **Thomas J. Falen, M.A., RHIA**. Tom has been an active member of FHIMA since 1989. Tom graduated from the University of Central Florida in 1988 while

working full time for Florida Hospital as a coding supervisor. Tom's first literary effort was the publication of "*The Physician's DRG Handbook-Cardiology/Cardiovascular Surgery*"; **Adventist Health Systems/Sunbelt, 1988**, while working at Florida Hospital. Since joining the faculty at the University Of Central Florida, Tom has published an article in the January 1999 issue of **ADVANCE**, titled; "*The Importance of Life-long Learning.*" In 2000-2001, Tom co-authored two additional articles in **Health Care Manager**. The first one published in the December 2000 issue and co-authored by Carla Arevelos Eddy and Dr. Aaron Liberman, titled "*Medical Care Program Compliance-A Year 2000 Recipient Perspective of Medical Claims*". The second one published in the March 2001 issue and co-authored with Dr. Aaron Liberman, titled "*The Media's Perspective of Health Care Fraud.*" In addition to his publications, Tom has completed book reviews of the *Legal Aspects of Health Information Management*, a Delmar publication and most recently of *Medical Terminology: The Language of Health Care* published by Williams and Wilkins.

Tom has also held the positions of Medical Record Consultant/Senior Inpatient Coder at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, New York, Data Quality Manager at Florida Hospital, Director of Health Information Services at Florida Waterman Hospital, Risk Manager at Clay County Hospital in Indiana. Tom is currently a Professor at the University of Central Florida and teaches courses in HIM, Medical Terminology, HIM Systems, Reimbursement and Quality Improvement. In addition, he has earned his Microsoft Certification. He has been noted to continuously seek information and stay abreast of what is current in the HIM and healthcare fields to educate his students and himself.

Tom's dedication to HIM student's and his professional publications makes him truly deserving of **FHIMA's Literary Award**.

Outstanding Student **Darlene Crabtree**

The **2001 Outstanding Student Award** is presented to **Darlene Crabtree**. Darlene is presently a student in the HIM Program at Pensacola Junior College with a grade point average of 4.0. She will be graduating in May 2001 and sitting for the RHIT examination in October. Darlene has served as President of the Student Health Information Management Association in 2000- 2001 academic year. She is an active member of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society and the Beta Alpha Psi Chapter. She has been recognized on the PJC's Presidents List for maintaining a 4.0 GPA from 1999-2001. She was also awarded the Scholastic Achievement Award for 2001 from Pensacola Junior College on April 19th 2001. Darlene has contributed to the Student Association, classmates and the HIM Program through volunteering, organizing bake sales, recruitment activities, bulletin boards and numerous classroom activities. She and her fellow students developed a HIM logo and had shirts made for the student body. She is an asset to the HIM profession now and will be in the future. She is currently employed at West Florida Medical Center Clinic as a Physician's Coding Specialist.

Darlene is a very deserving recipient of the **FHIMA's Outstanding Student Award**.

FHIMA FIFTY YEAR MEMBERS

Agnes C. Berry, RHIA
Shirley N. Esposito, RHIA
Eunice M. Sorrelle, RHIT
June T. Tassinary, RHIA

2001/2002 FHIMA Board of Directors

On Wednesday, June 20, 2001, the 2001/2002 Board of Directors were installed at the Annual Membership Luncheon. The new officers are:

President

Mario A. Perez, III, RHIA, CCS, CCS-P

President-Elect

Sharol Pausal Noblejas, RHIA

Past President/Director

Jacquie Jones, RHIA

Directors

Ashlyn Dellenger, RHIA
Penny Fairo, RHIA
Sue Hitchens, RHIT
Tara McIntyre-Morgan, RHIA
Patricia Schnering, RHIA
RoseAnn Webb, RHIA, LHRM

Chief Delegate

Michelle Mock, RHIA

Executive Coordinator

Lori Eytel Lucas, RHIA

**FHIMA Scholarship Recipients**

The FHIMA Scholarship Committee had a great response this year from all of the HIT, HIM and Masters programs throughout the State. There were a total of 16 applications returned. The judges had a difficult time in selecting the final winners, but here they are:

Graduate

Tanya Kuehnast, RHIA
Webster University

HIM Program - 4 Year

Cheryl Isola
University of Central Florida

HIM Program - 2 Year
Lisa Libby
Daytona Beach Community College

The winners were awarded their monies at the annual FHIMA conference during the Membership Luncheon on June 20th. Thanks also to Information Management Systems, PRG Publishing, Inc. and Stat Solutions for contributing to the scholarship fund this year. FHIMA also wants to thank the following regions for their contributions as well: Northwest, Gulfcoast, Southwest, South Florida, Central, Broward and the Tri County Associations. It is such a worthy cause for the future of our Health Information leaders and FHIMA is proud to be able to provide these scholarships for many years to come.

CALLING ALL



VOLUNTEERS!

FHIMA Members & Students

AHIMA NATIONAL CONVENTION **OCTOBER 13-18, 2001, MIAMI, FLORIDA**

The AHIMA National Convention will be held in Miami, Florida, October 13-18, 2001. FHIMA members will be hosting the Hospitality Suite. Volunteers are needed to staff this area throughout the convention. Staffing times will be in 2-hour blocks and the area will be manned by at least 2 volunteers per block. If you are interested in volunteering contact Irene Tramonte at Irene@codeinrecordtime.com.

FHIMA SHIRTS FOR SALE!



Don't miss out on purchasing the new FHIMA shirts. The white polo shirts are embroidered with the FHIMA logo and are available for \$28. Show your support for FHIMA and wear them at the AHIMA National Convention in Miami Beach! Click here for an [order form](#).

FHIMA Annual Report 2000-2001



Navigating the Seas (or C 's)of Change

FHIMA Strategic Plan 1999-2001

The Florida Health Information Management Association reviewed the Strategic Plan at the Annual Leadership Conference held in Orlando in August 2000. The FHIMA's Mission Statement is:

"The Florida Health Information Management Association is the membership organization of health information management which fosters the professional development of its members through education, communication and advocacy. These commitments thereby promote quality health information for the benefit of the public, the health care consumer, providers and other users of clinical data."

The major initiatives of the Strategic Plan are:

- I. EDUCATION
- II. NETWORKING, ALLIANCES AND VISIBILITY
- III. REGIONAL PARTICIPATION AT STATE LEVEL
- IV. ORGANIZATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE
- V. MEMBER PARTICIPATION

House of Delegates

The 14 th House of Delegates for 2001 will seat 86 delegates plus the Board of Directors, for a total of 96. The meeting will be held on June 19, 2001 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Each region was notified by the Executive Coordinator of the number of active members in their region and the number of delegates to which they are entitled. Current issues will be discussed and a summary of conclusions published in *e-Coastlines*.

AHIMA

This year FHIMA is very fortunate to have a number of our members volunteering in various capacities at AHIMA. They are as follows:

- Charlotte S. Barrett, RHIA,CHE, Fellowship Review Committee
- Charlotte S. Barrett, RHIA,CHE, Chairperson, FORE Board of Directors
- Perry Ellie, RHIA, Director, AHIMA Board
- William Kelly McLendon, RHIA, E-Health Task Force
- Betsy L. Miller, RHIT, Research Committee
- Mario Perez, III, RHIA, CCS, CCS-P, Diversity Task Force
- Pamela Rollins, RHIA, Nominating Committee
- Denisha M. Torres-Lich, MS, RHIA, LHRM, National Convention Program Committee
- Lois M. Yoder, RHIT, CCS, National Convention Program Committee

Central Office

Executive Coordinator - Lori Eytel Lucas, RHIA

It has been a busy year at the Central Office. The Central Office is serving the needs of the members by maintaining *e-Coastlines* and keeping the FHIMA web site current. The Central Office is here to serve you and may be reached 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at:

- FHIMA message line (941) 597-1751
- FHIMA Fax (941) 597-1745.
- FHIMA On-line at FHIMA@NAPLES.INFI.NET

Corporate Members

FHIMA'S dedicated Corporate Members are:

Platinum Corporate Members

Dictaphone Healthcare Solutions
 Digital Voice Systems, Inc.
 Executive Record Services, Inc.
 In Record Time
 Professional Outsourcing, Inc.
 Stat Solutions, Inc.
 The Hutton Group

Gold Corporate Members

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 eWebcoding
 Health Information Associates
 Health Information Support Services, Inc.
 H.I.M. Quality Solutions, Inc.
 Information Management Systems
 Lanier Healthcare
 Medical Dictation, Inc.
 MedWare, Inc.
 Spaceport Imaging, Inc.
 Synergon Solutions

Silver Corporate Members

ChartONE, Inc.
 H.I.M. Recruiters
 YPRO Corporation

Arrangements Committee

Chairman: Tanya Kuehnast, RHIA

Members: Kimberly Eichner, RHIA, Tara McIntyre-Morgan, RHIA, Judy Smith, RHIA and Jennifer Vinson, RHIA

Tanya and her Committee have been working hard to produce a high quality annual meeting for everyone with an exploration theme – *"2001 HIM Odyssey – Exploring the Seas of Change."* The registration form and program was published in *e-Coastlines* in the March/April 2001 issue. Many vendors will be showcasing the latest products in evolving technology. State meetings are always a time for networking; meeting old friends from around the state as well as new acquaintances. This year will be holding a New Member/Student Orientation on Wednesday, June 20, 2001. This session will highlight the FHIMA structure and orient everyone to FHIMA. The FHIMA Membership Luncheon will be on Wednesday,

June 20, 2001 with the installation of our new officers. The House of Delegates meets on Tuesday, June 19, 2001, and all members are invited to attend.

Bylaws Committee

Chairman: Iliana Magunagoicoechea, RHIA, CCS

Member: Maria Rodriguez, RHIT

Annual review of national and state bylaws was conducted. The changes to the national bylaws were incorporated into the state bylaws. Voting for changes will be presented at the 14 th House of Delegates on June 19, 2001. Communication was sent to all regional presidents requesting copies of regional bylaws to be reviewed through Bylaws Committee as an educational tool.

Data Quality Management Committee

Chairman: Barbara Flynn, RHIA, CCS

Members: Katherine Baus, RHIA, CCS-P, Lauri A. Bernick, RHIT, CCS, Anneliese Kerr, RHIA, CCS, Darlene LeMay, RHIT, CCS, and Karla Phillipou, RHIT, CCS-P

The DQMC mission and/or objective are to support data quality/integrity and create awareness for data quality and its relationship to compliance. THE DQM Committee has been active with FMQAI related to the Payment Error Prevention Program (PEPP). In addition, they have been active in trying to develop dialogue with our state legislators about data quality, accurate coding and appropriate profiling of patients and providers on various databases around the state. In January 2001, the DQMC was a speaker at the FHIMA Mid-Year Conference in Orlando. The DQMC continues to keep the membership informed by submitting articles to *e-Coastlines*.

Editorial

Chairman: Becky Dicus, MHSA, RHIA

Member: Daniel Land, RHIA, CCS

Coastlines was published for the last time in paper copy in July 2000. The first edition of *e-Coastlines* was published in September 2000 and there were four more subsequent issues in the 2000-2001 year. Together with the help of the Electronic Communications Committee and the Executive Coordinator of FHIMA, *e-Coastlines* was accepted by FHIMA's membership and received much support. The Editorial Committee will be combined with the Electronic Communications Committee in the year 2001-2002 which will provide better workflow in the preparation and publishing of *e-Coastlines*.

Electronic Communications Committee

Chairman: Rae Glover, RHIT, CCS

Members: Trudy Alward, RHIT, CCS, Penny Fairo, RHIA, Deborah Howard, RHIA, Tamra Kipp, RHIA, Debra Scott and Melissa Simpson.

The Electronic Communication Committee and the Executive Coordinator have been working very hard maintaining the FHIMA web site – www.fhima.org. If you haven't had an opportunity to explore our web site, visit the FHIMA booths (214 & 216) to get a

hands on demonstration. *e-Coastlines* debuted in September 2000 and has put out 5 awesome issues this year.

Florida Membership 2000/2001

The AHIMA count by status as of May 4, 2001 is:

Active Members	1,486
Associate Members	74
Honorary Members	9
Senior Members	73
Students Members	319

TOTAL 1,961

Leadership Conference

The FHIMA Leadership Conference was held in Orlando on August 25-26, 2000. All 11 regions were represented with a total of 32 in attendance. The first day of the conference was spent discussing proposed bylaw amendments to be voted on at the AHIMA HOD. Presentations were provided on the following: AHIMA Community of Practice and Imaging Campaign, current and future development of the FHIMA web features and *e-Coastlines*, and reinitiating of the "SHAPER" program to promote recruitment efforts. The second day the attendees were afforded, review of the current 1999-2001 FHIMA strategic plan and received a FHIMA manual and in-service on, "How to Run Your Association." The day ended with a motivational speaker Dr. Abby Lynn Ross, with subject matter, "Leading with Power and Purpose."

Legislative Committee

Chairman: Damon Newton RHIA, RN, HCRM, CHSP
Members: Juanita Max, RHIA, Nettie McFarland, RHIT, CCS-P, Margie McNeill, RHIA, CCS, Sharol Noblejas, RHIA, and Linda Stone, RHIT

This year the Committee focused on responding to questions from the membership, HIM students, and people from other states relative to the legalities of managing health information. The responses were sent directly to the requestors and published in *e-Coastlines*. The committee continued to keep close communications with Bill Bell, Esq. of the Florida Hospital Association (FHA) and Don Asmonga who is the Government Relations Manager for AHIMA. Progress on the Medical/Legal Guide was slow but continuous. One of the goals for the next publication will be the inclusion of a chapter on the relevance of HIPAA. The legislative manual is in the process of a complete revision. The Medical/Legal Guide is available for purchase by contacting the FHIMA Central Office.

Mid-Year Conference

Chairman: Dora Cacciatore, RHIT
Members: Juana Colon, RHIA, Sherry A. Davis, CPA, RHIA, Judy Gygi, RHIA, Janice McDonald, RHIA, Peggy Meli, RHIA, Tara McIntyre-Morgan, RHIA, Xiomara Olazagasti, RHIA, Dean Ritchey, RHIA, Nicole Stanton, RHIA Sonya Waters, RHIT, CCS, CPC-H and Sandra Watson, RHIT

Dora and her committee did an outstanding job providing a program that addressed various topics pertinent to our members. The theme this year was "*Surviving Change*". Special thanks goes to Code Remote, Digital Voice Systems, e-Coding Connection, Executive Record Services, In Record Time, Iron Mountain, kforce.com, Orlando Regional Healthcare and Stat Solutions for sponsoring this event.

Nominating Committee

Chairman: Denisha M. Torres-Lich, RHIA

Members: Bonnie Bradley, RHIA, Sharon Fitzgerald, RHIT, Alma Jones, RHIA and Tara McIntyre-Morgan, RHIA

The Nominating Committee put together an excellent ballot, which was mailed mid-March.

Those elected are:

President-Elect

Sharol Pausal Noblejas, MBA, RHIA, HCRM

Directors

Penny Fairo, MPH, RHIA, HCRM, CPHQ

Tara McIntyre-Morgan, MS, RHIA

RoseAnn Webb, RHIA

AHIMA Delegate

Holly Woemmel, MA, RHIA

Alternate Delegate Julie Shay, RHIA

Program Committee

Co-Chairman: Mindi Rogers, RHIA, Beth Simmons, RHIA

Members: Jennifer Davis, RHIA, Kimberly Eichner, RHIA and Nicole Stanton, RHIA

The Program Committee has an excellent slate of speakers offering 15 CE hours. This year's keynote speaker is Carol Clendinen – "Bearing Up." The other speakers include; Janet Adams, JD, Don Asmonga, Sharon B. Dover, Perry Ellie, MA, RHIA, CPHQ, Barbara Flynn, RHIA, CCS, Kristin Hodkinson, RHIT, CPC, Jacquie Jones, MBA, RHIA, CPHQ, Susan McPhail-Taylor, MSHA, RN, Mark Michelman, MD, MBA, Amish Parikh, MD, Richard Rathe, MD, James Stanger, Jr., RN, Michael A. Tagliati, RHIA and Sonya Water, RHIT, CCS.

Regional Relationships

The Board members have been visiting each region throughout the year to bring updates on the latest information to everyone. In addition, Mario Perez, III, RHIA, CCS, CCS-P, President-Elect, has been sending a newsletter regularly to all the regional presidents.

Scholarship Committee

Chairman: Holly Woemmel, RHIA

All monies donated will be granted to the students selected. Individuals receiving scholarships this year are:

Tanya Kuehnast, RHIA Webster University

Cheryl Isola University of Central Florida

Lisa Libby Daytona Beach Community College

Special thanks goes to the following sponsors for supporting the FHIMA Scholarship Program: Broward HIM Association, Central Florida HIM Association, Gulfcoast HIM Association, Information Management Systems, Inc., Northwest HIM Association, PRG Publishing, Inc., South Florida HIM Association, Southwest Florida HIM Association, Stat Solutions, Inc., and Tri-County HIM Association.

Service Awards

Chairman – Donna Shumway, RHIA

Members - Jean Russell, RHIT

Multiple nominations were received for each category and FHIMA is proud to announce the recipients:

Distinguished Member Award:

Pamela J. Rollins, MM, RHIA

Literary Award:

Thomas J. Falen, MA, RHIA

Outstanding Professional Award:

Michelle Mock, MSM, RHIA

Outstanding New Professional Award:

Rebecca Dicus, MHSA, RHIA, HCRM

Outstanding Student Award:

Darlene Crabtree

50 Year Members:

Agnes C. Berry, RHIA

Shirley N. Esposito, RHIA

Eunice M. Sorrelle, RHIT

June T. Tassinary, RHIA

Shaper

Chairman: Sharol Noblejas, MBA, RHIA, HCRM

Members: Carol Barr, M.Ed, RHIA, Lisa Brooks Taylor, RHIA, CCS,

Perry Ellie, MA, RHIA, CPHQ, Ann Morohn, MS, RHIA, Mary

Teslow, MLIS, RHIA and Dr. Nancy Thomas, RHIA

The goals of this committee were to serve as a liaison between FHIMA and HIM/HIT schools and recruit high school students into the HIM profession. The committee began its year by announcing that HIM/HIT students would be given free registration to the Mid-Year and Annual Conventions. Regional Shapers were also established to serve as HIM representatives to prospective students interested in the HIM profession. Ann Marohn volunteered her services as the Education Liaison. Work progressed quickly in preparing a recruitment packet. This packet will contain introductory

information about the HIM profession as well as provide an overview of FHIMA. Finally, the committee has organized an FHIMA member orientation at the Annual Convention. This orientation is targeted at students and first time FHIMA Convention attendees. The orientation will provide an overview of the convention.

FUND BALANCE

ASSETS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2000:
TOTAL FUND BALANCE: \$111,607.21

INCOME AND EXPENSES

INCOME:	FY2000	Budgeted
AHIMA	34,375	32,000
Editorial	9,685	4,000
For the Record	5,548	4,500
Interest	4,183	3,000
Investment Income	6,000	6,000
Labels	265	200
Leadership Conference	135	300
Manuals	11,359	10,000
Mid-Year	18,770	12,000
Miscellaneous	16,060	
Program Ads - Annual	1,935	1,000
Registration - Annual	59,065	56,250
Scholarships Donations	2,825	1,000
Subscription	60	
Vendor - Annual	41,083	40,000
Web Site	1,750	1,560
	\$213,038	\$171,870
PROJECT EXPENSES:		
AHIMA Leadership	1,998	2,000
AHIMA Relations	1,612	250
Arrangements	63,155	32,000
Bylaws		50
Data Quality Management	449	500
Delegate, National	3,921	5,000
Editorial	31,770	27,000
Leadership Conference	7,599	8,500
Legislative		500
Manuals	3,724	7,000
Mid-Year	7,017	7,500

Nominating	3,154	2,250
Parliamentarian		500
Program	21,327	19,000
Scholarship	3,000	2,500
Service Awards	269	350
Team Talks (AHIMA)	996	1,500
	\$149,991	\$116,400
MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL EXPENSES:		
Accountant	1,795	1,600
Bank Charges	196	150
Board	17,079	12,500
Computer Expenses	3,531	3,000
Copier Expenses	153	500
Credit Card Processing	704	
Exec. Coordinator	29,253	28,066
General	19	500
Gifts & Awards	529	600
House of Delegates	1,234	1,000
Insurance	1,761	2,000
Professional Dues	396	500
Taxes	609	1,000
Telephone	2,038	2,000
Web Site	3,179	2,000
	\$62,476	\$55,416
PROFIT (LOSS)	\$ 571	\$ 54



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FHIMA'S 14th House of Delegates Summary

*Sharol Pausal Noblejas, MBA, RHIA, HCRM
President-Elect*



Four issues were discussed at this year's House of Delegates on June 19th, 2001.

Issue #1

Presented by: Frank Garcia and Iliana Magunagoicochea
Facilitated by: Pamela Rollins and Julie Shay

Should AHIMA adopt the proposed revisions to the Standards for Maintenance of Certification? How can we enhance the value of our credentials?

The Vision 2006 plan for AHIMA involved designing alternative models for the maintenance of certification. At the 2000 AHIMA HOD, a revised working model was developed. This model combined self-assessment with continuing education. Members with the CCS and/ or CCS-P credential will be required to take a self-assessment worth 5 CE's. Self-assessment will be optional for RHITs and RHIAs. Continuing education would still be required for maintenance of AHIMA credentials. Those individuals with multiple

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credentials will have the same reporting cycle for all credentials. Members will be provided CE credit and have a 2 year reporting cycle.

The discussion group did not feel that the proposed revision to the Standards for Maintenance of Certification should be adopted. They felt that the increase in the CE's required for maintenance of both the AHIMA credential and CCS/CCSP credentials may prove to be cost prohibiting. Employers may also experience a loss of productive work hours as members attend more seminars to gain CE's. As a result, members may choose to drop a credential. Ultimately, a membership drop may also occur. However, the group was in favor of CCS and CCSP to have mandatory CE's. Again, due to cost, those members holding multiple credentials should not increase the number of required CE's.

Suggestions for how to enhance the value of our credentials were as follows:

- Be aware "back door programs"
- Offer to be on advisory committees
- Electronic / Distance Learning effect.
- AHIMA / FHIMA should offer on-line CE's that are less costly
- Increase marketing the HIM profession before "raising the bar"
- Explore lobbying legislature on the importance of HIM credentials.

Issue #2

Presented By: Peggy Meli

Facilitated By: Pat Schnering and Sue Hitchens

How can we ensure HIM's leadership in the coding industry?

The current coding industry finds many healthcare institutions with the inability to attract and retain credentialed coders. Due to the shortage, poor quality coding education programs are appearing everywhere. Graduates of coding programs are often inexperienced and have difficulty gaining employment. Coders in physician's offices are credentialed by the American Association for Procedural Coding.

This issue group was in agreement that there was fragmentation in the Coding arena. In order to ensure leadership in the coding industry, the following suggestions were made:

- Keep AHIMA promoting CCS-P CCS website

- Keep the pass rate for coding examination high
- Keep coding in the HIM department
- Provide education and communicate the importance of coding skills
- Assure the accuracy and quality of coding software
- Remain current on legal reimbursement and compliance
- Explore Starting Coding education in high school
- Educate the community about credentials
- Broaden IS to include Data Quality Managers for coding
- Offer training for Database management education

Issue #3

Presented By: Denise Brimm

Facilitated By: Ashlyn Dellenger and Liz Hurst

How can the regional, state and national associations best work together to serve members?

This year, FHIMA successfully implemented e-Coastlines, the electronic FHIMA newsletter. The group was asked to cite their pro's and con's of electronic communication.

PROS:

- Increased access
- Users can select what information to view
- Increased speed of dissemination of information

CONS:

- Some members still do not have access
- Do not always remember to go in and read after e-mail prompt
- Some members do not get electronic notification of new e-Coastlines due to changes in e-mail addresses.

Recommendations were made to enhance e-Coastlines. These will be submitted to the Chairman of Electronic Communications

Committee.

Link FHIMA database with AHIMA database so that changes to member e-mail addresses can be standardized.

Make format more user friendly for printing. Currently selection print will print the entire article section.

Add table of contents index to left of page

The group also discussed communities of practice. Communities of Practice would act as Chat Rooms for members to build on professional relationships and form a sense of belonging with common experiences. Two members of the House of Delegates had participated in AHIMA's Communities of practice. There was some concern that the information in the COP's may not be accurate. Currently, there are no controls in place to monitor the quality of information. FHIMA has petitioned to become a pilot for a COP.

The structure of the House of Delegates was discussed. The facilitators informed the issue group that Florida is one of the only states left to hold a House of Delegates. In addition, most regions had difficulty-finding delegates. Questions were raised as to how other states make decisions. A recommendation was made to research this issue. The group felt strongly that the current structure of the House of Delegates should be kept until an alternative was found for members to make decisions. A suggestion was made to offer incentives to members to increase participation. Some suggestions were to offer CE's for leadership development and provide hotel and mileage reimbursement.

Issue #4

Presented By: Peggy Beck

Facilitated By: Coleen Buchinsky and Diane Evangelista

How can AHIMA and FHIMA help our members seize the important opportunities afforded HIM by the new privacy regulations?

With the new HIPPA regulations, new opportunities now exist for HIM professionals to serve as privacy officers. However, HIM professionals are not aggressively pursuing these new careers.

Several suggestions were made for AHIMA and FHIMA to assist its members:

- Share information learned about these regulations with other members
- Educate vendors on how HIPPA will impact their software.
- Take advantage of trade journals

- Implement an electronic communication committee to disseminate information on HIPPA.
- Be persistent with employers about HIM background and experience to monitor HIPPA.

The AHIMA delegates representing Florida this year are: Mario A. Perez, III, RHIT, CCS, Jacquie Jones, RHIA, Michelle Mock, RHIA, Holly Woemmel, RHIA and Sharol Pausal Noblejas, RHIA. Any concerns, comments and suggestions with regards to the proposed dues increase would greatly be of benefits to your representing AHIMA delegates, please feel free to contact us prior to October 13, 2001 as this is when the AHIMA HOD is scheduled to meet.

2001 FHIMA Selected Convention Highlights

Daniel Land, RHIT, CCS

The 60th annual convention of the Florida Health Information Management Association was held June 19-22, 2001 at the Caribe Royale Resort in Orlando, Florida. The theme of the convention, "HIM Odyssey....Exploring the Seas of Change", was reflected in the outstanding lectures presented during the four day event. Mario A. Perez III, RHIA, CCS, CCS-P was installed as the 60th President of the FHIMA during a ceremony held at the conclusion of the membership luncheon on June 20th. An hour-long FHIMA Member Orientation was offered to those who wished to learn more about the structure and function of the organization.

A brief synopsis of selected lectures follows:

Bearin' Up

Carol Clendinen, RN, MS

Ms. Clendinen, a licensed mental health counselor, offered many positive suggestions related to stress management, personal achievement, and mind-body dynamics. The lecturer presented ten attributes of high-level achievers including:

- Passion: "We may affirm that nothing great in the world has been accomplished without passion" Hegel
- Personal Power: "Achievers realize that they have control over what happens to them....due to an internal locus of control and motivation"
- Creativity: "You see things, and you say 'Why?' but I dream things that never were and I say 'Why Not?' Shaw
- Adaptability: "The achiever avoids self-imposed comfort zones...realizing that change is inevitable"

Clendinen elaborated on the writings of philosopher James Allen: "The body is the servant of the mind. Disease and health, like circumstances, are rooted in thought. Sickly thoughts will express themselves through a sickly body. Thoughts of fear have been known to kill a person as speedily as a bullet. Strong, pure, and happy thoughts build up the body in vigor and grace. The body is a delicate instrument which responds readily to the thoughts by which it is impressed, and habits of thought will produce their own effects, good or bad upon it. Thought is the fountain of action, life, and manifestation. If you would perfect your body, then guard your mind."

Pneumonia

Mark Michelman, MD, MBA

Mark Michelman, MD, MBA, Clinical Coordinator of Florida Medical Quality Assurance, Inc. (FMQAI) presented an overview of the PEPP (Payment Error Prevention) Program as well as specific information relating to the pneumonia focus. The goal of PEPP is to reduce the inpatient payment error rate by 50% by 2002, resulting in an estimated annual savings of \$2 billion through an educational, non-punitive approach. The ultimate goal of the program is to ensure the viability of the Medicare trust fund. Dr. Michelman asserted that financial recoupment is not a PEPP objective, and that the mission of the program addresses both over and under payment. A review of OIG audits reveals a fifty percent reduction of improper payments since 1996, translating into a multibillion dollar savings. The data also reveals that 90% of healthcare professionals are billing accurately. Members of the Payment Error Prevention Coalition Advisory Team (PEPPCAT) include the Florida Hospital Association, FHIMA, Florida Medical Association, and various insurers and healthcare providers. The current project initiatives revolve around three core issues: documentation, compliance, and readmissions. Dr. Michelin defined upcoding as "the practice of using a billing code that provides a higher payment rate for services furnished to the patient." According to the PEEP, the top ten upcoded DRGs are:

- 87 Pulmonary Edema and Respiratory Failure
- 79 Respiratory Infection and Inflammation (with CC)
- 144 Other Circulatory System Diagnosis with CC
- 239 Pathological FX and Muscle and Connect Tissue Malignancy
- 429 Organic Disturbance and Mental Retardation
- 416 Septicemia
- 475 Respiratory System Diagnosis with Ventilator Support
- 188 Other Digestive System Diagnosis with CC

- 121 Circulatory Disease with AMI and CV Complications
- 316 Renal Failure

DRG 416 is the only DRG contained on the Top Ten Upcoded List that also falls into the category of Top Ten DRGs assigned in Florida. In light of recent OIG findings that 47% of DRG 079/089 errors are due to insufficient documentation and 9% due to incorrect coding, Dr. Michelman stressed the importance of rectification of the above issues to ensure the correct DRG assignment.



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AHIMA 2001 ANNUAL CONVENTION

AHIMA's 73rd National Convention and Exhibit is scheduled for October 13-18, 2001 in Miami Beach. For registration information - just go to AHIMA's web site at www.ahima.org. Early registration deadline is August 6, 2001.



PRIVACY GUIDELINES RELEASED

The much-anticipated "Guidance on New Patient Privacy Protections" was quietly released on Friday, July 6, 2001, with a posting to the Office of Civil Rights Web site at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa> and a press release from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The Guidance was not posted in the Federal Register and did not follow the usual rule or note processes typical to HHS. The legality of the information contained in the Guidance is therefore open to some question, however the guidance provided will be helpful to everyone in the process of implementing the April 14, 2001 HIPAA Privacy Regulations.

OIG PUBLISHES SPECIAL ADVISORY BULLETIN ON CONSULTANTS

The HHS Office of Inspector General (OIG) posted a "special advisory bulletin" to its Web site on June 27, 2001. The bulletin is meant "to alert providers to certain consultant practices, including marketing practices that have come to [their] attention that should raise concerns for providers and may put the Medicare and Medicaid programs at increased risk of abuse. Content can be found at <http://www.os.dhhs.gov/progorg/oig/new.html>. Also found at this location is testimony given by Assistant Inspector General for Legal Affairs, Lewis Morris to the Senate Finance Committee on Medicare and Medicaid

regarding provider and consultant vulnerabilities.

MEDICARE PART B- ADVANCED BENEFICIARY NOTICE (ABN) FORM--2ND DRAFT RELEASED

As a response to many public comments and suggestions the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (formerly HCFA) developed a revised Medicare Part B ABN Form. Examples of revisions include a one-page form versus several pages as in the original form. Beneficiaries choose, using decision boxes, whether or not they will want to receive items or services that may not be paid for under the Medicare system. The form also promotes beneficiaries to ask questions if they do not understand why Medicare probably won't pay for certain items or services. To review supporting comments used to assist with the development of the revised form or to view ABN form visit: <http://www.hcfa.gov/regs/prdact95.html>.

FINAL CODING CERTIFICATION EXAM DATE FOR 2001

Don't miss your last opportunity for 2001 to prove your expertise--and your worth. The CCS and CCS-P certification exams are scheduled for September 15, 2001. The application deadline is fast approaching. Application must be postmarked on or before July 20 (late application is August 10). For the fastest service, you may download the CCS/CCS-P handbook and application materials by simply logging on to our Web site at <http://www.ahima.org> and click on "Certification," or call (312) 233-1100 and an exam packet will be sent to you (please allow five to seven business days for mail delivery).

Contacting AHIMA

For general queries, email info@ahima.org. For professional practice questions, go to the AHIMA Online practice forums at <http://www.ahima.org/bibs/index.html> or send email to: proprac@ahima.org.

If you'd like to update your mailing address or email address, include your full name, member ID number and your new information - send to: info@ahima.org. For general questions, contact [AHIMA Online](#).