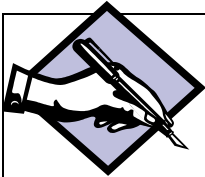




THE NORTHLINE

November 2003



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Anita Sommerfeld, RHIA

I just returned from AHIMA National Convention in Minneapolis. It was a great convention and the weather was terrific. If any of you have not attended a national convention I highly recommend you do so. It is a great way to network and obtain a ton of information. The exhibit hall is always good for one or two afternoon visits and make sure you bring some walking shoes.

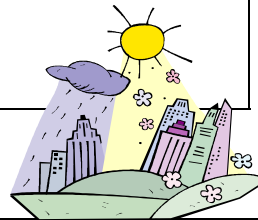
I want to thank Dawn Carmen for putting together our FORE basket, it looked beautiful. I believe it brought in close to \$300 dollars.

Cathy Gross is our Program Chair for next year and is already busy putting together our program. If anyone wants to volunteer please contact Cathy (her email address is posted on our website).

The Board is busy making some bylaw changes due to a new agreement we have signed with AHIMA. You will be hearing more about these changes prior to our annual meeting next April.

Our **BIG NEWS** is that AHIMA has agreed to bring to Alaska the Get Practical with Privacy & Security seminar. This will be held the 2 days prior to our annual Spring meeting. Many of us in the organization have whined to the national association about bringing this seminar to Alaska and it has finally paid off. Please mark your calendars April 19th & 20th. for the Privacy & Security Seminar and April 21st, 22nd. & 23rd. for our annual meeting.

I wish everyone a peaceful and joyous holiday season.



ALASKANS GO SOUTH

Yah, you betcha! A good-sized Alaska delegation showed up in Minneapolis for the AHIMA National Education Conference. Though we were not served Jello salad or "hot dish", they did have nice weather for the us. There were an estimated 3,300 attendees at the conference, of which over a dozen were from Alaska.

Along with lots and lots of information, a very jazzy 75th Anniversary theme song, and lots of vendor goodies, other highlights included:

- AHIMA honored many volunteers and supporters of HIM
- Unveiling of new AHIMA logo (you may have seen it on your membership renewal), and
- President's Gala—a wonderful, informal affair. Alaskans felt right at home with the outdoor motif and the bluegrass band, not to mention the live reindeer, caribou, beaver and porcupine, and the live trout pond!

Another highlight for many attendees, that cannot go unmentioned, was a trip to the Mall of America.

The Conference was a great event. Start planning to attend the 2004 Conference in Washington, DC. You will have a great time...oh, and learn a lot too!!

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EDITOR: Marianne Dailey

CODING WORKSHOP & ROUNDTABLE UPDATE

The Coding Workshop & Round-table held October 10th in Anchorage was a great success. About 20 coding professionals participated, and feedback was encouraging. More roundtables are being planned for the Kenai Peninsula, Southeast and Fairbanks. Roundtable hosts are needed. For more information contact Janie Miller, RHIT, CCS.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Due to seasonal workloads, the mailing of this issue of The Northline was unavoidably delayed. My apologies to the membership for any inconvenience this may have caused.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES REPORT— Ann Waters, RHIT CCS



Minneapolis was the setting for the 2003 annual House of Delegates, held October 19, 2003.

Delegates forums discussed issues of strategic importance to AHIMA:

- COLA, CHEA resolution
- Standards for Maintenance for Certification
- HIM Education Framework
- Code of Ethics: Professional Conduct Committee name change and Practice Perspective
- Telling the Workforce Story
- HIM Environmental Scan

The 2003 HOD was called to order by the President, Barbara Siegel. The past year's accomplishments were reviewed. Year-end revenue trends for the major AHIMA and FORE business areas were discussed for 2003 and for projected 2004. A report of the Nominating Committee election results was presented. Linda Kloss, Executive VP, presented the annual report to the House. Reports of the Issue Forums with Action Items followed.

The Council on Certification recommended approval of a new set of Standards for Maintenance of Certification to simplify existing Standards for those holding multiple credentials. The revised standards create two categories for purposes of CE maintenance: associate-based (RHIT, CCA, CCS, and CCS-P) and baccalaureate-based (RHIA, CHP, and CHPS). Every two years, members holding an associate-based credential need to take 20 continuing education units (CEUs) plus 10 CEUs for each additional credential held. Members holding a baccalaureate-based credential need 30 CEUs plus 10 CEUs for each additional credential. For those holding many credentials, the new standards would cap the biennial CEU requirements at 60. The House approved this proposal.

The Council on Accreditation proposed a resolution seeking recognition from the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). AHIMA believes recognition by CHEA will better serve the needs of HIM education. The resolution was approved.

The Professional Conduct Committee proposed a bylaws amendment to change the name of the Committee to the Professional Ethics Committee. The change was suggested to keep AHIMA up to date in the terminology used by association leadership. The amendment was approved.

AHIMA's Board of Directors proposed an amendment to the AHIMA bylaws that would allow the Board to authorize a cost of living adjustment (COLA) to dues. This amendment was designed to allow the Board to keep dues in line with expenses without large periodic increases. The adjustment could not have exceeded the prior year's official US cost of living index, and the House of Delegates would have had to approve any increase above 8 percent if the prior year's US cost of living index was greater than 8 percent. The amendment required a two-thirds majority to pass, and was not passed by the House.

The reason for the defeat appears to be twofold: first, many delegates felt this was the duty of the House, not the Board. Second, with the advent of the electronic round-the-year House, the House would be able to vote on a dues increase at any time, keeping future dues increases small.

New Business was the appointment of the 2004 Delegate Workgroup.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!

It is time again to be thinking about all your HIM friends and associates who would like you to submit their names for the AHIMA ballot. Volunteer positions open for the 2004-05 year include Secretary, 1st Year Director, President-Elect, and Nominating Committee members. Job descriptions and Nomination Form are included in this issue.

DON'T SIT ON YOUR REAR—VOLUNTEER!

AKHIMA NOMINATION FORM

Please write legibly

Mark the appropriate nomination type:

I/We wish to recommend the following person to the Nominating Committee for the position checked below.

I am interested in placing my name before the Nominating Committee to be considered for the ballot for AKHIMA. I am willing to run for the position(s) checked below. I have read the duties and responsibilities of this/these position(s).

Name ___ Credential(s)

Address

Telephone Number ___ E-mail address

President-Elect (3 year term) 1st Year Director (2 year term)

AKHIMA Nominating Committee Secretary

SUPPORTING STATEMENT:

Has this nominee been contacted about this recommendation? Yes No

If yes to above, has this nominee agreed to this nomination? Yes No

Nomination Submitted By: _____

Mail form to: Cynthia Fyfe, PO Box 586, Dillingham, AK 99669

or email to: clfefe@nushtel.com or Fax to: 907-842-9315.

Postmarked no later than March 1st, 2004

www.akhima.org

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THE NORTHLINE

ALASKA HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION



PO Box 230335
Anchorage, AK 99523-0335

DELIVER TO:

Address Correction Requested

Please Forward