MHIMA CONNECTION

SUMMER 2017

Proud to be a member of MNHIMA

Advertisement
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Hello everyone and welcome to summer! June is already in the rearview mirror, but I hope each of you are getting a chance to relax and enjoy the warmer weather.

I am very honored and humbled to be your President for 2017-2018! This is an exciting time for the HIM profession! I look forward to working with the rest of our Board of Directors and engaging with members throughout the coming year. I would like to extend my thanks to Laura Blabac and Kristi Lundgren for their continued support, guidance, and friendship. I have some big shoes to fill!

To share a bit about myself, I grew up on the Iron Range in the northeastern part of the state. I graduated from the College of St. Scholastica (CSS) with a Bachelor’s degree in HIM and am currently pursuing a Master’s degree in HIM at the College. It is quite interesting to be a student again! To this day, I credit a former professor of mine at CSS, Madonna LeBlanc, for recruiting me to enter this wonderful field. Madonna, you are a true gem...thank you for being a fabulous mentor to me and so many others! For the last ten years, I have worked in various positions focusing on release of information, privacy and security, coding, chart analysis, and scanning. I currently live in Hugo with my fiancé Steve and dog Tucker. We enjoy traveling, spending time outdoors, and attending sporting events.

MHIMA’s Board of Directors, Key Volunteers, and co-chairs are kicking off the 2017-2018 fiscal year with a busy couple of months! In July, Brandi Bierbrauer, Mary Juenemann, Ryan Johns, and I will be heading to Chicago for AHIMA’s CSA Summer Leadership Symposium. We will join delegates from each component state association (CSA) to discuss strategic direction, envisioning a future, and leadership in the evolving HIM profession. As we move into the month of August, we will gather for our Strategic Planning Meeting to identify our goals and activities for the coming year. There will be a recap of each of these events in the next newsletter!

The leadership of our past Presidents has created a strong foundation for me to follow and carry forward. As my term begins, I am ready to roll up my sleeves and get to work! The resiliency of an organization is often measured by the dedication and support of its members. Please continue to engage with each other and your elected Board members. Consider volunteering as your schedule permits. There are many different opportunities available with varying time commitments. If you are interested in a role or committee, please visit the Volunteer page at http://www.mnhima.org/members/volunteer.html.

This is going to be a great year for MHIMA! Please do not hesitate to contact me with any inquires, questions or concerns at president@mnhima.org.

Respectfully,
Christina M. Wallner, RHIA
Volunteer with MHIMA!

MHIMA continually seeks members to fill volunteer roles. Member involvement in volunteer roles is critical in building a strong association that provides optimal educational, networking, resources and leadership opportunities for its members. For MHIMA to continue providing outreach to our valued members and expertise in subject areas within the field of health information management, we rely on our valued members (you) who make this happen for our association. Without you, MHIMA would not be the premier association of health information management professionals in Minnesota.

Whether you are a new MHIMA volunteer or a “seasoned” volunteer, let us know how you would like to participate by submitting the Volunteer Form on our website (mnhima.org > Member > Volunteer Here).

We look forward to hearing from you!
MARY JUENEMANN

How long have you been a MHIMA Member?
I have been an MHIMA member since 1994.

Why did you decide to run for the seat you currently hold with MHIMA?
When I was asked to run for Delegate Director, I thought about my past service on the board and decided I was ready for a more in depth role on the board.

What is your role?
Delegate Director.

What are two goals you hope to accomplish this year?
My first goal is to continue working with the regions on strengthening their relationship with MHIMA. My second goal is better understand the relationship between AHIMA and MHIMA through the House of Delegates.

JOY SCHMITT

How long have you been a MHIMA Member?
I became a member of MHIMA in 1999 shortly after graduating the health information program.

Why did you decide to run for the seat you currently hold with MHIMA?
I was nudged several years ago and told to volunteer that the reward was well worth the time. I am so glad they did because it was well worth the time invested for the wealth of return that has no value attached. I can guarantee it is worth it to network with professionals, gain knowledge, opportunities for growth and the friendships. I have volunteered for many different committees as being a member of MHIMA but my favorite is the annual meeting. For several years, I was the chair of the silent auction committee which generated funds for scholarships. In 2017, I co-chaired the Annual Meeting and it was a fantastic leadership experience. When I was contacted about running I was nervous but love the great friendships I have made as part of MHIMA and why not meet more. Also this is a great way to give back to the MHIMA membership as a whole.

What is your role?
I will be treasurer for the next 2 year term.

What are two goals you hope to accomplish this year?
After my experience planning the annual meeting I understand the budgeting factors to make the meeting a success. I hope to be able to assist with the chairs of the meeting as well as the entire board and KFAs to develop and manage their budgets for a successful year.
MALLORY JOHNSON

How long have you been a MHIMA Member?
Since 2012.

Why did you decide to run for the seat you currently hold with MHIMA?
I was initially approached by a colleague that I look up to, and after thinking it over for a short amount of time, I decided that I would love to keep my involvement with MHIMA going. The Secretary position seemed to be a wonderful place to start!

What is your role?
My role with MHIMA this year is Secretary, and look forward to working with everyone!

What are two goals you hope to accomplish this year?
I would like to volunteer and help other committees as much as I can, in addition to being Secretary. My other goal is to continue to learn from the other MHIMA members, and grow my relationships with them.

Watch for the next issue of the MHIMA Connection to get to know more board members.
One of the areas the Legislative/Advocacy KFA Chair monitors and oversees in their duties is maintaining a continuous watch on the national and state legislative bills that are being introduced into the legislative process. If needed, the Chair will determine what action, if any, from MHIMA needs to be initiated, compiled, and presented to either Representatives or Senators at the State or National level. During the State of Minnesota’s legislative session many bills were introduced and then subsequently monitored. Please note that many bills were passed and others were not during this session.

August 1, 2017:

1. **After-discharge CEMT support will be available for both nursing facilities and hospitals:** A technical fix will allow community emergency medical technicians to visit people on Medical Assistance recently discharged from skilled nursing facilities, as well as hospitals.

2. **Telemedicine defined in new law, standards upheld:** A new law will define telemedicine and clarify that health care providers working with patients remotely are subject to the same professional standards as those working with patients in person.

3. **New law makes changes to some mental health regulations:** A new law will make changes to some mental health services and change which facilities qualify for Medical Assistance payments for children’s therapeutic services.

Other legislation passed on previous dates:

1. **May 24, 2017: Patient release notifications to comply with federal confidentiality requirements:** Law requires facilities to comply with alcohol abuse confidentiality.

2. **May 18, 2017: APRNs and physician assistants allowed to perform more duties under new law:** Existing laws will be updated to allow advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to perform certain tasks previously restricted to physicians.

3. **May 13, 2017: Some physicians would see their license to practice expedited:** A technical change will make it easier for physicians to receive expedited licenses in other states belonging to the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. For physicians who want a license to practice in Minnesota, the law will exempt them from the usual background check requirements if they primarily practice in another compact state that ran a background check on them in the 12 previous months. The compact, signed into state law in 2015, is intended to make it easier for physicians to practice in multiple states.

If you would like additional information or have any questions, please feel free to contact me at sue.nathe@tchc.org or go to: [http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/newlaws/#/search/2017](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/newlaws/#/search/2017). On the website, you may filter for a specific area of interest or type in keywords.

Have a great and safe rest of the summer everyone!!
Stick a Fork in It, It's Done!

We are pleased to announce the 2017 Annual Meeting was a success!

Thank you to those who attended; we hope that you felt it was a valuable learning and networking experience!

The event took place at Mystic Lake Casino in Prior Lake, MN, April 26-28.

Our theme was “Setting the Stage for New Developments in HIM” incorporating Hollywood movie décor and events to tie in with the AHIMA national convention that will be held in Los Angeles, CA, this fall.

Speakers from across the country as well as local experts were on hand to teach, present, and collaborate with MHIMA members.

Highlights:

• 2017 Distinguished Member is Marsha Holey, Educator and HIM Program Chair at Saint Catherine University

• Two New Awards this year:
  o 2017 Rising Star is Brandi Bierbrauer, Systems Analyst, Data Integrity, Allina Health
  o 2017 Outstanding Student is Emily Jansen, College of St Scholastica

• The Silent Auction raised $4300 in support of our scholarship fund!

• Wednesday Night karaoke contest winners:
  o Mark Huhta from Peak Health Solutions singing Wagon Wheel by Darius Rucker
  o Ryan Sandefer and David Marc singing All the Single Ladies by Beyonce'

A special thank you to all of our volunteers who make the event so successful this year.

We are happy to report that we have already had a large number of people sign up as volunteers next year, including 2018 Co-Chairs, Gina Sanvik and Heather Feltus and our 2019 Co-Chairs Ryan Wright and Rita Wadekamper.

If you would like to volunteer or have an idea for a speaker or topic for next year’s conference, please contact one of the 2018 Co-Chairs, Gina Sanvik or Heather Feltus at annualmeetingchairs@mn-hima.org

We appreciate your feedback from the post-conference surveys and will pass along suggestions to the next year’s chairs. We hope that you plan to attend the 2018 MHIMA Annual Meeting at the Minneapolis Marriot Northwest April 25-27, 2018!

Thank you!  Diane Wolfe & Joy Schmitt  2017 Co-Chairs
PICTURES FROM
MHIMA CONFERENCE 2017

RHIA and RHIT Scholarship winners

Brandi Bierbrauer, RHIA CPhT
Rising Star Recipient

Emily Janzen
Outstanding Student

Vendor Reception Karaoke

Distinguished Member Introduction

Marsha Hovey, MALS, RHIA
2017 MHIMA Distinguished Member Recipient
2017 Scholarship Winners Announced

The MHIMA Scholarship Committee has selected the following students to receive Minnesota Merit Scholarships:

**RHIA Program:**

Alison Hoeper  
The College of St. Scholastica  
$1500

Mikaela Vadinis  
The College of St. Scholastica  
$800

**RHIT Program**

Linda Wickert  
Rochester Technical and Community College  
$1000

Congratulations to these deserving students who were recognized at the Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 27, 2017. The next few pages include the winning essays. For more information on Scholarships please visit the MHIMA website at www.mhima.org and navigate to Education Scholarships.
How I Will Use This Degree to Advance the HIM Profession

Alison Hoeper

Going into college, I thought I wanted to become a physical therapist. Halfway into my sophomore year, I decided to make the change to Health Information Management. I had no idea what the profession actually entailed, but I knew it was health care related, and my research pointed to a great career. Now, after being in the program for about a year, I know that I have made the best decision for my future.

I have learned that HIM allows for so many career paths, and new ones are being created constantly. I highly value this aspect of the profession, because I can gain experience in so many different areas, I do not have to work the same job my entire life. I can work anywhere in the United States, and possibly expand my job prospects globally. The possibility of continuing my education in addition to my undergraduate degree is something that I value highly. In a profession with so much potential for innovation, there is endless room to use my degree to advance Health Information Management.

I hope to gain a more concrete idea of my plans after graduation in my upcoming senior year of the program. One idea I have is to begin my career within a hospital. In this position, I hope to gain experience with the inner workings of the system, and discover a niche. One day I hope to go back for my Master’s degree, and possibly even higher level of education if that is where I end up, expanding my knowledge base and opening up new opportunities for myself.

I am currently taking a U.S. Health Care System class, and the topic of public health is very prominent and especially interests me. I know that the current HIM role in public health and policy is expanding. Being a part of collecting and analyzing data for public health research would be intriguing. Having a say in how policies and projects are created, would affect the population. I would enjoy being a part of analyzing the bigger picture of public health regionally or even for the U.S. Who knows, maybe there is a position that expands past the United States. My degree gives me the knowledge base to understand and address disparities in healthcare and how to potentially repair them. As health care systems become more and more electronic and technologically advanced, the ability to analyze differences in health care becomes easier. Also, the ability to use information from patient records to examine the connection of risk factors or causations to certain kinds of diseases is made possible. Knowing that I could be a factor in improving population health in a local sense, on a national level, or maybe a global level, would make me feel like I am impacting the world in a valuable way, and advancing the HIM profession for so many future professionals to come.
In a world full of pretense and disparity, I hope to use the skills I have learned with my HIM degree to advance and continue to bring integrity to not only the profession, but to everyone that I might affect. I hope to make a difference in people’s lives, whether it is directly or indirectly. I hope to continue educating myself throughout my entire future and leaving my options open in order to be great at anything I do, and to make a positive change in people’s lives. Working hard in every task I do, as well as finding better, or completely new ways to do things, are what I look forward to doing to advance my own insight, and the HIM profession.

MHIMA Student Merit Scholarship Fund at AHIMA Foundation

Each year, the MHIMA Board of Directors awards scholarships to HIM students based on Merit. The funds for these scholarships are derived from direct donations to the MHIMA Student Merit Scholarship Fund and also from the proceeds of our Silent Auction held each year at the MHIMA Annual Meeting. The funds are held at the AHIMA Foundation, which makes it possible for donations to be tax deductible.

Are you interested in giving to students by donating to the scholarship fund? Please visit our AHIMA Foundation page for more information and instructions on donating.
How I Will Use This Degree to Advance the HIM Profession

Mikaela Vadnais

When you enter college, you come in with an idea of what you expect your four years will be like. You imagine your school life through the lens of a film camera – focusing on new studies, making new friends, and attending school activities and cheering for your alma mater the College of St Scholastica. At the end of the film you see yourself walking into the sunset with your degree in hand - ready to go out and change the world. But that’s not the real ending of the story; instead it’s really a new beginning.

I chose a career in HIM because it places you at the center of the ever-changing world of health care. Now, more than ever, with the advancement of the baby boomers moving into retirement and new technologies being used across the medical field the HIM profession is full of opportunities working with other professionals such as doctors, nurses, administrators, and consultants to share my skills and expertise with patient data that assist my business partners in their everyday roles. While I feel the HIM field is not as highly recognized for their contributions as a doctor, nurse, or PhD but by maintaining, collecting, and analyzing health care information I feel my role will make an important contribution to the delivery of high quality care for everyone. I also enjoy the flexibility of this position as I can work in a multitude of settings including hospitals, physician offices, insurance companies, etc. Ultimately, I want to make a difference in world through the contributions I can make in my role in the HIM field.

When I graduate in May, 2018, I plan to successfully complete the certification exam for RHIA. After searching on the AHMIA career map and participating in various classes I feel I have found a path to follow. This semester I am taking Classification of Clinical Data which includes coding. I am interested in this area because it serves as a stepping stone to so many different areas. It will allow me exposure to the billing process and will help me to build upon and further understand the how this data plays an important role in the health care. Next, I would like to advance into a practitioner consultant role, then later into a director of HIM position. With my past experience and skills, I feel that I will be well positioned to lead an HIM team and collaborate with other health care professionals to make decisions and implement processes that will protect patient data and advance new HIM practices in the future.

Working alongside individuals and helping them is what I love to do. I have a passion to lead teams, champion change and collaborate with others. I enjoy identifying problem areas and breaking down barriers between different areas to implement new solutions that help service everyone. I feel that HIM is responsible for effectively connecting the information used between departments and ensuring that the medical information everyone is relying upon is complete and accurate.

I would like to be considered as a recipient for this scholarship because the dollars awarded would allow me to financially continue the HIM career path I have set for myself. I have a strong work ethic and desire to succeed at the goals I set for myself. I will be able to apply the knowledge I learn in this program to make a positive difference in the healthcare HIM field after I graduate from St. Scholastica. Additionally, I look forward to the opportunity to share my program learnings and personal experiences, as an advocate for the program, to those who are considering a possible career in this field.
How I Will Use This Degree to Advance the HIM Profession

Linda Wickert

I am the embodiment of the sayings “you are never too old to learn” and “you are never too old to pursue your dream”. I am nearing the end to what most traditional students would say was a long journey, but for me it’s been an interesting and exciting learning experience that has gone by very quickly.

I am a non-traditional student who began pursuing my Health Information Management degree at the age of 47. I work full-time and attend school part-time, so I have been pursuing a degree that would typically take a student two years to complete for four years. Additionally, I am the proud mother of three daughters; my youngest is still in elementary school, my middle daughter will graduate high school next year, and my oldest attends the same college where I am pursuing my degree. I feel it’s important to be a role model for my children and practice what I preach. The question we ask them isn’t what are you going to do after high school but what college will you attend?

Though I have certificates for medical secretary and nursing assistant, I wanted to expand my knowledge in a totally different field. Obtaining a HIT degree opens up a vast number of opportunities. Whether it will be through new career paths or personally through networking within the HIM community.

I will earn my Health Information Technology degree in the fall of 2018. After graduation, my first goal is to obtain a position as a Health Information Technician to gain experience and expand my knowledge of the field. I will use my degree to be an advocate for the HIM profession for all ages by volunteering at my local organization and building relationships through networking with other HIM professionals. I am excited to learn new things and make new connections.

In the future, I hope to use the base of knowledge obtained in getting my degree and working in the HIT field to further my education by pursuing a bachelors’ degree with a goal of becoming a Data Integrity Analyst. As I advance in my career I hope to be a mentor for someone else just starting in the career. I believe by being a mentor I can advance myself by learning from the mentee as well.

I am excited to complete this stage of my educational journey but even more excited to start my new career and meet new people in different roles.
Hello MHIMA Members!

The Legal Reference Manual Committee has had an extremely successful year. We've been hard at work to bring you the most updated legislation and documentation in our reference manual. Nearly the whole manual has been reviewed and edited in the 2016-2017 cycle; these include:

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Our goal in 2017-2018 includes bringing you a new chapter covering Non-Traditional HIM, containing information on Chiropractic, Correctional, Dental, Holistic Healing, Pediatric Specialties, Native American Health Services and Medical Supplies. In the coming months, please look for a combination of Chapters 2 (ARRA/HITECH) and Chapter 12 (HIPAA); we decided as a committee to wait on reviewing these chapters until after the new legislation is published in July 2017.

If you or your organization are interested in a subscription to our manual, please visit [mnhima.org](http://mnhima.org), and navigate to HIM Trends and Topics. It is a valuable legal resource and a benefit to Health Information Management in Minnesota. We are pleased to bring you these reviewed, revised, and newly uploaded chapters.
MARKETING/ COMMUNICATIONS

This is my second year volunteering as the Marketing and Communications KFA, and I can say without a doubt that I learned a lot last year. There are many moving pieces to hosting a successful conference, and I’m planning to use my newfound knowledge to ensure we have a more successful 2018!

You may not be aware of all that the Marketing and Communications (M&C) Committee does, so here is a little more information:

• M&C volunteers contact vendors to join us at the MHIMA conference each year. It is already July and budget season is just around the corner, so the committee will soon be contacting vendors to attend the 2018 Annual Meeting (held in Brooklyn Park) this year. We hope that by contacting vendors early, we can get them hooked before they finalize their budgets. I hope everyone is ready!

• The M&C Committee also creates the annual conference booklet and name tags. This task takes a lot of time, effort, and collaboration to ensure everything is completed timely and accurately.

• The committee also updates the MHIMA website and social media pages with the most current information happening within MHIMA or AHIMA.

As an M&C volunteer, we may not get paid, but we do get the satisfaction of seeing how our hard work pays off. I would like to acknowledge all of the volunteers on the 2016-2017 Marketing and Communications Committee – thanks to all of you, we had a successful year! I would also like to thank you for staying on the M&C Committee for 2017-2018; in addition, a warm welcome to all of the new volunteers this year.

I would like to send a special thanks to Lorna Clodfelder, Brandi Bierbrauer, and Kelsey Donatelle for your guidance through my first year as the M&C KFA. Your help was greatly appreciated!

Sarah Swoboda
Marketing and Communications KFA

2018 ICD-10-PCS Update Released

The 2018 ICD-10-PCS files have been posted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, including the updated code tables and index, addendum, version update summary, conversion table and coding guidelines. These updates go into effect with the discharges on or after October 1.

Visit the MHIMA ICD-10 page (mnhima.org > HIM Trends and Topics > ICD-10) or AHIMA.org for more information.
MHIMA’s Coding & Data Quality Key Focus Area (KFA) will facilitate a discussion about ICD-10. Please visit our [continuing education page](mailto:continuing.education.page) for more information and to register.

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AHIMA ELECTION

Now’s your chance to interact with the candidates running for:

President/Chair Elect
Director
CCHIM Commissioner
CEE Members

Join the AHIMA Membership and Business Engage Committee to see where the candidates stand on various issues. The interactive discussion forum is available July 5th until July 28th, 2017.

The polls will open on Monday July 31st until Monday August 14th.

For more information visit www.ahima.org/engage
We hope you can join us for our 2018 MHIMA Annual Conference at the Minneapolis Marriott Hotel in Brooklyn Park Minnesota on April 25-27, 2018.

Last year’s theme was “All the World's a Stage: Setting the Stage for New Developments in HIM” and we can't wait to share with you this year’s theme!
Thank you for your article submissions!
We would like to give our great appreciation for everyone who helped with this newsletter. Special thanks to those who submitted content: Diane Wolfe, Christina Wallner, Mary Juenemann, Sue Nathe, Joy Schmitt, Sarah Swoboda and Deb Switzer.

Do you have an article you would like to submit for the next newsletter or have a topic you would like to see featured? Please email us at marketing-communications@mnhima.org!