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NEWSLETTER OF THE MICHIGAN HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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November/December
2008

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House of Delegates Approves CHDA Certification, Bylaw Changes, Privacy Resolution

Proposals for a new credential, bylaws amendments on certification, and a resolution on privacy and security topped the list of action items for members of AHIMA's 62nd House of Delegates on Sunday, October 12, 2008. The House voted on three action items and participated in six action forums.

CHDA Certification, Bylaw Changes, Privacy Resolution

The House approved a motion to approve standards for certification and maintenance of a new credential in health data analytics. The motion was proposed by the Council on Certification (CoC) as a way to recognize and advance those professionals doing this important work, increase the size of an AHIMA-certified HIM work force, and further engage new members at a professional level. The proposed standards for certification included eligibility requirements of a baccalaureate degree or higher and a minimum of five years' healthcare data experience or an RHIA credential and one year of healthcare data experience. A proviso to modify the requirements for eligibility was not approved.

Exams for the Certified in Health Data Analytics (CHDA) designation will be available in December 2008. For more information, go to www.ahima.org/certification.

The next action item, also submitted by the CoC, included amendments to the AHIMA bylaws that would allow the council to pursue accreditation as a certifying body by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). Such accreditation would strengthen differentiation for AHIMA certifications in an increasingly crowded market. Both the NCCA and ANSI require the standards for initial certification and certification maintenance to be under the full authority of the CoC. The bylaw changes explicitly transfer the authority over the elements of certification from the House of Delegates to the council.

In addition, the bylaw changes ensure the autonomy of the CoC by changing its composition. AHIMA would have the right to appoint up to 40 percent of the council while the other 60 percent would be composed of individuals representing other stakeholder groups including credentialed professionals, employers, and the general public. Finally, the bylaw changes rename the CoC the Commission on Certification of Health Informatics and Information Management Professionals. The House approved the bylaw changes.

Finally, the House approved a resolution on privacy and security submitted by the Missouri Health Information Management Association. The resolution asks that AHIMA members call on healthcare organizations to educate users of health information about the need for improved and consistent information privacy and security; that HIM professionals be on the forefront of education about auditing and monitoring access to health information; and that AHIMA endorse consistent healthcare policies and standards when a breach does occur. An amendment modifying the third "resolved" clause of the resolution was approved.

Getting Serious on Strategy

Members of the House also participated in work teams and action forums on Sunday, October 12, 2008. This year members were divided into new work teams for more focused discussions. The new teams are: operations, higher education and work force, environmental scan, professional development/recognition, volunteer and leadership development, and best practices/standards. AHIMA president

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www.mhima.org

OUR MISSION

The Mission of the Michigan Health Information Management Association is to be Michigan's expert voice on health information.

Michigan Health Information Leaders

(Continued on page 2)

MHIMA

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for January/February issue:
December 15, 2008

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or electronically to the Editor.

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HOUSE OF DELEGATES *(continued from page 1)*

Wendy Mangin called the new teams a way of modernizing the way the House works and “a better way to get to know our colleagues.”

During the action forums, delegates broke into small groups to discuss issues of strategic importance to members and the association. Mangin suggested the participants “try to place yourselves in the future we’re trying to create” as they worked through the issues. The forums discussed six issues:

- Certification proposals, including the new credential and bylaws changes voted on later in the session
- HIM practice issues, including the proposed resolution and a Code of Ethics self assessment
- Promoting education initiatives
- AHIMA and future forces
- Multinational
- ICD-10

Each group produced a summary of feedback, which was reported to the House. This feedback will provide AHIMA’s Board of Directors and members with direction on positions and priorities for future actions. The comments are available online in the State Leaders/House of Delegates Community of Practice.

AHIMA executive director Linda Kloss also addressed the House, noting that this year is the 80th anniversary of the founding of the association. She reported that AHIMA is having “a good and impactful year” with many major accomplishments, including the passage of genetic nondiscrimination legislation and the publication of a proposed rule for adoption of ICD-10. She also reported that the Board of Directors approved a 2009 budget plan that calls for a more modest level of growth than in recent years and tighter controls on spending and includes a \$10 increase in member dues.

The House of Delegates meets year-round electronically via AHIMA’s State Leaders and HOD Community of Practice, which is open to all members. All members can join this community by logging on at www.ahima.org.

From AHIMA Today, October 13, 2008

HIM Higher Education and Workforce AHIMA Delegate Team Action Forum at the House of Delegates

October 2008 – Nancy Walker, MS, RHIA

This team is primarily made up of educators; however, many practitioners were present in the Action Forums. This group is creating a document to help schools and practice sites best meet the needs of all stakeholders, by presenting a document of best practices.

We discussed ideas that could be included in the booklet, and identified additional members as resources for the Team. The Team is also focusing on a program to assist practitioners into the education field, since instructors and program directors are difficult to find.



Delegates at the House of Delegates in Seattle, Washington. From left to right; Nancy Walker, MS, RHIA, Denise Holstege, RHIT, CCS, Melody Czapski, RHIT, CCS-P, Charlie Robinson, RHIT, CCS-P, and Rita Montague, RHIT, CTR.

Congratulations to...

2008 RACE Recognition Winners

MHIMA is pleased to announce the receipt of several RACE (Roundtable Achievement in Coding Excellence) awards. They are listed along with all of the other states that received awards. The following are the winners:

AHIMA Coding Roundtable Coordinator Recognition for Excellence

First place: Tedi Lojewski, RHIA, CCS and Rosalind Richmond, CCS - Colorado

Second place: Sheila Bowlds, MBA, RHIA - Michigan

Honorable mention: Martin Cohen, RHIT, (CT), Melanie Peters, RHIT (OH), Tonya Skillman, RHIA (OK), Natalie Sartori, Med, RHIA, CCS (SC)

AHIMA CSA Recognition for Coding Leadership

First Place: Michigan Health Information Management Association (MHIMA)

Second place: Colorado Health Information Management Association (CHIMA)

Honorable mention: South Carolina, Connecticut

AHIMA CSA Team Recognition for Coding Roundtable Activities

First Place: Michigan – Nancy Walker, MS, RHIA, CSA President and Sheila Bowlds, MBA, RHIA, State Coding Roundtable Coordinator

Second place: Colorado – Diane Bauerle, RHIA CSA President and Tedi Lojewski, RHIA, CCS and Rosalind Richmond, CCS, State Coding Roundtable Co-Coordinators

Honorable mention: Arkansas, California, Connecticut, South Carolina

Awards were presented at the Lunch at the Clinical Coding Community Meeting on Saturday October 11, 2006 in Seattle at the AHIMA Convention.

FORE Scholarship Winners

The following Michigan members have been awarded Scholarships from the Foundation of Research and Education of AHIMA (FORE) in 2008.

April Martin, RHIT, CMT, F-AHDI - Care Communications Scholarship

Brenda Davis-Bauer – Pyramid Healthcare Solutions, Inc. Scholarship

Nancy Trask – Rita Finnegan, RHIA, CCS Memorial Scholarship

Debra Veyerse - Rita Finnegan, RHIA, CCS Memorial Scholarship

Brenda Ingersoll – FORE Scholarship

Bonnie Zimmer – FORE Scholarship

Congratulations to all and best wishes in pursuit of your continuing education!

Janice Crocker

Janice Crocker, MSA, RHIA, CCS, CHP, FAHIMA has been elected as a member of the AHIMA Nominating Committee. She will serve in this position for a two-year term and will be responsible for assisting in the selection of candidates to run for AHIMA positions.

Please join MHIMA in congratulating Janice for this wonderful opportunity, and wishing her well in the accomplishment of this added responsibility.



Mary Edgerly MEMORIAL

Mary Edgerly Gillespie, MIS, RHIA was a great person. She enjoyed the HIM profession, but teaching the most. She cared about her students and always went out of her way to assure a thorough education experience for them. One year, she rented a van and took many of them to Chicago to attend the AHIMA Annual meeting.

Many knew Mary as a colleague from her days in hospitals in the Flint area. She was always a professional and enjoyed being involved in MHIMA as well.

In honor of Mary K. Edgerly, Ferris State University has established a memorial fund. Mary obtained a B.S. in Health Information Technology and Health Information Management as well as a Masters in Information Systems Management from FSU. She went on to serve as a Medical Records faculty member. In addition to her service to students at Ferris, Mary was an active member of MHIMA where she served in many different capacities. She was part of the original task force investigating updating the MHIMA legal manual.

Mary passed away in July 2008. The funds donated in honor of Mary will benefit students in the Health Information Technology and Health Information Management programs. Checks should be made payable to FSU with a note in the memo section for Mary Edgerly Memorial.

Please send memorial contributions to:

Marsha Allen, RHIA
3311 David Bee Street
Muskegon, MI 49444-3619

Mary will be greatly missed by students, colleagues and friends.



– UNKNOWN AUTHOR

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Ladies and Gentlemen!

And the Distinguished Member for 2009 is...

To all Michigan Health Information Association Members:

As we begin to plan for our 2009 annual convention at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, it is time to consider honoring one of Michigan's "Best and Brightest", by conferring the Order of Distinguished Member.

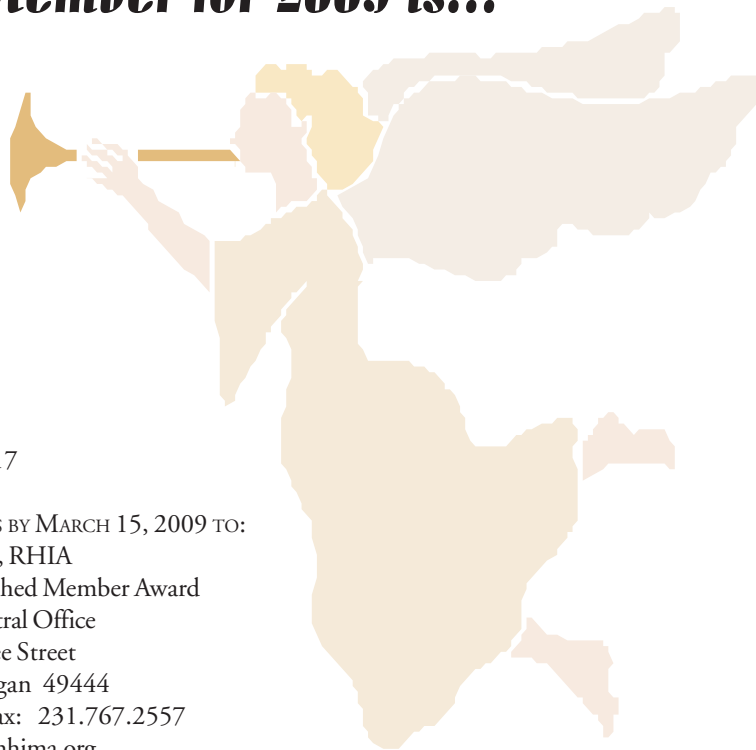
Nominating information should include:

- Home and work addresses and telephone numbers
- Association activities at local, state, and national levels
- Affiliate professional organization activities
- Other contributions to the profession

For required nomination documents, contact the Central Office at 231-767-9717

PLEASE MAIL OR FAX NOMINATIONS BY MARCH 15, 2009 TO:

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ELIGIBILITY: Candidates must have made an outstanding contribution to the profession in one or more of the following: service to the profession, outstanding achievement in professional practices, leadership in education, contributions to research or published materials. They must be a member in good standing of MHIMA, and if retired, a credentialed member in good standing upon retirement. This award may not be given each year at the discretion of Project members.

CRITERIA:

1. Service to the Association
 - a. **National Participation – AHIMA**
President, Director, Council/Sub-Council Chair or Member, Task Force Chair or Member.
 - b. **State Participation – MHIMA**
President, Officer/Director Committee/Project Chair or Member, Delegate.
 - c. **Regional Participation Officer, Committee Chair or Member**
 - d. **Affiliate Organizations Participation – (HIMSS, MAQUAP, MHA, etc.)**
Officer/Director, Committee Chair or Member
2. Dissemination of knowledge of practice to others in the field.
 - a. **Recognized resource person in area of specialty**
 - b. **Development of innovative administration and management techniques**
 - c. **Involvement in passage of vital legislation**
3. Leadership in Education
 - a. **Participation in Educational Programs, Advisory Committee Chair or Member, Clinical Supervisor, Instructor (adjunct, in-service training), Speaker-Lecturer (workshop, seminar, meeting)**
 - b. **Contributions to Education Development of educational strategies and/or Media Development of innovative methods of instruction (in-service, formal educational programs)**
4. Research and Publications
 - a. **Publication of written material Journal article, textbook, chapter in textbook, instructional manuals, book reviews, newspaper/ newsletter article**
5. Other
 - a. **Rank overall contributions to profession on a scale from 1-10.**

President's Message

The House of Delegates is steaming along! Elsewhere in this publication, you will be reading about many changes that occurred this year at the House of Delegates. The actual voting session occurred in the late afternoon, but the morning and early afternoon were devoted to discussion groups about the topics of the HOT TOPICS.

- New credential in Health Data Analytics passed
- Bylaws Amendment passed allowing the Council on Certification to become the Commission on Certification of Health Informatics and Information Management Professionals AND allowing for an independent ability to certify credentials through the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).
- A resolution on Privacy and Security was passed



MHIMA updates include:

- Jan Crocker has been elected to the AHIMA nominating committee.
- Charlie Robinson, Sally Rynberg and Karen Schmidt along with your president, will be representing MHIMA in local MiHIN activities.
- Michigan won first in two of the three coding RACE awards from AHIMA, and won second in the third award. That brings significant coding recognition to the state, and to Sheila Bowlds, our CDIP Coordinator. It is a monetary award as well!
- Rochelle Cooper is coordinating the meeting this year at the Soaring Eagle, and is searching the Traverse City area for the 2012 annual meeting site.
- We have tried to expand the communications to members by way of Walker's Wire and other e-mail blasts.
- We were able to add about \$2800 to the coffers of the Michigan Medical Record Charities due to the successful Silent Auction and the fun Golf Outing.
- Because of the new tax reporting for non-profits, we are researching the new requirements and potentially selecting a new CPA to handle our auditing and reporting functions.

As always, if you want to chat about anything this association can do for you, please feel free to contact me at nwalker@beaumont-hospitals.com.



Happy Holidays to You and Your Families!

*Nancy Walker, MS, RHIA
MHIMA President*

MHIMA MEMBERSHIP October 2008

MICHIGAN HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

CLASSIFICATION	MEMBERSHIP		CHANGE
	8-16-08	10-20-08	
Active RHIT/RHIA/CCS CCS-P/CCA/CHP	1716	1744	+28
Active Senior	38	40	+2
Student	449	514	+65
Graduate	164	149	-15
Honorary	2	2	-
Corporate	13	13	-
	2382	2462	+80
Certified Nonmembers	973	919	-54*

PLEASE NOTE: WHEN CHOOSING YOUR CATEGORY OF MEMBERSHIP, BE AWARE YOUR CHOICE OF SELECTING A STUDENT CLASSIFICATION MAY PREVENT YOU FROM VOTING IN NATIONAL AND STATE ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS.

*AHIMA changed the way they count these members. The number includes all previous members even if dues have not been paid.

Be Creative and Informative!

If you would like to contribute
to an upcoming issue of

FOCUS

please e-mail the editor at
pchapo@botsford.org

ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN TEAM

Submitted by Marsha Allen, RHIA

The Environmental Scan Team met on Sunday, October 12, 2008. The Team discussed the 2008 Environmental Scan aggregate results. There were 38 Component State Associations (CSAs) and 5 Practice Councils who responded. After discussion, the team felt that all CSAs should be participating in this practice. It helps AHIMA develop the strategic priorities for the next year, and then is also assists the states in developing their strategic priorities. There was discussion about adding it to the CSA profile that is mandatory to be completed each year for AHIMA.

Another important factor discussed is that individual member input is necessary in selecting priorities. There was discussion about creating a best practice for getting member input and then putting it into a presentation that can be sent to all states to help them obtain and compile the information. One suggestion was a Power Point presentation that could be sent to CSA's to take to their membership and allow a CE for the presentation. In some states only the Boards complete the scan form, but it is very important that all members have input.

There was some discussion about the time line for submitting the environmental scan as well. If a first reminder is sent in January to get the CSA's thinking about starting the scan and then the form can be sent in about April as a reminder that it is due by June 30, along with the required CSA Profile. In 2008 it was sent only a month before it was actually due, and many states had already had their annual meetings where they usually get the forms completed by the members.

The Team then discussed the comparison of 2007 to 2008 environmental scans. The top three items in each category appears to be similar for the two years, which indicates that the items listed are still pertinent issues.

There was also some discussion about creating a new name that may explain what the Environmental Scan process is. This may not be necessary if a presentation is created to assist the CSAs with implementing a successful process. The following were identified as the top two of each category for 2008:

Customer Environment

- Access to continuing education and skills development
- Recruitment of members and students, including credentialed/non-members

Economic Environment

- Promotion and marketing of the profession/credential
- Shortage of workforce especially in coding, transcription and registrars

Technological Environment

- Preparation of new roles in technology, EHR and informatics
- Recognize, embrace encourage the challenge of different roles for HIM professionals

Social Environment

- Interoperability of health information across the continuum
- Infiltration of other professions, i.e.: IT, finance, nursing, etc.

Political Environment

- Implementation of ICD-10
- Reimbursement changes negatively impacting healthcare operations

Geophysical Environment

- Recruitment and retention of volunteer leadership
- Enhanced communication to members

HOD APPROVES NEW CERTIFIED HEALTH DATA ANALYST CREDENTIAL

On Sunday, October 12, 2008, the House of Delegates approved a new certification for health data analysts. The Certified Health Data Analyst (CHDA) designation was created to meet the demands of an HIM industry that continues to become more data-driven and data dependent.

Individuals who earn the CHDA designation will achieve recognition of their expertise in health data analysis and validation of their mastery of this domain. The certification will provide practitioners with the knowledge to acquire, manage, analyze, interpret, and transform data into accurate, consistent, and timely information, while balancing the "big picture" strategic vision with day-to-day details. CHDA-credentialed professionals will exhibit broad organization knowledge and the ability to communicate with individuals and group at multiple levels, both internally and externally.

The CHDA examination will launch in December 2008 and can be taken at more than 150 Prometric test centers across the United States. The cost of the exam for the first 100 test-takers will be \$150 for members and \$170 for nonmembers. That standard cost is expected to increase next year.

For more information about the new certification or to download an application form, visit www.ahima.org/certification. Questions may be emailed to the AHIMA Certification Department at certification@ahima.org.

From AHIMA Today October 13, 2008

TOM DONNELLY RETIRES

Congratulations to Tom Donnelly, RHIA on his retirement from Munson Health Center on August 29, 2008 following 35 years of service as the HIM Director. Tom is an MHIMA Past President and a Distinguished Member as well. Enjoy your life after retirement!!!

RECENT ONLINE HOD VOTES

Between September 15-26, 2008, the House of Delegates voted electronically on two issues: revisions to the standards for ethical coding and a bylaws amendment on the nominating committee. Both issues passed. The revised Standards of Ethical Coding can be found online in the State Leaders and HOD Community of Practice and will be posted at www.ahima.org. The bylaws amendment specifies the number of members of the nominating committee appointed by the Board of Directors each year and increases the terms of the appointed member positions from one to two-year terms to stay consistent with the terms of elected members of the committee and to ensure appropriate continuity of membership to sustain the committee's processes. More information on these votes can be found in the State Leaders and HOD Community.

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Important Notice to all former NWMHIMA Members

This is to notify all past members of the Northwest Michigan Health Information Management Association that effective December 31, 2008, NWMHIMA will cease to be an affiliated local association of the Michigan Health Information Association.

As many of you are aware, NWMHIMA has not been an active association for many years. Current regulatory reporting requirements, tax reporting and professional affiliation agreement requirements have been made that necessitate this action.

The fund balance will be turned over to the Michigan Medical Record Charities Scholarship Fund. This fund is used to promote the continuing education of members and students who will become members.

Members living in this regional area are encouraged to choose an active local association near you. If you need suggestions as to which local association best fits your local, please feel free to go to www.mhima.org for more information.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Denise Holstege by e-mail or phone.

Denise Holstege, RHIT, CCS
deholstege@gmail.com
231.728.4695



TEAM: Professional Development and Recognition

Next follow-up team discussion 12-16-08

Action Forum:

#1: AHIMA's Council of Certification (COC) pursuit to revise AHIMA Bylaws on the Certification Governance and 3rd Party Accreditation.

The COC proposal to revise the AHIMA Bylaws and specifically transfer the powers and duties of approving the standards for Initial Certification and the standards for Certification maintenance from the HOD to the COC was Approved.

What does this mean and how will this affect you as a member?

AHIMA is looking at two highly recognized 3rd Party Agencies for oversight:

- National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) (Health Professions currently accredited by NCCA consist of: American Academy of Nurse Practitioners; American Association of Critical-Care Nurses; American Board for Occupational Health Nurses, Podiatry, Opticianry; Council on Certification of Nurse Anesthetist; American Midwifery Certification Board; American Registry of Radiologic Technologist, etc)
- American National Standards Institute (ANSI) (Health Professions currently accredited by ANSI consist of: American Society for Clinical Pathology; International Information Systems Security Certification Consortium, Inc.; American Board of Multiple Specialties in Podiatry, etc)

“What is 3rd party accreditation? Accreditation is the voluntary process by which an independent and nongovernmental agency (i.e., 3rd party) formally grants a time-limited recognition to an institution, organization, business, or other entity after verifying that it has met predetermined and standardized criteria, usually in the areas of competency, authority, or credibility. Third party accreditation exists in literally all industries and sectors of business, nationally and internationally. Two common examples include CHEA recognition of commissions on accreditation and JCAHO recognition of hospitals.”

Ref: <http://cop.ahima.org/COP/HODTeamProfessionalDevelopmentandRecognition/Resources>

Successful achievement of 3rd party accreditation by AHIMA's COC will:

1. Demonstrates a competitive with independent evaluation of our core competency.
 - Employers and regulators need assurance that the certification standards are valid, reliable, fair, equitable, and legally defensible.
2. Establish an unequivocal point of differentiation among our competitors and the value our credentials.
 - An 'accredited' credential to distinguish a Professional vs. Membership growth.
3. Promote and market AHIMA both domestic and international.
4. Quality awareness and enhanced communication with Accreditation.
5. Continuous improvement of our certification program.

The of the COC: Must be organized in a way that no one group of stakeholders has greater influence over the work of the COC and the standards for certification. The COC will include credentialed professionals, members of the associated membership organization(s), employers, and the general public.

1. All COC will be credentialed HIM:
 - 60% non-members appointed by COC (stakeholders, general public & HIM)
 - 40% members elected by HIM professionals

2. Consist of a panel of impartial experts.

This varies from the current structure, which is composed of entirely all AHIMA members and could be construed as having undue influence or conflict of interest.

The HOD team will still play a crucial role in collaborating with and advising the COC on the development of new and existing credential programs.

What is the cost of the 3rd party Accreditation to AHIMA organization?

According to the COC the cost to the AHIMA board would not be significant. An approximate cost of \$25,000 to \$30,000 a year for both ANSI and NCCA and with the increase to council ~\$50,000 yearly. If there was an increase to AHIMA members it was estimated at one dollar.

House Of Delegates (HOD) Meeting

Seattle, Washington 10-12-08

By Melody Czapski



from the **MHIMA**
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Presented by



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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2008

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2008

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2009 CPT Update and Coding Round Table and Video Conference*

COST: Members - \$90.00 ■ Non-Members (includes maintenance of CE) - \$105.00 ■ Student/Educator (one educator per program) - \$25.00

TIME: Registration – 9:00a.m. Seminar – 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

DEADLINE: December 1, 2008; \$25.00 processing fee will be maintained if cancellation required. Bring 2009 CPT Manual and highlighter. Join us for this important coding and compliance presentation that will cover 2009 Outpatient ICD-9-CM and CPT/HCPCS coding updates, related use and compliance notices. The presentation will include documentation pertinence and severity of illness review information for specific service lines, and will feature specific coding discussions for some of the new codes.

SPEAKER: Marion Salwin, BS, CPC is the Director of Education & Policy Development at Henry Ford Health System with over 20 years of experience in health care. She is a Certified PMCC Instructor with the AAPC and has been teaching professional coding for 5 years through her company Premier Coding Resources, LLC. Marion has extensive coding and compliance experience and has held many related positions in hospitals in the Detroit area. She has also coauthored an article for the Academic Journal of Emergency Medicine.

After lunch at each site, the coding presentation will be completed and then there will be a Coding Roundtable addressing CPT Coding and issues. The coding Round Table will be presented and facilitated by a member of the MHIMA Coded Data Integrity Panel (CDIP).

***If you are interested in receiving the presentation via VideoConference through the Marquette General Telehealth, please contact them at telehealth@mgf.org and contact the MHIMA Central Office. There will be a separate form.**

Please make Checks payable to: MHIMA

REGISTRATION: Mail to MHIMA Central Office, 3311 David-Bee Street, Muskegon, Michigan 49444-3619

CONTACT: Marsha Allen at 231.767.9717 Fax 231.767.2557 Email marsha@mhima.org

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REGISTER FOR: (Check one membership type and one site)

- \$90 Member
- \$105 Non-member (includes Maintenance of CE)
- \$25 Student/Educator
- Thursday, December 4, 2008
Davenport University-Livonia
- Friday, December 5, 2008
Ferris State University, Grand Rapids



News Release

SOCIAL SECURITY

Social Security Announces Nationwide Launch of Compassionate Allowances

Process Will Fast Track Applications For People with Cancers and Rare Diseases

Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security, today announced the national rollout of the agency's Compassionate Allowances initiative, a way to expedite the processing of disability claims for applicants whose medical conditions are so severe that their conditions obviously meet Social Security's standards.

"Getting benefits quickly to people with the most severe medical conditions is both the right and the compassionate thing to do," Commissioner Astrue said. "This initiative will allow us to make decisions on these cases in a matter of days, rather than months or years."

Social Security is launching this expedited decision process with a total of 50 conditions. Over time, more diseases and conditions will be added. A list of the first 50 impairments – 25 rare diseases and 25 cancers – can be found at www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances.

Before announcing this initiative, Social Security held public hearings to receive information from experts on rare diseases and cancers. The agency also enlisted the assistance of the National Institutes of Health.

Compassionate Allowances is the second piece of the agency's two-track, fast-track system for certain disability claims. When combined with the agency's Quick Disability Determination process, and once fully implemented, this two-track system could result in six to nine percent of disability claims, the cases for as much as a quarter million people, being decided in an average of six to eight days.

"This is an outstanding achievement for the Social Security Administration," said Peter Saltonstall, President of the National Organization for Rare Disorders. "It has taken Social Security less than a year to develop this much-needed program that will benefit those whose claims merit expedited consideration based on the nature of their disease. Disability backlogs cause a hardship for patients and their families. Commissioner Astrue and his staff deserve our thanks for a job well done."

"Unfortunately, many hardworking people with cancer may not only face intensive treatment to save their lives, but they may also find themselves truly unable to perform their daily work-related activities and as result, may face serious financial concerns, such as the loss of income and the cost of treatment," said Daniel E. Smith, president of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. "The Social Security Administration's Compassionate Allowances program will help streamline the disability benefits application process so that benefits are quickly provided to those who need them most."

"This is America, and it simply is not acceptable for people to wait years for a final decision on a disability claim," Commissioner Astrue said. "I am committed to a process that is as fair and speedy as possible. The launch of Compassionate Allowances is another step to ensuring Americans with disabilities, especially those with certain cancers and rare diseases, get the benefits they need quickly."

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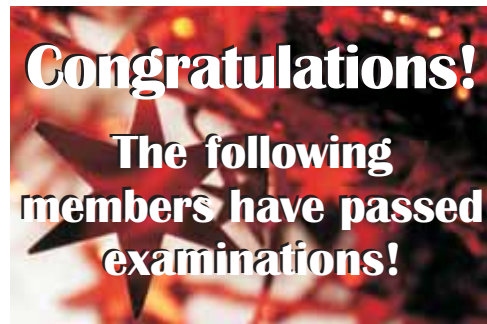
TREASURER'S REPORT



Total MHIMA Assets

October 17, 2008

\$37,158.64



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7/93	VanBelkum Companies 535 Cascade West Parkway SE Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546	Greg Ingersoll Senior Account Representative (616) 974-8200	www.vanbelkum.com
1/94	Keen Imaging 15959 Kroupa Road Traverse City, Michigan 49686	Karen Lobbs President (231) 223-9474	keenimg@aol.com
3/94	The Rybar Group, Inc. 1495 Dauner Road Fenton, Michigan 48430-1561	Claudine Hildreth Marketing Director (810) 750-6822	www.therybargroup.com
10/96	Dictaphone, a division of NUANCE 6592 Braemer Avenue South Noblesville, Indiana 46062	Curt Bragg Regional Sales Manager (888) 471-3463	www.nuance.com
8/98	Dolbey and Company 7182 Gateway Park Drive Clarkston, Michigan 48346	Mark Kuenzel Regional Vice President (888) 384-7828, Ext.155	www.dolbeyco.com
3/03	Lubaway, Masten & Co., LTD 27780 Novi Road, Suite 255 Novi, Michigan 48377	Terri McIntosh (248) 347-1416	www.LubawayMasten.com
1/05	Moretti Transcription Solutions 471 W. South Street, Suite 41B Kalamazoo, MI 49007	Jon Moretti Director, New Business Development (269) 343-0118	www.morettigroup.net
2/05	CareTech Solutions, Inc. 901 Wilshire Drive, Suite 100 Troy, Michigan 48084	Leslie Mack Director, HIM (248) 233-3043	www.caretechsolutions.com
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3/07	MedPlus, Incorporated 4690 Parkway Drive Cincinnati, Ohio 45040	Vicki Joyce Marketing Events Coordinator (800) 444-6235	www.medplus.com
1/08	The Whittaker Group Healthcare Search Consultants 1876 Westbourne Court, Suite 102b Chelsea, Michigan 48118	Michelle Whittaker-McCracken Healthcare Managing Partner (734) 475-9300	www.wgsearch.com

MICHIGAN HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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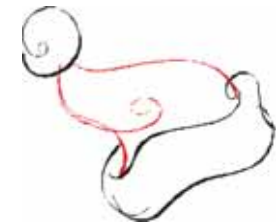
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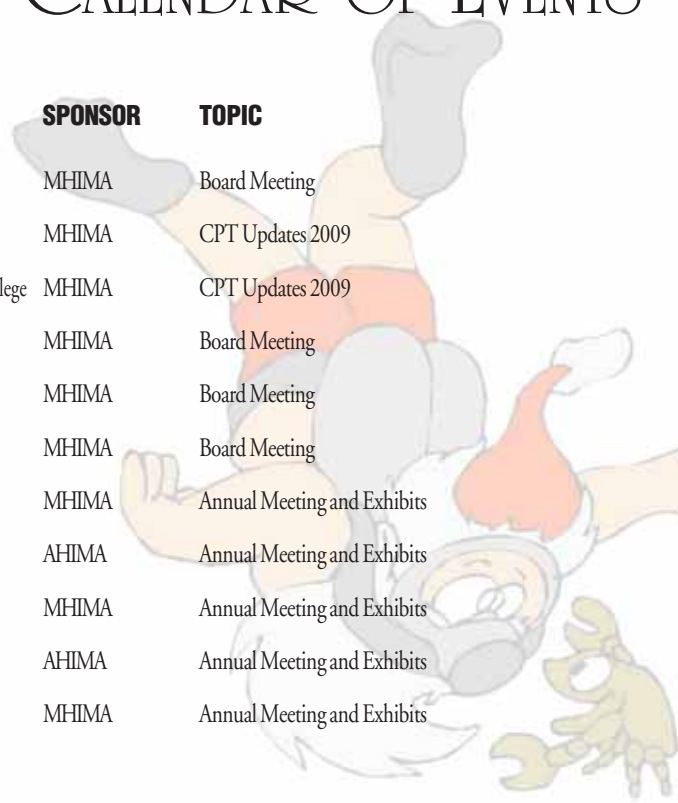
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Michigan Health Information Management Association

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



DATE	LOCATION	SPONSOR	TOPIC	CONTACT	PHONE
11/21/08	MHA, Lansing	MHIMA	Board Meeting	MHIMA	231-767-9717
12/4/08	Davenport University, Livonia	MHIMA	CPT Updates 2009	MHIMA	231-767-9717
12/5/08	Ferris Grand Rapids Community College	MHIMA	CPT Updates 2009	MHIMA	231-767-9717
1/23/09	MHA, Lansing	MHIMA	Board Meeting	MHIMA	231-767-9717
3/20/09	MHA, Lansing	MHIMA	Board Meeting	MHIMA	231-767-9717
5/12/09	Soaring Eagle, Mt. Pleasant	MHIMA	Board Meeting	MHIMA	231-767-9717
5/13-15/09	Soaring Eagle, Mt. Pleasant	MHIMA	Annual Meeting and Exhibits	MHIMA	231-767-9717
10/3-8/09	Dallas, Texas	AHIMA	Annual Meeting and Exhibits	AHIMA	www.ahima.org
5/12-14/10	Marriott, Troy	MHIMA	Annual Meeting and Exhibits	MHIMA	231-767-9717
9/25-30/10	Orlando, Florida	AHIMA	Annual Meeting and Exhibits	AHIMA	www.ahima.org
5/11-13/11	Soaring Eagle, Mt. Pleasant	MHIMA	Annual Meeting and Exhibits	MHIMA	231-767-9717

MHIMA

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