

# MHIMA e-Alert

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Volume 27

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**MHIMA** *an affiliate of AHIMA-American Health Information Management Association*



### President's Message

It's almost time for the holidays! The unusually warm weather over the last couple of weeks doesn't make me FEEL like the holidays are upon us, but the Christmas decorations in the stores certainly remind me! And isn't it annoying that many stores bring out the Christmas decorations before Halloween? I always want to ask the store manager, "What about Thanksgiving?"

Thanksgiving is a time that we can reflect on our lives and think about what is really important to us. I have been doing that quite a bit lately, as I recently suffered a loss in my family. My grandpa passed away at 92 years just a couple of weeks ago. Although I have been extremely saddened by his passing, I am thankful for the memories we've made together... like fishing for bluegill and crappie in the lakes of Southern Illinois, or going out for pancakes at Bob Evans (our all time favorite), or playing Old Maid and Go Fish when I was a little girl.

I'm thankful for things in my professional life as well. This is such an exciting time for healthcare, and the constant changes certainly keep me busy!! I am thankful to be in a profession that excites me and motivates me to continue learning and engaging in my career.

I'm also thankful for the FANTASTIC group of people that support our organization. This group goes above and beyond typical volunteer expectations, and works very hard to ensure the success of MHIMA. Speaking of MHIMA,

What are you thankful for this year? I encourage you to take a few moments from your busy day and reflect on this subject.

# Happy Thanksgiving!

Jen

### MHIMA Vision:

*MHIMA will dedicate efforts and resources to serving members by increasing, promoting, and perpetuating the visibility of the health information management profession through education, communication and advocacy.*



## October Shooting Star

This month, our Shooting Star Recognition goes to Judy Bielby. Judy is an active member of MHIMA, serving on the ICD-10 Task Force. In addition, she has recently accepted to serve as MHIMA's liaison to AHIMA's Medicaid ICD-10 Project. Judy will be attending training sessions to find out what we can do as a state organization to help our state Medicaid providers successfully implement ICD-10.

Thanks Judy, for stepping up to the plate!

## Health Information Exchange (HIE) Update

Regional and State Activities in MO and KS

Presented by Stacie Durkin



### **Regional Activities: eHealthAlign (formerly KCBHIE)**

eHealthAlign is a Not-for-Profit Regional Exchange serving providers in 25 counties including 13 counties in Kansas and 12 in Missouri. There are over 2 million residents in the service area located in urban, suburban and rural. There are 36 hospitals, approximately 3000 Primary Care Providers, 35 Safety Net clinics, and numerous behavioral health facilities.

### **CEO Search Continues**

The Formational Board of Directors has engaged EFL & Associates for the national CEO recruitment. EFL specialize in non-profits and health care recruitments and has been responsible for placing CEOs for Children's Mercy, Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City and the REACH Foundation.

### **Vendor Selected**

eHealthAlign signed with ICA of Nashville in late September. The project kick off was held on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Participation Agreements are under review by the legal departments of first adopters. Readiness assessments will begin in the near future. eHealthAlign continues to review existing policies and draft any missing policies.

### **State HIE Efforts:**

#### **Missouri**

The Board of Directors appointed Officers. Missouri is in the process of engaging a search firm for president of the organization. Chairs of the Technology and Operations group and the Legal and Policy work groups have been officially appointed. The contract with the state is being finalized and they are waiting to hear from the ONC.

Missouri has engaged McNatt Consulting to draft the vendor RFP. Missouri anticipates a vendor to be selected during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2011.

#### **Kansas**

Held their first Board of Directors meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup>. They elected their 1<sup>st</sup> year President and will begin establishing their workgroups. They will start the drafting of the vendor RFP within the next few weeks.

The Kansas REC had an on site visit from ONC receiving strong review. ONC said they were one of the leading organizations in the country. They have signed up 300 physicians which is approximately 100 physicians more than other RECs.



## Student Corner

Thank you students of the Penn Valley HIT program who submitted questions for the Student Corner! Following are the responses received.

### 2010 Freshmen Class's Question to MHIMA

A lot of us are middle-aged and embarking on a new career in a new field. Given that the existing HIM workforce is aging, how likely would a prospective employer be to consider an inexperienced middle-age applicant over a younger graduate when filling openings in HIM?

### 2011 Graduating Class's Question to MHIMA

Most every advertised opening states 2 to 5 years experience. Our instructors encourage us to volunteer in HIM and related areas and we get PPE in the program, how else can we, as new graduates, meet the experience prerequisite for these openings?

Congratulations on choosing Health Information Management for your career! Don't think of starting a career at middle age as a disadvantage. Think of all the life experience you will bring to your new career and your employer! After all, anyone who has survived raising children through their teenage years can certainly handle any challenge that comes their way. Seven years ago I was exactly where you are today and so I can relate to your concerns, but you have chosen a wonderful career that can take you on an amazing journey. My suggestions for you are:

Make career goals and plan for the future. Where do you want to be in 5 years?

Join/stay active in AHIHMA and MHIMA. Did you know they both have job boards?

Sit for your certification exam as soon as possible. Studies show that those who take the exam within six months of graduation have the highest passing rate.

Think outside the box when job searching. HIMMERS can fill a variety of roles! Apply for all jobs that interest you regardless of whether they say RHIT/RHIA preferred; many employers will consider new grads if you show interest. Make sure you have an up to date resume and a great cover letter (not a generic version from the internet). Have a positive, can-do attitude in your interviews. Remember all the life experience you bring to the table and how those experiences will help you successfully manage any challenge you face at work.

Volunteer! I was hesitant to volunteer. I didn't think I had any skills that were valuable, but I can't say enough positive things about how rewarding my volunteer experience has been. I have been fortunate to work with so many awesome people I would otherwise never have met and have learned so much; not only about HIM but about myself.

Good Luck!

Kathy Byerley RHIT, CHPS

SSM St. Clare Health Center HIM Team Leader

MHIMA Board Director and Newsletter Committee Chair

### From Elizabeth Baucom, RHIA, SSM HIM Product Specialist:

*To the 2011 Freshman Class:*

I believe many employers would embrace the life experience of a 'middle-aged' individual. Given that many Managers and Directors can also be older, hiring individuals who are 'like' them can be to your benefit.

*To The 2011 Graduating Class:*

Don't be too deterred by postings that list 2 to 5 years experience. If you think you might be qualified and are interested in the position: Apply anyway! The worst thing that could happen is that you could be disappointed, but gain invaluable experience by interviewing. Many Managers appreciate a new graduate and may find a place for you in the organization or know of other places that are looking for a fresh face.

Old, (Ok, Middle Aged) or Young-we NEED you!



## *Student Corner*

**From Sharon Korzdorfer, MPA RHIT, Director Health Information Management-Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City, MHIMA Board Director of Communication:**

*To the 2010 Freshmen Class*

Very open to consider - with age comes also experience from other fields as well as the desire to apply wisdom and life knowledge - I would not let age deter you.

*To the 2011 Graduating Class*

I would try applying to some of the positions anyway to see if the 2-5 is really a must if you can show that you are knowledgeable in coding; also look for mentors in the field to see if you can get some experience that way as well as taking any position in a HIM department and then working with the coding department maybe as needed so you can slowly learn and become an asset.

**From Jeff McGraw, RHIT, Director of Health Information Management-Bothwell Regional Health Center, MHIMA Past President:**

*To the 2010 Freshmen Class*

I wouldn't be overly concerned with age when applying for positions. There are many things employers take into consideration when filling an open position. Age, whether we are talking about youth or mid-life is a two edged sword. While the younger applicant offers the enthusiasm of youth, the older applicant offers maturity and stability.

The Baby Boom generation (1946-1964) tends to be more loyal employees and stay in one job longer. Generation X (1965-1977) and Y (1978-2000) generally speaking, expect to have several jobs in their careers, so most employers don't look at the younger employee and think "I'll be able to keep this employee around a long time" while thinking that the middle-aged applicant only has a few years before retiring.

I am speaking as a "returning learner" who made a middle-age career change. I entered the HIM field when I was in my 40's. I used my age to my advantage, talking in interviews about the knowledge I have gained through the experiences of life. While this may be a new field to you, many of the tools you have are tools that are needed in any position; problem solving skills, ability to get along with co-workers, punctuality, etc.

*To the 2011 Graduating Class*

Regarding advertisements stating "X" years of experience, apply anyway. If you have a good resume, you may get an interview. Then you will have the opportunity to sell yourself to the employer. "X" years of experience may be the advertised requirement, but many times it is a "want" not a "need." If you manage to get called for an interview, the hiring manager may decide that you are a better fit for the open position than someone who meets the experience requirement. Speaking as a hiring manager, I have hired inexperienced, graduate coders over coders with many years of experience, merely because I felt that the new graduate was a better fit in our organization.

**From Regina Everett, MPA RHIA, MPA, FCHCEM, Director Health Information Management and Compliance-Grace Hill Neighborhood Health Centers, Inc., MHIMA Board Director of Education:**

*To the 2010 Freshmen Class*

When an applicant submits an application or resume for a job, employers are not able to determine the age. It is actually illegal to discriminate because of age. I think that the experience level is the biggest focus for an employer. I recommend volunteering, working as a temp, or part time to get as much experience as possible.

*To the 2011 Graduating Class*

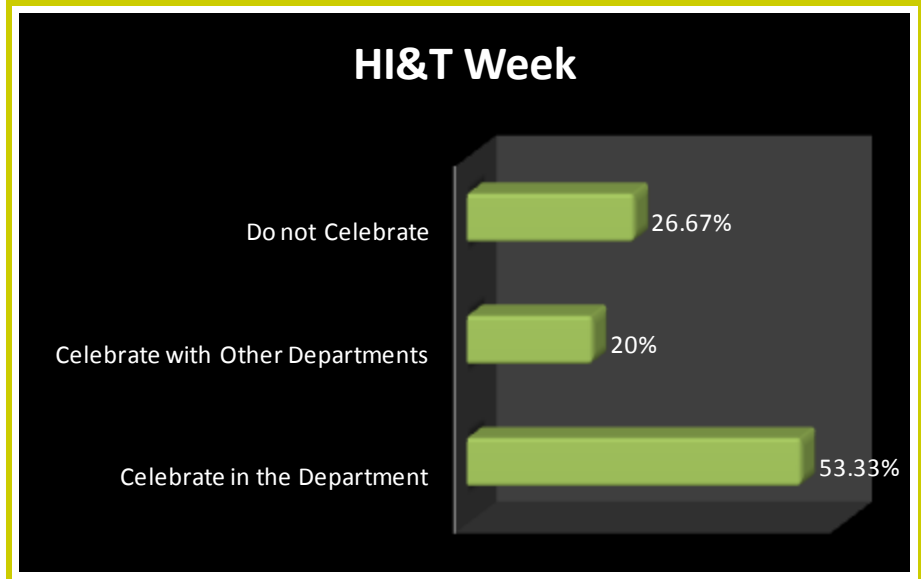
Volunteering is the key. Once you complete your practicum, contact your facilitator to see if you can work on a special project. Even if you spend 4 hours a day or two days a week, you will be gaining knowledge. This project experience may be what a future employer is looking for.



## Hot Topics Survey Results

HI&T Week is a showcase for the thousands of health information management (HIM) professionals who perform their duties masterfully throughout the year. The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) is honored to provide support, representation, and training to HIM professionals for these valuable contributions to the healthcare industry. Last month's survey asked, "Do you/your facility celebrate HI&T Week and how do you celebrate?" As the graph shows, 53.33% said they have activities in their department, 20% said they have activities that involve other departments and 26.67% said they do not celebrate.

We hope you enjoy our surveys and thank you for participating! This month's survey results will be reported in the January e-Alert.



## November Hot Topics Survey

Gain knowledge of vocabularies required for stage 1 of meaningful use by using the meaningful use vocabulary toolkit. A subgroup of the Clinical Terminology and Classification Practice Council developed this toolkit in an effort to help healthcare professionals better understand the vocabulary requirements related to meaningful use.

The toolkit includes resources such as an overview of the vocabulary standards, implementation issues, a sample job description, and a listing of resources. The toolkit is located on the [AHIMA Web site](#), in the [Body of Knowledge \(BoK\)](#), and as a link in a number of CoP communities including Clinical Terminology and Vocabulary.

This month's survey asks if readers will take advantage of this new tool.

1. Yes, I will definitely take advantage of the toolkit.
2. No, won't be using the toolkit.
3. I don't know if I will use the toolkit but I will use the AHIMA page as reference for [Clinical Terminologies and Vocabularies](#)



[Click here to vote](#)



## *April 2011 Conference Update*

We have scheduled an April 27th break-out session with guest speaker, Kelly McLendon, RHIA, who will present information on HITECH. Mr. McLendon is known for such publications as "EHR Best Practice Tools" and his "Privacy Manual" and "Legal Health Record Toolkit".


Branson has a lot to offer in the way of attractions, such as the "Stone Hill Winery", which has free tours that run every 15 minutes! According to Stone Hill Winery's website the winery is one of Missouri's oldest and most popular attractions. On the tour, you will see first hand the winemaking and bottling process as well as a tasting of Stone Hill's wines and juices at the end of the tour. If you don't have time for the tour according to their site you can go straight to the tasting!

Don't miss out on this fun opportunity; we look forward to seeing you in Branson soon!

The

Missouri Health Information  
Management Association's  
59th Annual Meeting

Chateau on the Lake  
Branson, MO  
April 27-29, 2011





## *Calling All Crafters*

2011 MHIMA Annual Meeting  
Branson, MO  
April 27-29, 2011

"Dollars for Scholars" Silent Auction: **A Call for Crafters**

The silent auction has become a popular part of our annual meeting, and we are looking to expand the number of items available and raise more funds for student scholarships. We have added the graduate scholarship and would like to raise most or all of the money through the silent auction.

In keeping with the craft theme of the Branson area, we would like to showcase our many members who make handmade items. Quilts, afghans, knitted or crocheted items, paintings, jewelry, photography, ceramics, and other items would all be perfect donations to make this silent auction a success. If you do not make handmade items, consider purchasing something to donate from a craft show where handmade items are for sale. A basket containing homemade soaps and other personal care items would also be great to have. We are beginning our campaign now so you have time to make or purchase something, as we are hoping to have all of the auction items from donations.

We are putting together a team from around the state and are looking for representatives from each regional organization. These representatives would help solicit donations, collect items for the auction, and assist with the event. If you would like to be a part of this, please send an email to Sharon Farley at [Treasurer@mohima.org](mailto:Treasurer@mohima.org).

If you have any questions or want to let us know that you can donate an item, please contact Sharon Farley at [Treasurer@mohima.org](mailto:Treasurer@mohima.org).



# Calendar of Upcoming Events

November



December



The Newsletter Committee wishes everyone Happy Holidays! We will not be sending a newsletter for the month of December. You can expect the next newsletter in January, 2011!

Stay in touch with all the latest MHIMA events on the [MHIMA](#) website on the [Calendar of Events](#) page.



## MHIMA Directory

### MHIMA Board Directory

- Jennifer Melvin, RHIA - *President, Chief Delegate*
- Barb Beckett, RHIT - *President-Elect*
- Jeff McGraw, RHIT - *Past President*
- Kathy Byerley, RHIT, CHPS - *Director*
- Sharon Korzdorfer, MPA, RHIT - *Director*
- Regina Everett, MPA, RHIA - *Director*
- Erin Sweeney, RHIA - *Director*
- Julie Wolter, MA, RHIA, FAHIMA - *Annual Meeting Chairperson*
- Ann Nowlin, RHIT - *Central Office Coordinator*
- Sharon Farley, RHIA - *Treasurer*
- Sue LaBonte, RHIA, CHP - *Delegate*
- Maggie Gambill, RHIA CCS-P - *Delegate*
- Jane DeSpiegalaere-Wegner, RHIA, CCS - *Delegate*
- Michelle Kornfeld, RHIT CPC - *Alternate Delegate*

### Regional Links

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