

November 25, 2008

MHIMA e-Alert

Volume 4

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## President's Message

Wow! It's hard to believe another year is almost gone, isn't it? It doesn't seem that it has been more than 6 months since our annual meeting last May in St. Charles; I guess that means I am getting old!

With Thanksgiving coming up later this week and Christmas and New Years shortly afterwards, it's the time of year for reflection on the past and thinking about what we have to be thankful. I have had the pleasure of serving on the Board of Directors for 3 years now, the first 2 as a Delegate and this last year as President-elect. One of the things I am thankful for is the hard work and time given by the other Board members and all of the volunteers who work so hard for our organization. I won't name any names here, because I'm sure I would inadvertently leave someone out, but you all know who you are, and I sincerely want to thank you for all of your efforts that keep MHIMA running smoothly. If you go to our web site and look at the list of Board members, realize that for each Board member, there are 4 or more volunteers working with them on various projects or serving on committees, such as the committee that puts out this newsletter. Without them, it would be very difficult for us to communicate with our members and deliver the information that we need to get to you. Another thing I am thankful for is you, our membership.

The past few years, MHIMA has done many things to receive recognition at the National level, such as Julie Wolter's and Marsha Dolan's work on the PHR and the Privacy and Security Resolution submitted by Michelle Kornfeld and me. Without your membership and support, none of this would have been possible. So, thank you, thank you all for your membership and support.

I hope everyone has their fill of Turkey and dressing this Thursday and has ample opportunity to reflect on that for which you are thankful. It is also my wish for all of us to have a wonderful Christmas and happy and prosperous New Year.

Jeff McGraw, RHIT  
President-elect

### Special Points of Interest:

**Employer Flyer Available**

**Benefit by Becoming an ACE Member**

**Shooting Star Awards**

## *AHIMA Membership*

AHIMA is all about information, giving you the inside intelligence you need to thrive professionally. As a member, you're privy to a constant, authoritative stream of information on critical topics such as privacy and security, coding, electronic health records, reimbursement, compliance, and more. Better yet, we offer you the resources you need to make the most of that information, turning what you know into professional opportunity.

### **Membership Dues:**

- Active \$155 plus the additional credential maintenance fee listed below when applicable
- Student: \$35
- New Graduate: \$100 plus credential maintenance fee if applicable
- Senior \$60

### **Credential Maintenance Fees with Membership:**

- \$10 for CCA, CCS, CCS-P, RHIT, RHIA (any combination of these credentials only)
- \$37.50 for CHP or CHS
- \$47.50 for CHP or CHS plus any combination of CCA, CCS, CCS-P, RHIT, or RHIA
- \$62.50 for CHPS
- \$72.50 for CHPS plus any combination of CCA, CCS, CCS-P, RHIT, or RHIA

**“AHIMA is all about information, giving you the inside intelligence you need to thrive professionally.”**

So join now! <https://secure.ahima.org/esignup/>

## *AHIMA Employer Flyer Available*

Here is a tool AHIMA developed for the specific purpose of reminding or introducing employers to the value of AHIMA membership: how it helps in education, leadership, quality, and employee retention. The [Employer Flyer](#) provides solid employer benefits in a succinct format. At a glance, your employer will see the value of membership to their organization. Share it with your employers to let them know why they should support your AHIMA membership, or to congratulate them on a smart choice.

## *Benefit by Becoming an ACE Member*

ACE the Action Community for e-HIM Excellence, mobilizes a network of experts and change agents to transform HIM practice. ACE members lead and influence e-HIM, making a difference in their organizations, communities, states, and at the national level.

Nancy S. Walker, MS, RHIA, president of the Michigan HIMA and corporate revenue cycle manager of the maternal child health service line at Beaumont Hospitals in Royal Oak, MI, joined the ACE program to promote herself and her passion for electronic health information management. She found that it is not the only reason to join ACE.

"As an ACE member, I have presented revenue cycle initiatives that I have been involved in over the past five years. One recent presentation was for the American Women's Health OB and Neonatal Nursing Organization," Walker says. "There I described the change of our OB triage area into an EMTALA defined OB emergency room and all that would entail to make a major change in process to accommodate this philosophy. It was a fun project and an even more fun presentation. I was excited to promote the expertise of a health information manager to a nursing group. ACE provides exposure among other professionals and comprises a dedicated group of like-minded individuals for networking."

For more information on ACE: <http://www.ahima.org/ace/>

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**“ACE members lead and influence e-HIM, making a difference in their organizations, communities, states and at the national level”**

## *Meet the Board*

In our last newsletter, we introduced you to the members of the MHIMA Board, but we inadvertently left someone out—our Director of Marketing, Julie Dooling.

Julie is a Registered Health Information Technologist (RHIT) and is currently serving as Director of Marketing for Missouri Health Information Management Association. She is the Hospital Solutions Specialist at MedPlus, a Division of Quest Diagnostics - an innovator in Health Information Technology. In this role, Julie supports sales by providing in-depth imaging solution product demonstrations and education nationwide.

With over 30 years of healthcare experience, most of which has been in health information management (HIM), Julie brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the industry.

Over the past couple of years, Julie has presented to various AHIMA affiliated state organizations. Topics included: "Managing a Hybrid Record", "Forms Management", "Record Retention in Wired Hospital", and "Implementing an Electronic Document Management System".

She has served in various healthcare roles including owning and operating a transcription service as well as HIM Manager for an integrated healthcare delivery system consisting of 450+ physicians at over 100 clinic locations. Her responsibilities included clinic-wide health information management, documentation capture initiatives, and EHR implementation.



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**Julie A. Dooling, RHIT**

## *From the Board*

We hope you have enjoyed learning about the MHIMA Board Members. Your Board happily devotes untold numbers of hours of volunteer service to benefit MHIMA members. Please don't hesitate to contact them with any comments, concerns or questions you may have.

To access the Board's contact information: [Click here](#)

If you wish to contact the Newsletter Committee, you may do so by sending an email to [newsletter@mhima.org](mailto:newsletter@mhima.org).



## *The Rewards of Volunteering*

The rewards of volunteering are not only enjoyed by our professional organization, but by the volunteers as well. While the organization gains from the knowledge base, enthusiasm of bright, talented people, and the expertise and time provided by those in our field, the rewards an individual gains can be just as beneficial.

Members' careers can benefit from experiences gained through their roles as a volunteer. Volunteering may provide opportunities for speaking or authorship roles, a chance to enhance technology skills or a chance to learn about innovative ideas that can be utilized in their work environment. Employers may recognize those who volunteer as a leader who has demonstrated a commitment to their profession. Volunteering also provides an opportunity to network with peers and the gratifying experience of knowing you made a difference.

For more information on volunteer opportunities visit the AHIMA website: [Click Here](#)

Or the MHIMA website: [Click Here](#)



## *Learning Your Family History is as Easy as 1, 2, 3...*

Acting Surgeon General Steven K Galson, M.D., M.P.H., has declared Thanksgiving 2008 to be the fifth annual National Family History Day. Over the holiday or at other times when families gather, the Surgeon General encourages Americans to talk about, and to write down, the health problems that seem to run in their family. Learning about their family's health history may help ensure a longer, healthier future together. A recent survey found that 96% of Americans believe that knowing their family history is important. Yet, the same survey found that only one-third of Americans have ever tried to gather and write down their family's health history.

Your family health history is a risk factor for diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and heart disease. If a disease runs in your family, you may have the most to gain from lifestyle changes and screening tests. Start collecting your family's health history by taking the following steps:

1. Collect health information on close family members by talking at family gatherings.
2. Write down your family health history and discuss it with your health professional.
3. Update your family history regularly and share it with family members.

The U.S. Surgeon General's Family History Initiative encourages all American families to learn more about their family health history.

A new computerized tool, "My Family Health Portrait", makes it fun and easy for you to create a portrait of your family's health. It can be accessed for free and personal information is stored on your own computer.

For more information visit <http://www.hhs.gov/familyhistory>

**Thanksgiving 2008  
is National Family  
History Day.  
Learning about  
family health  
history may help  
ensure a longer,  
healthier future.**



## *Shooting Star Award –October*

Michelle Kornfeld, RHIT, CPC has been selected by the MHIMA Board of Directors to receive the October 2008 Shooting Star Award.

Michelle is the Revenue Integrity Senior Business Analyst/Charge Auditor for the Sisters of Mercy Health System in St. Louis. She was also elected by the Board as an alternate delegate to serve if one of the elected delegates could not fulfill their duties, as well as serving as the MHIMA Advocacy Liaison.

This October at the House of Delegates, one of our delegates was called away for an emergency. Although Michelle's flight didn't arrive until noon on that day, she was at the HOD by 1:00; in time to be briefed on what had occurred and in time to assure our members that they had full representation when the time came to vote on the issues brought to the HOD.

Congratulations Michelle!

[Click here for more information on FORE Awards](#)

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## *Shooting Star Award –November*

Sharon McClintock, RHIT, has been awarded the Shooting Star Award for November.

Sharon is employed at St. John's Mercy Medical Center in St. Louis, MO, and is a member of the Eastern Missouri Health Information Management Association. Sharon is currently in her second term as Treasurer. She was appointed to fill the position by the EMHIMA President, Lisa Kronsberg, RHIA, when the elected Treasurer was unable to assume office. Sharon took over taking care of the daily management of the finances, preparing the reports for EMHIMA Board meetings as well as the annual EMHIMA meeting.

Sharon has also assisted with obtaining speakers for monthly meetings and helping with meeting set-up. She has been a real asset to the organization for stepping in and helping whenever needed. Sharon was nominated by Sharon Farley, Budget Chairperson of EMHIMA and Treasurer of MHIMA.

Congratulations Sharon!

## *Hot Topics Survey-Volunteering*

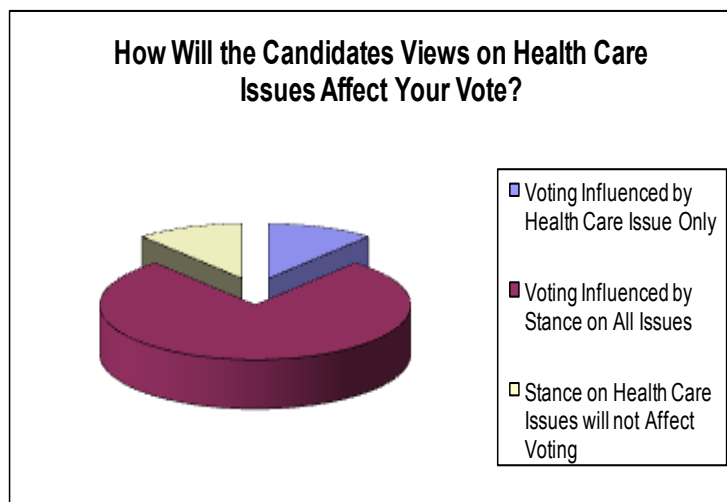
The article on page 3, [The Rewards of Volunteering](#) discusses the rewards of being a volunteer. These benefits are enjoyed by both volunteer and organization. The organization benefits from the expertise and knowledge base of the members who volunteer. Those who volunteer gain from sharing knowledge with other professionals which can enhance their work environment and provide professional development opportunities. This month's Hot Topic Survey asks members the following questions:

- I volunteer at the state or national level.
- I am considering volunteering.
- I am not interested in volunteering at this time.



Click here to take the survey: <http://www.mohima.org/hottopics.html>

## *Hot Topics Survey Results*



**October Survey Results**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the October Hot Topics Survey.

Last month we asked members if their voting in the Presidential and Missouri Governor's races would be influenced by the candidate's stances on healthcare issues.

As the pie chart shows, 78%% of members said their votes would be affected not only by the candidate's views on healthcare, but by their stance on all issues, 11% said they would vote strictly on healthcare issues alone, and 11% indicated that healthcare issues would not affect their voting.

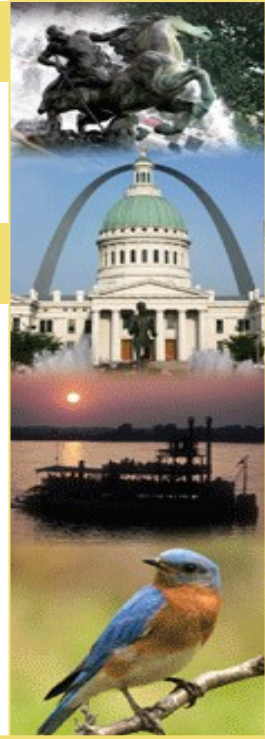
We hope you enjoy participating in the Hot Topics Survey and reading the results!

## *Calendar of Upcoming Events*

*November/December*

*Plan Ahead for 2009!*

4/29-5/01 MHIMA Annual Meeting Lodge of the Four Seasons Click Here for More Info :  
Lake of the Ozarks <http://www.4seasonsresort.com/>



***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, 2009.***

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