



July 2026

VOLUME 16: ISSUE 3

MaHIMA Connect

Announcements



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SAVE THE DATES

FALL CONFERENCE SERIES



September 16



September 23



October 1



October 14



October 21



October 28



Issue Dedication & Member Spotlight

This MaHIMA Connect Newsletter is being dedicated to Linda Hyde.



Linda Hyde
Retiring Co-Chair of Finance

After 50+ years of dedicated service, serving on many committees, board positions, and most recently as Chair of Finance, Linda is stepping into a well-earned retirement from the role. Her steadfast leadership, unwavering commitment, and continual support have been instrumental in guiding MaHIMA’s financial health and stability.

We are deeply grateful for everything Linda has given to this organization—her time, her expertise, and her heart. Linda’s exceptional work ethic, meticulous attention to detail, and thoughtful, measured approach have provided MaHIMA with a strong foundation of leadership and trust. Her ability to offer steady guidance, ask the right questions, and bring clarity to complex financial matters has been invaluable to the organization and its membership. Although Linda is often quiet and humble in her manner, her talent, wisdom, and dedication have consistently shone through in the quality of her service. She has also been a fierce and principled advocate for the priorities she believes are essential to the continued success of the health information profession. We are profoundly grateful for her remarkable contributions, her generous leadership, and the lasting example she has set.

Thank you, Linda, for your years of dedication and for the lasting impact you’ve made on our community. We wish you all the best in your retirement years ahead.



Committees Served

- DRG Task Force/Prospective Payment System 1978/79
- Quality Assurance 1980/81
- Secretary 1982/83
- ICD-9-CM 1981/83, 1985/86, 1986/87
- Program Co-Chair 1983/84
- Education 1984/85
- Planning & Budget 1987/88, 1989/90
- President Elect 1989/90
- President 1990/91
- Director / Past Pres 1991/92
- Team Leader 1993/94, 1994/95
- President Elect 2003/04
- Credentials 2003/04
- President 2004/05
- Past President 2005/06
- Alternate Delegate 2005/06
- Communications 2005/06
- Planning 2005/06
- Nominating 2006/07
- Finance 2006/07
- Component Organizations Liaison 2007/08
- Finance 2008/2022
- Finance Co-Chair 2023/26

Awards & Recognitions

1990-1991 - Linda Hyde, RRA - President

1995 Linda Hyde, RHIA - Professional Achievement Award

2004-2005 - Linda Hyde, RHIA - President

2007 Linda Hyde, RHIA - Distinguished Member Award



Outgoing President's Message

Dear MaHIMA Members,

The Health Information (HI) field continues to evolve rapidly. From regulatory changes and data governance challenges to the increasing importance of data integrity, health informatics, privacy, and cybersecurity, HI professionals are more critical than ever. Through it all, MAHIMA - as a component association of AHIMA - has remained a trusted resource. MAHIMA continues to support its members offering education, professional development, and advocacy for our profession.

I am proud to have led MaHIMA as president this past year. Whether it was expanding educational offerings or formats, strengthening member engagement, or navigating industry changes, these achievements reflect the collective effort of our board, volunteers, and members. None of this would have been possible without your dedication and willingness to contribute your time and expertise.

To our board members — thank you for your patience, leadership, expertise and collaboration. To our volunteers – thank you for your time, dedication and shared knowledge, your contributions are what keep MaHIMA going. To our members — thank you for your continued commitment to excellence in HIM and to this association. As I step into the role of Past President, I do so with great confidence in the future leadership of MaHIMA. Karen Bogard brings vision, energy, and a deep understanding of our profession, and I know the organization will continue to thrive under her guidance.

While my role may be changing, my commitment to this organization and to the HI profession remains steadfast. I look forward to continuing to support MaHIMA and to witnessing the continued impact we will make together. Thank you again for the privilege of serving as your President. It has been an unforgettable experience, and I am incredibly proud to be part of this community.

Amy Bittle, RHIA



Amy Bittle RHIA

MaHIMA member since 2015. Amy is a manager in Health Information Management at Shriners Children's in Boston. Outside of MaHIMA, she is a proud mom to one human and three dogs, and enjoys reading, skiing, and traveling.

2027 Executive Board



Karen Bogard
President



Elaine Ippolito
Incoming Preseident



Amy Bittle
Outgoing President



Deb Adair
Advocacy Director



Donna Casey
Interm Communications
Director

Committee Reports

Finance Report

Submitted by Linda Hyde, RHIA and Elizabeth Cranston, RHIA Finance Committee Co-Chairs

This fiscal year was a transition for the Finance Committee. Marianne Garfi assumed the position of Administrative Director and Elizabeth Cranston completed the rest of her training to take over as the Chair of the Finance Committee.

The end of year income and expense for Fiscal Year 2025 was completed and presented to the board and the membership along with the Fiscal Year 2026 budget which was approved at the Fall Business meeting. Bank statements were reconciled each month with a report on the current state of income and expenses presented at the monthly Executive Board meetings. Quarterly budget reports were created and review by the Board as well as reported in the Connect for the membership.

MaHIMA’s Fiscal Year 2025 taxes were completed, approved by the board and submitted to the IRS by our accountant.

Elizabeth, Marianne and Linda reviewed and update the chart of accounts and investigated ways to clean up old accounts to streamline the process and make it easier for future committee chairs and administrative directors to learn MaHIMA’s financial procedures.

Elizabeth will assume the role of Finance Chair as of July and Linda will continue to offer support as a committee member.

Education Report

2025 Fall Virtual Conference Series

Winter Coding Series with Oby

- 12 CEUs (6 sessions)
 - 21 Attendees
- 2 CEUs (1 session)
 - 6 Attendees

Virtual Webinars

- 4 CEUs (4 sessions)
 - 76 Attendees Overall
- 4 CEUs (2 sessions)
 - 44 Attendees

Career Building Over Coffee

- 1 CEUs (1 Session)
 - 14 Attendees
- 7 CEUs + bonus CEU
 - 63 Attendees

Dot Wagg

- 4 CEUs (2 sessions)
 - 78 Attendees

In FY26, we held a total of 18 educational sessions, earning a combined total of 34 CEUs. The Education Committee met monthly, though encountered a decrease in volunteer participation. Maryellen Osbourne resigned as Director of Education. We are currently accepting nominations for FY27.

18 Educational Sessions -Total of 34 CEUs offered

Committee Reports



Communication & Member Engagement Report

The Communications Committee worked on the following projects:

- Member drive email sent to program directors, and non-members
- Continued mentor/mentee program: Mentor/mentee matches made

Oversaw subcommittees: Awards and Member Engagement

- Student Open House March 10, 2026 6-7pm
- Quarterly publishing of Connect Newsletter
- MaHIMA Raffles: Donations to Certification scholarship

Mentorship Program

Submitted by Elaine Ippolito, MaHIMA Mentorship

The MaHIMA Mentorship Program needs mentors! One mentoring meeting a month for three months can help a graduating HIM student gain the confidence to start their HIM career or provide an established HIM professional with the knowledge and tools necessary to pursue a new path in their chosen field.

It is a small commitment, but it makes a big impact! We are looking for mentors in all aspects of HIM. Whether you have been coding, or have worked for a vendor, have started your own business, or have worked in privacy or the revenue cycle, mentees can truly benefit from your guidance and expertise. You don't have to be a manager to apply! If you would like to mentor or become a mentee, please complete the form which can be found on the MaHIMA web page at the following link: <https://www.mahima.org/student-resources>

Don't hesitate...do it today!

Committee Reports

Advocacy Report

The MaHIMA Legislative Committee continues to align its work with the AHIMA Advocacy Agenda, focusing on the quality, integrity, and usability of health information; improved access to information while protecting privacy; the responsible collection, sharing, and use of social determinants of health data; and the advancement of healthcare transformation. In the year ahead, the committee will apply these priorities to advocacy opportunities in Massachusetts, including planning for a meaningful Massachusetts Hill Day in Winter 2027, offering education on advocacy and legislation, and continuing work with state representatives on sepsis diagnosis and reimbursement-related policy concerns.

Members can also look forward to several educational opportunities, including the Dot Wagg Seminar Series sessions scheduled for November 6th and December 4th. One topic tentatively planned for a HIPAA Security Update and once again, we will plan for a Privacy Matters Forum

The committee was also pleased to recognize Jacqueline “Jackie” Judd, CCS, Manager of Payer Audits at Beth Israel Lahey Health, with the Advocacy Award for her leadership in elevating a significant reimbursement issue, engaging stakeholders, and helping advance policy discussions that strengthen the voice of HIM professionals across the healthcare landscape.

The committee will continue to meet on the 4th Monday of the month at 12 noon. If anyone is interested in joining, we would welcome your participation. You may reach me at debadair24@gmail.com.

Thank you!
Debbie Adair, Chair



Committee Meeting Dates

All Committees meet on Mondays at 12pm est

- Education 1st Monday
- Communications 2nd Monday
- Advocay 4th Monday



Open Director Roles

We are seeking passionate volunteers to fill the following board positions:

- Director of Education
- Director of Communications

Interested? Reach out to the Nominations Committee or visit mahima.org for details.



'26 Annual Conference Recap

Our 2026 Annual Conference took place on June 11 at the Hogan Center at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. Sixty-four attendees learned about the origins of TEFCA, the next chapters for AI in HIM, patient portal strategies, how risk adjustment shapes quality reporting standards, and the benefits and challenges of Home Hospital programs.

Thank You to our Speakers



John Campbell, CIO, COO, CPO



Deb Jones, MSN, RN



Hannah Galvin, CIO



Cheryl Rowe

Special Thank You to our Keynote Speaker!



Micky Tripathi, CAIO

Thank You to our Sponsors

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Minimize Billing Risks. Maximize Revenues.

Annual Conference Networking Session

This year’s Annual Conference featured a Networking session that brought together attendees, exhibitors, and board members in a dynamic, collaborative format. Ten roundtable discussions were each moderated by a member of the MaHIMA Board of Directors, creating an intimate setting for meaningful exchange. Conference attendees and visiting exhibitors engaged in lively conversations covering emerging trends in HIM, data privacy and security, workforce challenges and burnout, career pathways and growth, clinical documentation, and AI in healthcare and HIM. The energy in the room was remarkable—ideas flowed freely, connections were made, and participants left with fresh perspectives and renewed enthusiasm for the work ahead. We are grateful to everyone who contributed to making this session such a success.

Key Highlights

AI & Automation in HIM

- Accuracy concerns with autonomous coding and AI-generated documentation
- Coding, CDI, and HIM roles at risk of automation; need for validation
- Data integrity issues: duplication, cloud challenges, HIE sharing, patient index training

Clinical Documentation Integrity (CDI) & Coding Alignment

- Persistent disconnect between CDI and coding teams
- Need for documentation standards, continuity, and consistent guideline adherence
- Chart corrections, queries, JCI metrics, and patient amendments as major workload drivers

Workforce Challenges & Burnout

- Layoffs, staffing shortages, and productivity/time pressures
- Burnout concerns; limited effectiveness of current solutions
- Retention tied to manager rapport, respect, and better benefits

Career Pathways & Professional Growth

- Internships, job shadowing, and entry-level roles as key access points
- Aging profession; need for mid-career support and modernized job titles
- Nontraditional pathways: pharma research, HIT vendors, leadership development

Data Privacy & Security

- Phishing, Medicare fraud, system errors, and poor patient trust
- Record retention/destruction is time-consuming and often deprioritized
- Operational challenges: mailing vs electronic ROI, EPIC automation limits

Emerging Trends in HIM

- Changing job titles and evolving HIM roles (“old names need new titles”)
- Risk record accuracy issues (e.g., 56% inaccurate)
- Persistent patient identity management and matching problems

Volunteering & Organizational Engagement

- Main barrier: lack of time; secondary barrier: bureaucracy
- Desire for task-specific volunteer roles
- Benefits: networking, learning from others, better organization



Save the Dates

Fall Conference Series

September 16th

- When Smart Tech Makes us Dumb: Deskillling and the Hidden Costs of Automation
- Artificial Intelligence in Community Health Centers

September 23rd

- Best Practices for Implementing AI in the Coding Process
- AI and the Mid Revenue Cycle - Prevention

October 1st

- AI in Action: A Primer for Using ChatGPT
- The Invisible Patient - What If the Biggest Risk to Patient Safety Isn't the Disease — But the Way We Document It

October 14th

- Patient Safety Indicators
- The HIP's Role in Cyber Resilience

October 21st

- Patient Health Literacy: It's Everyone's Responsibility
- The Workflow Whisperer: Fixing Broken Processes Before AI & Automation Make Them Worse

October 28th

- Medicare's new TEAM model
- Building Trust in AI through Accreditation and Identity

Fall Business Meeting

September 25th

- Agenda:
- Approve Annual Conference Meeting Minutes

Breaking Tradition, this meeting will be held in a Town Hall style.

Dot Wagg

November 6

Topic TBA

December 4

Topic TBA

Career Corner

Dates Coming Soon:

Our Career Builders Over Coffee series is back! Grab your favorite brew and join us for casual, info-packed sessions covering resume tips and tricks, how to break into the HIM field, and where to find the best career opportunities. Stay tuned for dates and details!

Volunteer Opportunities

MaHIMA thrives because of member involvement. Whether you have an hour or a semester, there's a way to contribute:

- '27 Annual Conference Planning Committee
- Newsletter Content Contributors
- Student Mentorship Program
- Social Media & Outreach Team



Volunteering is a great way to build your network, earn CEUs, and give back to the HIM community.

Micro Volunteer Opportunities

- Themes & Topics for '27 Annual Conference
- Advocacy Emails to our Representatives
- One Day Mentorship

AHIMA Updates

New HI-FIVE Community



The AHIMA HI-Five™ Community is your place to connect with other members and HI leaders, nurture your career, and find success with the support of a strong community at the local and national level.

Upcoming Town Halls

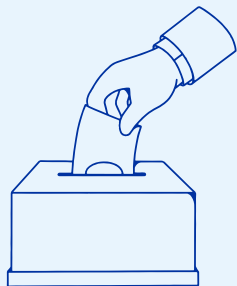
Free CEUs

October 29th
December 10th



AHIMA National Elections!

Open July 6th- July 20th



Vote Now!

AHIMA Annual Conference

San Antonio, Texas
October 4th- 6th

Earn up to 35 CEUs!
Early Registration closes July 17th