

OCTOBER 2018- PRESIDENT LETTER

Dear Colleagues and Friends:



Now the warm, sunny weather of summer has come and gone, it is time for us to focus once again on our strategic plan for the coming year. One of our priorities this year will be raising HIM awareness not only in high schools and colleges, but also in the community at large. By speaking at high schools and colleges, MaHIMA HIM professionals will be educating students about the profession. MaHIMA professionals will be also be going out to our communities in order to better educate patients and consumers about their rights. These would include the right to amend a record, the right to an accounting of disclosure, the importance of a health care proxy and the opportunity and benefits of accessing a patient portal. Many in our community are not aware of these rights. I am reaching out to all of you to ask for your help with this initiative. What a fulfilling opportunity to contribute to our students and community! If you are interested, please contact Cheryl Rau, our member at large who is leading this task force, or myself. Our contact information is available on the [MaHIMA board page](#).

This past July, I had the honor of attending the Leadership Symposium in Chicago, along with President-Elect Robin Andrews, the Director of Communications, Marianne Garfi, and the Director of Legislative Affairs and Advocacy, Laura Caravetta. This two-day event engaged AHIMA and CSA leaders as they discussed the strategic direction of the evolving HIM profession, envisioned the future, and networked with other HIM leaders. There were also interactive sessions to develop and train the CSA leaders for their roles.

Moving along to September...our MaHIMA Fall meeting was a great success! Some of the topics covered included: external causes and injury codes, strengthening your unfit EHR, coding clinic updates, tracking payer audits, proper identification and the revenue cycle, and putting your dream to the test. Around the corner is our Western Mass meeting scheduled for October 5th, as well as the Dot Wagg meeting, which will be held on November 9th. Many webinars and workshops are coming up in the next few months. Be sure to look out for more great educational information!

On September 23rd, all five Massachusetts delegates attended the House of Delegates meeting in Miami, Florida. The House of Delegates role is to govern the HIM profession by advancing best practices through advocacy, environmental scan, and thought leadership. We voted on the "AHIMA House of Delegates House Policy and Procedure Manual". During breakout sessions, each delegate attended a different topic. Topics included: Environmental Scanning; the Future of the House: Apportionment; Future of the House: Relevancy; and HIM Reimagined. These will be the respective task forces for the upcoming year. The AHIMA CEO, Wylecia Wiggs Harris, started the morning by announcing there are going to be many changes, including "resetting" the strategic plan. The reasons provided for this "reset" included a rapidly changing healthcare environment, a lack of clarity around strategies, and a lack of alignment between strategies, budget and staff allocation. The board declared its current strategic plan is insufficient to lead

AHIMA into its future, so they are now in the process of focusing on what is best for AHIMA's future success. There will be more to come on this topic.

As always, I challenge you all to participate on a committee or task force. It is such a rewarding and fulfilling experience. If you are interested, click on the following link: <https://www.mahima.org/volunteer/> for the volunteer page and more information.

Best Wishes,

Bibi Von Malder, RHIT, President MaHIMA
