

### JANUARY 2019- PRESIDENT LETTER

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Dear Colleagues and Friends:

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Happy New Year and warmest greetings as we begin 2019!

Wow ....how this year has flown by! As we get older, the years seem to pass by even faster. We think we have time to accomplish our goals, tasks, aspirations, etc. and before we know it, time has slipped through our fingers. The following quote from Benjamin Franklin seems to sum it up well: "Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today."

MaHIMA has had a busy year in 2018. Much has been accomplished in education through many webinars and workshops, with many more scheduled for 2019. HIM awareness has been in the forefront this year. MaHIMA board members have visited many high schools and middle schools in Massachusetts, educating students about the HIM profession. There are more visits to come in the next couple of months. It's important to speak to our next generation of students and explain the many opportunities our profession has to offer. If you are interested in this initiative and would like to speak to students at your local school, please reach out to [Cheryl Rau](#), Member at Large. As the chairperson of the HIM Awareness Committee, Cheryl will provide all the materials to assist you with the process. What a great reward to be a part of our next generation of HIM professionals!

This year MaHIMA was awarded the 2018 Great Race Award in recognition of our generous support for AHIMA and the AHIMA Foundation. Every year MaHIMA generously donates to the AHIMA Foundation. If you want to learn more, please [view the website](#).

It is also time again to start recruiting for the following three MaHIMA board positions: President-elect, Director of Education, and Director of Legislation and Advocacy. If you are interested in any of these positions or know of anyone who might be a great contributor to the association in this capacity, please contact [Norma Chitvanni](#), RHIT, CHPS, Chair of the Nominating Committee. Serving as part of the board of MaHIMA allows you to use your experiences, talents, and knowledge to support our members. We invite you to continue to be a part of the solution and please remember to vote during election time.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our Winter Meeting on Friday, February 1, 2019, from 8:00 am - 3:00 pm, at the Courtyard by Marriott Boston, in Marlboro, MA. This year's meeting offers six continuing education units (CEU's) to health information management professionals. A state business meeting and awards ceremony will also be held during lunch.

My heartfelt congratulations to the newly credentialed MaHIMA members of 2018! It's not an easy journey, but you did it and should be very proud of yourselves. Wishing all of you the best of luck in reaching your professional goals and in your new endeavors! Why not include MaHIMA committee membership as one of those new endeavors? Committee

membership is a great experience and a great way to network with other colleagues. Simply go to the [MaHIMA board page](#) and connect with the director of the committee that interests you.

MaHIMA is always looking for volunteers. We are all busy and have many obligations within our own families, and often don't have time for ourselves; however, [volunteering for MaHIMA](#) is something you can do for yourself. Most committees only need one hour of your time per month, or just a few hours to work on a task force. Reach out and learn more about the committees. Volunteering provides such an opportunity for growth, both personally and professionally, and it is something to consider as we start this new year.

For all the latest news and updates, please visit [our website](#). I look forward to seeing you at future meetings. Best Wishes for a great year to come!

[Bibi Von Malder, RHIT, President MaHIMA](#)