President’s Message  
by Manny Soto-Griego, RHIA

It’s been another fantastic year for AzHIMA and I am proud to be President of such a great organization. As I step into the new role, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve and represent you. I sincerely thank you for giving me this opportunity.

I want to recognize Christine Steigerwald, our Past President, the board and committee members for their dedication, hard work and accomplishments this past year. I look forward to working with our board and committee members to further the great work done to make AzHIMA a valuable resource for our members, healthcare partners and communities.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce our new board and committee chairs, see Arizona CSA Organizational Chart. Without the hard work and dedication of these individuals, our membership would not be able to enjoy and benefit from all the activities and resources our association has to offer.

The new board will hold the transition and strategic planning meeting for the new year on July 25, 2015. The board will continue building on last year’s major goals and identify new goals for the coming year.

In my Incoming President’s message at our Annual meeting this past June, I outlined the following 3 goals for the coming year.

1. Increase our Volunteer membership: We are living through exciting changes in our field. I ask that you step up along with me, the board and committee members and volunteer to mold our future and mentor the HIM students.”

I am happy to announce that we can mark this one as “done”! Every annual meeting we ask members to sign up or visit our AzHIMA.org website and complete the Volunteer form. The number of volunteers this year is amazing; we have over 80 members and students that have committed to one or more committee. Our committee chairs have started to reach out to their volunteers, have scheduled their recurring meetings and some have already started working. The Annual Meeting Planning and Vendor Committee Chairs have started their activities to assure we have an amazing 75th Annual Meeting next June – check out our website for information.

The Advocacy Director and Chair of the Advocacy Committee has been non-stop. She continues to meet with or write to State representatives in support and education regarding ICD-10. She has also written to various physician organizations offering assistance and education to their provider members for the transition to ICD-10. I am proud to announce that the Arizona Academy of Family Physicians reached out to AzHIMA for assistance. The Coding Round Table Committee Chair and Co-chair, along with other members have stepped up to assist with this presentation scheduled for July 27th.
President’s Message

continued

I am also proud of our Committee Chairs as they have welcomed the opportunity to mentor students in their committees. This is a great opportunity for our students, they will gain valuable experience from our committees, be a resource and asset to our committee chairs.

2. Virtual Town Hall Meetings: This will allow us an opportunity to continue networking, learning and supporting our members past this annual gathering. We plan to hold Quarterly meetings, aiming for our first meeting in August. Look for announcements in our e-blasts and newsletter.

3. Build collaboration with other Arizona State Healthcare Associations: A few of your Board members have started discussions and planning with: AzHFMA, AzHIMSS, AzMGMA and Health-e Connect.

Together with AzHIMA, we are over 3,000 members strong. The associations met last week (May 27, 2015) and drafted the following statement to capture our vision:

“Professional healthcare associations across the state of Arizona are facing common pressures to build value for their respective members, including: increased quality and availability of educational content, professional development and networking opportunities. These associations are exploring ways to collaborate in a manner which leverages our respective strengths, brings new perspectives to our members and deepens the educational content available to our Associations. We believe these collaborative efforts and alliances can also help drive inefficiencies out of our operations. As healthcare continues to change and lines blur between constituencies, the opportunities for our associations to work together will only increase.”

Our first initiative has allowed our mutual members to receive member discounted rates to attend any educational meeting held by the collaborative associations. Health-e Connect has offered their site for the collaborative associations to post their events. You can access the site’s calendar of events here: https://azhec.site-ym.com/events/event_list.asp

An exciting event we are also in discussion is to hold a “Super Conference” in 2016 where all collaborative associations will join as one. More information will be provided as our collaborative continues to mature.”

Since our annual meeting, AzHIMA has been invited to participate and exhibit at the Arizona State Physician’s Association on August 11th. In addition, AzHIMA was asked to speak at the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association’s annual meeting on October 22. I want to thank the board members that have volunteered for these events.

We have a national go live that I am sure many of us are excited to finally realize, ICD-10! This new adventure will bring many opportunities to our profession. Keep an eye out for our newsletters and weekly e-blasts as valuable reference and resource material will be provided to our members, our goal is to keep you and your organizations informed.

Next year we will celebrate our 75th Anniversary. We will host our 75th Annual Meeting. There is a BIG party to plan, please volunteer, our Annual Program and Vendor Relations Committees are going to need your help to make this a party we will not forget and our guests will speak of for years to come. I do hope you are planning to attend.

Looking ahead, I am hoping to see many of you actively participating and involved in any way you possibly can. By joining a committee, considering a Board position for our next elections, mentoring a student, or volunteering as a speaker for one of our Virtual Town Hall Meetings or at the Fall or Annual meetings. Above all, representing your peers and our association by promoting AzHIMA and the many activities we plan on hosting.

Together we can continue to make AzHIMA a great resource for our members. Again, I thank you for the opportunity to lead the way.

Annual Meeting and Exhibition

by Sandra Brightwell, RHIA

View pictures from the annual meeting here

The 74th Annual AzHIMA Meeting and Exhibition was held June 4th – 6th, 2015 at The Scottsdale Plaza Resort. The meeting consisted of 157 attendees (10.8% were students), 26 vendors, 3 sponsors, 35 presentations, scholarship, professional stipend and award recipients. Presentations included motivational speakers, AHIMA President, ICD 10, Information Governance and Congressman Paul Gosar. Attendees who completed the online survey after the meeting received their CEU certificate.

A huge thank you to our sponsors: Nuance, 3M and himagine. Fellow Arizona associations also helped to enrich our meeting: AzHIMSS and AzHEC. The registration table was manned primarily by HIT students. This was a great way to boost networking opportunities! We opened the meeting with the Luke Air Force Base’s presentation of the colors and the national anthem. It was a wonderful way to kick off the meeting! Unfortunately we had several presenters cancel; replacements were found if possible and added to our agenda.
Annual Meeting

continued

On-line survey results were as follows:

- Overall usefulness of speakers: 54% Very Satisfied / 42% Satisfied
- Meeting location: 60% Very Satisfied / 28% Satisfied
- Length of meeting: 53% Very Satisfied / 42% Satisfied
- Hotel: 45% Very Satisfied / 35% Satisfied
- Online Registration: 72% Very Satisfied / 25% Satisfied

The 2015-2016 Planning Committee is underway organizing the 75th AzHIMA Annual Meeting.

Announcing 2015-2016 AzHIMA Board of Directors

The AzHIMA members have selected the 2015-2016 Board of Directors. Congratulations to our new slate of officers and thank you for your willingness to serve our membership.

Manny Soto, RHIA – President
Christine Steigerwald, MBA, RHIA – Past President
Pam Hess, RHIA, CDIP, CCS – President Elect
Jannifer Owens BSHA, CCS, CPC, CIRCC – Secretary/Treasurer
Renee Blickenstaff, RHIT – 2nd Year Director
Ashley Hendry, RHIA – 1st Year Director
Sandra Brightwell, RHIA – 2nd Year Delegate
Lisa Hart, RHIA – 1st Year Delegate

Fundraising Success!

by Terese Masterson

Every year the goal of the Fundraising Committee (aka Fun Raising Committee) is to raise as much money as possible for scholarships that go to students within the HIM profession. We have two opportunities each year, the Fall Meeting and the Annual Meeting. The 2015 Annual Meeting was an amazing success! Through the generosity of our membership and a few individuals and businesses outside the organization, we were able to give over $3,000 to the Scholarship Committee! We couldn’t do this without a great deal of help. Special thanks go out to my entire team and a few other special people and businesses that make this possible:

Helena Begay
Marcia Davis
Kim Kearl
Jannifer Owens
Michelle Tso
Jaime James
Manny Soto-Griego
CSR Professional Services
AzHIMA
Tony Peterson
IOD
Sandra Brightwell
Renee Blickenstaff
Ann Rees
Marna Witmer
Robyn Immoos
Total Wine
Christine Steigerwald
Grand Canyon University
Elsevier

Save the Date: The Hyatt Regency-Phoenix Thursday and Friday, June 23-24, 2016.

The Call for Speakers is now available!

Reserve your sleeping room now.

If you would like to participate on this committee, please contact Sandra Brightwell at sandra.brightwell@centralaz.edu or 480-677-7798.

Thank you to Ann Nowlin, the 2014/2015 Board of Directors, and the 2014/2015 Planning Committee!

Save the Date!

AzHIMA Fall Meeting

September 18, 2015
Banner Health Desert Medical Center
Scottsdale, AZ
AzHIMA Annual Awards
by Sandra Brightwell, RHIA, Annual Program Chair

Congratulations!

Each year the Arizona Health Information Management Association is able to present awards and scholarships to members of our association in recognition of their outstanding commitment to the HIM profession and to AzHIMA. This year, at the Annual Meeting, the following awards were presented:

AzHIMA Merit Scholarship
Jennifer Johnston, CCS

AzHIMA Professional Stipend (voted upon by BOD not committee)
Sandra Brightwell, RHIA

AzHIMA Rising Star Award
Ashley Hendry, RHIA

AzHIMA Lifetime Achievement Award
Patience Hoag, RHIT, CHCA, CHDA, CDIP, CCS, CCS-P, CHTS-CP, CPHQ

The Arizona Health Information Management Association offers merit scholarships, with the support in part from fundraising efforts, to outstanding undergraduate students pursuing a degree in health information management and health information management professionals pursuing graduate degrees to further their degree in Health Information Technology and Health Information Management.

This scholarship program acknowledges and rewards HIT/HIM students for academic excellence, leadership, and volunteer effort. Recognition of these students will encourage them to continue professional growth through active participation in the association.

AzHIMA Stipend

**Description:** The Arizona Health Information Management Association is pleased to announce the availability of a $250.00 stipend to assist members in their continuing professional growth through the purchase of current reference or resource materials. The stipend will be in the form of a check.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Applicant must be an AHIMA/AzHIMA active, credentialed member in good standing.

Rising Star

**Award Description:** The Rising Star Award honors a gifted student or promising new professional who embodies great hope as we look to the future of the HIM profession.

**Qualifications:** Qualified nominees are; a) students enrolled at the time of nomination in an approved HIA or HIT degree program, or who have graduated in the last three months; or b) HIM professionals who have been credentialed within the last 3 years.

**Guidelines:** Nomination criteria for this award include the following:

- Willingness to change tradition, take risks, think critically, and to lead others in these processes.
- Demonstrates commitment to the HIM profession through active participation in local or state AzHIMA activities.
- Exceptional problem-solving ability with the capacity to envision the “big picture” in HIM and to make decisions accordingly.

Lifetime Achievement

**Award Description:** The Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by the AzHIMA Board of Directors, honors an AzHIMA member who is worthy of special recognition for making significant and sustained contributions throughout his/her career to the AzHIMA and/or the HIM profession.

**Qualifications:** Qualified nominees are individuals who have worked tirelessly to support AzHIMA and/or the HIM profession through meritorious service, demonstrated leadership, excellence in HIM education, excellence in professional practice, or advancement of the profession through innovation and knowledge sharing. These are best characterized as individuals who go above and beyond in their quest to make our Association and the HIM professions thrive.

**Guidelines:** Nomination criteria for this award include the following:

- Minimum of ten (10) years continuous active membership in AzHIMA and AHIMA.
- Minimum of ten (10) years full-time employment in the profession as evidence of sustained and substantial professional achievement.
- Evidence of sustained and substantial professional achievement that demonstrates professional growth and use of innovative and creative solutions.
- Demonstrated leadership in HIM education (if nominee is an educator)
- Provides inspiration, guidance, and opportunities for emerging leaders to participate in AzHIMA’s volunteer structure and to build meaningful leadership experiences.

Other Leadership Awards include Distinguished Member, Outstanding Service and Mentor Awards. These awards were not conferred this year, but maybe you know someone who is deserving of recognition in the coming year. Descriptions are available on the website and will be highlighted when nominations open for our 2016 Annual Meeting in approximately late February or March of 2016.
Advocacy: The Road Ahead
by Ashley Hendry, RHIA; AzHIMA Advocacy Committee Co-Chair

As many of you know, within the last year the HIM profession has made progress in terms of advocacy and the ICD-10 Grassroots campaign. As we continue to move towards implementation of ICD-10 on October 1st, 2015 we need to remain vigilant and active with our state legislators. At this time there is a shift in focus from a delay to a “safe harbor” for physicians which would allow for a transition period of two years.

AzHIMA had the privilege to host Congressman Dr. Paul Gosar at our annual conference where he discussed the road ahead for ICD-10. There were various questions around ICD-10 and what to expect in the coming months leading up to October 1st, but the message that resonated with me is that we need to look at what we can do to get the physicians in the community to say yes. We need to place a positive focus on helping providers transition and feel more comfortable. As Dr. Gosar mentioned, small physician practices are facing “razor thin reimbursements” while also working to transition to ensure that they are compliant with ARRA and HITECH, this means that adding ICD-10 could feel overwhelming to them. Read more...

AHIMA’s Commitment to Healthcare — Information Governance

Like other critical organizational assets — people, capital, inventory, etc. — information is a strategic asset that requires high level oversight in order to be able to effectively use it for organizational decision-making, performance improvement, cost management, and risk mitigation. Complementary to the traditional approach and practices of health information management (HIM), which is bottom up, information governance ensures that information is trustworthy and actionable through alignment with organizational strategy and engagement of senior leaders and important stakeholders across the enterprise. In an increasingly connected world, this extends outside the proverbial four walls of an organization to make sure that information is available in the right place and the right time to support health and healthcare.

AHIMA is committed to advancing information governance in the healthcare industry to ensure the quality and integrity of all types of information necessary to safe, high quality, cost effective care and the improvement of the health of individuals and populations. Both information governance and information management are necessary to meet the existing and new requirements of an increasingly complex healthcare ecosystem. Read more...

Patient Portal Implementation Status in Arizona Hospitals
by Phoenix College HIT Students: Linda Black, Kimberly Howell, Megan Wakerfield

Patient Portals are a key element to fulfill the Stage 2 Meaningful Use requirements of engaging patients and their families in their healthcare. The Health Information Management students at Phoenix College have done an excellent job conducting a study and summarizing their findings regarding the implementation status of Patient Portals in Arizona hospitals. Read more...

ICD-10 Exam Notice

Beginning October 2015, AHIMA’s HIM and coding credential exams will be changing to reflect ICD-10*. The dates for each credential exam are listed below. If you still want to take either the coding or HIM credential exams in the ICD-9 code set you still have time.

CCA October 12, 2015
CCS October 5, 2015
CCS-P October 19, 2015
RHIA October 16, 2015
RHIT October 9, 2015

*Rollout dates are dependent upon the October 1, 2015 implementation date for ICD-10.

ICD-10 Implementation Tips

Are you ready for October 1st and ICD-10? Click here to view a link submitted by one of our members. It provides great tips regarding preparation for ICD-10.

Reminder!

If your e mail changes, please ensure you update this on your AHIMA profile.

AzHIMA sends out information based on the e mail addresses everyone has on file at AHIMA.
Welcome New Members

AzHIMA would like to welcome the following new members. We have many opportunities for you to get involved with, volunteering and leading the organization. Please feel free to reach out to any of the Board members or Committee chairs listed within this newsletter.

Annabelle Adlawan, Student
Una Ambers, Student
Diana Arcuri, Student
Jasmine Batey, RHIT
Lisa Bradley, Student
Alicia Brennfoerder, Student
Jessia Burnett, Student
Erika Candidato, Student
Catarina Contreras, Student
Colleen Demery, Student
Milena Douglas, Student
Chandra Downey
Yan Gan
Dorthea Garcia, Student
Amy Gibson, CCS
Ramitha Hegde, Student
Leticia Hules, Student
Frances Humphries, Student
Pamela Jaronik, Student
Diane Jones
Connie Knight
Beverly Lewis, Student
Maritza Martinez
LeeAnn Medlock
Emily Merrill, Student
Karly Messick, Student
Christina Millett, Student
Loretta Ondelacy
Robin Ormsby, Student
Diana Overton, Student
Erica Parcel, RHIT, Student
Tessa Richards
Jessie Ryan, Student
Rebecca Shirley
Crystal Sia, Student
Aaron Som CHTS-TS
Jaci Stewart
Karen Thompson, CCA
Anne Thornton, Student
Carolyn Williams, Student
LaSaundra Williams, Student
Lan Xu

Associate Degree HIM/HIT Programs Located In the State of Arizona

**Bryan University** – In Candidacy for CAHIIM Accreditation
Health Information Technology Program - Occupational Associate Degree
Program Director – Donna Estabrook, RHIT
602-384-2588

**Central Arizona College** – CAHIIM Accredited
Health Information Technology – Associate of Applied Science Degree
Coding & Reimbursement Certificate
Program Director – Sandra Brightwell, RHIA
480-677-7798

**Phoenix College** – CAHIIM Accredited
HIT - Associate of Applied Science Degree
Medical Coding (Hospital-based)
Medical Coding (Physician-based)
Program Director – Tracy Domino, MEd, RHIA
602-285-7149
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manny Soto-Griego, RHIA, President</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pam Hess, RHIA, CDIP, CCS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christine Steigerwald, MBA, RHIA, Past President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jannifer Owens, BSHA, CCS, CPC, Sec/Treasurer</td>
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<td>Renee Blickenstaff, RHIT, 2nd Year Director</td>
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<td>Ashley Hendry, RHIA, 1st Year Director</td>
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<td>Sandra Brightwell, RHIA, 2nd Year Delegate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa Hart, RHIA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ann Knowlin, Central Office Coordinator</td>
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In order for AzHIMA to remain strong and to advance our profession, we really need the input and involvement of our many talented members. Following is a list of the current committee chairs. If you are interested in serving as a committee member, please contact the Chair for more information.

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<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
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<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>Ashley Hendry</td>
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<td>Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>Coding Roundtable</td>
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<td>Engage</td>
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<td>Finance</td>
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<td>Fund Raising</td>
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<td>Social Media</td>
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<tr>
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