

NMHIMA NEWSLETTER

No. 2

House of Delegates & AHIMA 2017 National Convention

NMHIMA was able to send two delegates to AHIMA's 2017 House of Delegates (HOD), Valentina Golub, current President and Sandra Nunn, past President. The HOD is an annual meeting where CSA delegates meet to discuss pressing HIM topics. This year's topics included: Business Process Outsourcing, Consumer Engagement, HIM Reimagined, Professional Development and Leadership and the Future of the House of Delegates. Each delegate attends the main meeting as well as two breakout sessions. During the breakout sessions the delegate is expected to have prepared by reviewing the SBAR (Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendations) summary provided by AHIMA and each delegate is expected to engage in discussion and provide recommendations relating to the topic. NMHIMA's delegates divided the sessions and covered most of the content.

The main presentations and announcements were delivered by AHIMA Leadership including: President Ann Chenoweth, Speaker of the House Chrissann Lemery, Speaker of the House Elect Catherine Porto, & Interim CEO Pamela Lane. All spoke and provided brief presentations and AHIMA updates. The core of the House of Delegates session was "how to prepare working professionals for the future in health information management." The subgroups were designed to surface ideas, spark innovation, and share best practices that delegates might suggest to support movement of HIM professionals into leadership positions. Ann Chenoweth, MBA, RHIA, FAHIMA, AHIMA's President, told delegates that "our top strategic goal next year is preparing members for emerging roles." Ann presented on AHIMA's Strategic Plan (picture below).



They also provided the following updates:

- Promoting the IG Road to Governance column
- 2017 Virtual IG boot camp
- Career Map Update
- A new salary survey is underway
- HIM Reimagined final white paper available at <http://www.ahima.org/himr>
- Virtual Lab updates
- New Volunteer Center
- Financial Summary
- Annual Report is available on AHIMA

They spoke to the delegate participation and the current structure for the HOD (picture below).

They also rolled out the New Leadership Dashboard the House Communication Task Force worked on over the past year. Valentina served on that task force! Below is the link to the dashboard.

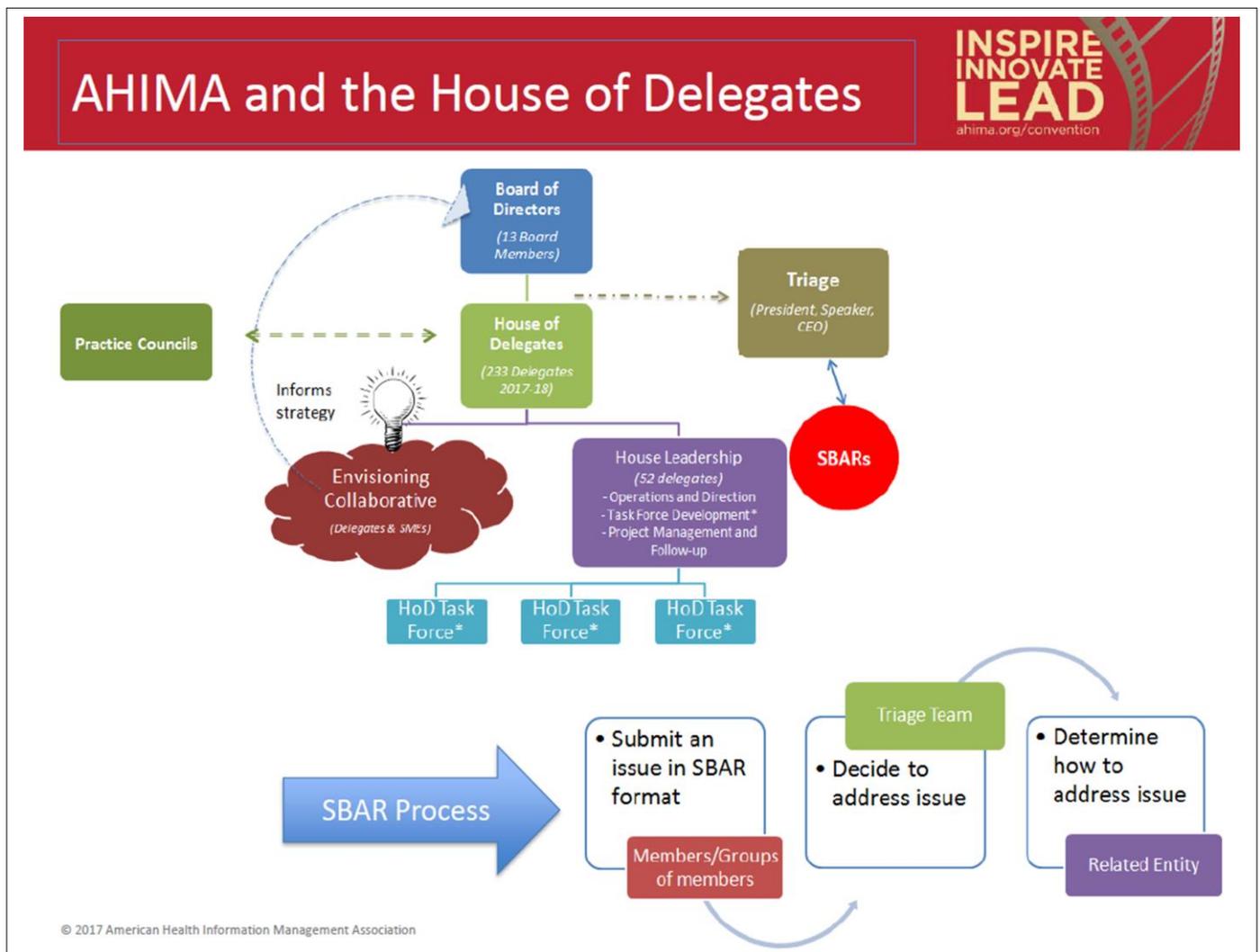
<https://engage.ahima.org/viewdocument/house-of-delegates-?CommunityKey=b7879dc5-14c3-4d79-8c9f-387950d70c05&tab=librarydocuments>

They emphasized the importance of the CSA & AHIMA communication and the key delegate roles were outlined: To govern the profession/advocate, participate in meetings, cascade information to CSA members, vet professional practice content, conduct environmental scanning, contribute recommendations/actions on issues affecting the profession and facilitate the "Voice of the Member."

The breakout sessions Valentina attended were HIM Reimagined and The Future of the House.

HIM Reimagined Session

The HIM Reimagined subgroup reviewed HIM Reimagined final white paper. They discussed changing educational requirements for HIM students and the RHIT to RHIA proviso. Many delegates voiced concern regarding the change to the RHIT credential and the addition of the specialty requirement. They requested more guidance from AHIMA to outline the specialties that will be offered as certifications and guidance on how to choose a specialty that is meaningful and provides the best opportunity for employment. Delegates also discussed the lack of HIM Master degree programs and the shortage of educators.





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They emphasized the importance for HIM professionals to complete higher levels of education above Associates and Bachelor's degrees and to consider serving as educators for HIM. They urged members to continue to promote HIM awareness and communicate "Who we are, what we do, and the value we provide to the healthcare industry" in order to prepare for our emerging roles.

Future of the House Session

The Future of the House subgroup evaluated the purpose and structure of the House of Delegates. It discussed communication barriers, relevancy in relation to the AHIMA Board of Directors and apportionment of the delegates per state. Delegates provided suggestions for standard communication and operating procedures for each CSA, which is listed below:

- **Communication:** Consistent communication from AHIMA, AHIMA is to provide a template for newsletters, & AHIMA is to provide a standard operating procedure for SBAR submissions.
- **Relevancy –** Delegates requested clarification of Bylaws. Goals should align across the organization and AHIMA is to provide a uniform structure for all CSAs. They also discussed accountability for delegates.
- **Apportionment -** Allow CSAs to allow 2 delegates per state to attend conferences, but be able to send others to attend. Look at ways to collaborate amongst the CSAs.

The next steps for following up with the items discussed will be to share these outcomes with the CSA, participate in the envisioning collaborative and house leadership, visit the State Leaders and House Engage Community, become familiar with the house dashboard to keep up-to-date on house activities.

Sandra Nunn, past president attended the professional development and leadership session as well as the business process outsourcing session.

Professional Development & Leadership Session

The Professional Development and Leadership subgroup discussed the current state related to HIM professional development. They addressed the need to define the HIM role better and what our credentials can do. They outlined professional development skills needed within HIM such as effective communication, strategic thinking and decision making, financial acumen, lifelong learning, and coping with change. The final recommendation was to increase awareness of the each HIM professional's skill set to others in order to create new career pathways and opportunities for training and advancement. They suggested leveraging internal and external data to demonstrate HIM's market value.

Business Process Outsourcing Session

The Business Process Outsourcing group primarily discussed the impact of outsourcing and automation on the HIM profession, primarily coding. There was a discussion of the parallels with the outsourcing of transcription services. HIM professionals in the coding domain expressed their concerns about the quality of the coding being done by coders in other countries. For-profit entities are using more of these services. The group agreed that research needs to be done to validly state that outsourced coding is not comparable to coding done in the US. A study will be done to research this topic. Several of the newer members of the group suggested using coding skills to enter new career paths through professional development as listed above.

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2017 AHIMA General Convention

Dr. Don Rucker, United States National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, opened the convention. He shared many of the same frustrations that HIM professionals face every day, i.e. lack of effective health IT, lacking health information interoperability and growing administrative burdens. He was in accord with the House of Delegates in that he thought that the future of HIM is in informatics. He himself is an expert in clinical informatics. He stated that "I think AHIMA members need to learn the basics about how computers work. I think some of the new technologies that are really burgeoning – such as natural language processing, machine learning, those types of things – that's something I see AHIMA members needing to be a part of." The remainder of the opening session was occupied by a review of differing points of view on healthcare from Barbara Boxer, former US Senator, and Newt Gingrich, Former Speaker of the US House of Representatives.

There were also inspiring presentations from AHIMA's current president Ann Chenoweth and AHIMA's incoming Board President Diann H. Smith that stressed Leadership and mentoring. Diann stated that she wanted every member "to be inspired to do something" wherever they are in their organization. She pointed out that arriving at leadership can come from any HIM domain.

There were several panel discussions by HIM professionals. The Luminary Healthcare Panel that consisted of Dr. Charles Jaffe and CEO of Emeritus Stephen Lieber discussed the evolution of healthcare and the role of HIM has within organizations and strategies to prepare for technical changes within the organizations. The Create your Future- Healthcare Panel consisted of AHIMA's Kathy Downing, Assist Professor of St. Scholastica Ryan Sandefer, HIM professional Shelly Foster-Ford and Dr. Gopath Purushotheman who discussed HIM career pathways and areas to focus on for growth. They announced the Information governance adoption model is available free of charge to qualified organization. They urged HIM professionals to advocate this adoption in their organization and to promote this resource.

Individual educational sessions ensued after the each morning's general session. One of the great strengths of the convention were the numerous sessions covering AHIMA's work on standards building including a whole section of the Exhibit Hall devoted to focused presentations on the standards work. Please see your *Journal of AHIMA* for November/December 2017 which has a wealth of information on AHIMA's standards work. In addition to the HIT Standards offerings there were tracks devoted to CDI, Coding, Information Governance, Privacy and Security, Population Health, and Informatics.

The convention had informative panels, inspirational keynote speakers, and a variety of breakout session for all HIM professionals. The Exhibitor Hall had several educational sessions to offer and was also offered a new variety of vendors that were new to joining AHIMA's conventions. The main theme seen in both the HOD and during the convention is that AHIMA's strategic vision to "Prepare Professionals for the Future" is in line with the healthcare industry and HIM professionals need to broaden their skill set and look for ways to evolve and support healthcare as it changes. Data analytics, information governance, changes in payment models, patient care quality initiatives are all areas HIM professional should familiarize themselves with as they will be the future of the profession.

The convention itself closed with a standing room only speech by star Viola Davis, winner of the Emmy, Tony and Oscar awards. Her speech was inspiring and hopeful, showing a

woman who rose from nothing to international acclaim and achievement. What a great end to an informative conference!

NMHIMA 2017 Fall Conference

NMHIMA hosted a Fall Coding Workshop on September 15, 2017. This was a collaborative coding workshop given by presenters Anna Cruz, CCS, CCS-P, CPC, CPC-I, AHIMA approved ICD-10/PCS Trainer and Dana Golden, CPC, CHA, OCS, OHCC. The workshop started with Dana reviewing ophthalmology codes. Her presentation explained the glaucoma diagnosis codes, as well as eyelid surgery codes, and the different evaluation and management codes regarding new & established patients. Common lab codes for ophthalmology were also reviewed.

Next was presenter Anna Cruz. She reviewed all 2018 updates that are occurring to ICD-10 –CM and PCS. Revised codes, as well as new codes and guidelines reviewed. People at the conference were able to interact with the many coding examples and scenarios given. This interactive coding workshop enhanced the knowledge of all attendees, rendering a successful conference! Thank you for all who came to the fall conference.

Stay tuned for our next newsletter!

Cheers,
NMIMA Board

NMHIMA 2018 Scholarship

NMHIMA will be rewarding one outstanding student with a \$500 scholarship!!! Qualifications for the scholarship are listed below:

- Major in Health Information or related discipline, may be an associate or bachelor degree
- Part time or full time student, not in their last semester, attending an accredited college
- Minimum GPA of 3.0

The above list is required and applicants must submit an application to NMHIMA via email at: NMHIMA@gmail.com

Application can be found on our website at <http://www.nmhima.org/nmhima-scholarships/>

This scholarship is for any student in the state of NM that meets the qualifications. Application is due by April 1, 2018. So please apply today!

Winner of the \$500 scholarship will be notified by April 10, 2018 and the reward will be given at the NMHIMA 2018 Spring Conference on April 20, 2018. For more questions please contact us.