

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JULY 2023- PRESIDENT LETTER

Dear Health Information Colleagues,

I consider it a special privilege to have served the Massachusetts Health Information Management Association as President for the 2022-2023 year. Even though we were faced with the unprecedented effects of the pandemic, your commitment and feedback enabled us to slowly return to in-person events. MaHIMA provided several educational series and workshops that equipped our members to prepare for efficient EHR/EMR migrations, data governance, and navigate the frequent regulatory changes of government agencies. The medico-legal guide review team has also been formed and hopes to complete its tasks later this year. The 2022-2023 strategic plan, compiled with the assistance of our members, was used to implement a grassroots re-engineering of membership and student engagement with visible returns on investment.



Health information professionals can transform healthcare policies and foster data interoperability across healthcare ecosystems, as witnessed during the successful 2023 Advocacy Summit and Capitol Hill Day. MaHIMA Board members have worked tirelessly with me to ensure we had great educational, social, advocacy and outreach events with schools, health information educators, and vendors. We were able to meet our educational goals and lend our voices together with other Component Associations (CAs) to steer AHIMA towards changes that will benefit us all. During the past year, the MaHIMA network grew through outreach, which included sending reminders to members, welcoming new members with letters, and affiliating with other CAs.

The MaHIMA Board participated in two "Meet and Greet" activities at community colleges with CAHIIM accredited Health Information programs and visited local high schools. During a recent high school visit, I was taken aback when many of the students admitted that they had never heard about Health Information programs. We have much work to do in this regard! The preservation and passing of the baton to dedicated professionals will guarantee the sustainability of the strong foundation we have laid in MaHIMA, and we must work harder to develop these professionals.

The participation of MaHIMA's leadership in AHIMA events, discussions, advocacy, and in-person engagement yielded many positive outcomes and changes. I am using this opportunity to thank our team leaders and members for their contributions to this year's annual conference. Thanks to your efforts, it was a fun networking and educational event. During my tenure, team spirit was often displayed by the executive board members, chairs, team leaders and administrative director. My sincere gratitude to all of you for your patience and giving me the opportunity to serve in this role. I wish our new president and all the elected/appointed officials of the upcoming year great success!

Sincerely

Love Otuechere, PhD, MHA, RHIA
Outgoing President, MaHIMA