

MaHIMA - President's Message



APRIL 2024 - President's Message

Happy Spring to My Fellow Health Information Professionals!



2024 Annual MaHIMA Conference

Spring has sprung and it is time to register for 2024 MaHIMA Annual Conference! This year, the conference will be held on Monday June 17, 2024, at Holy Cross College's Hogan Center in Worcester. This one-day conference will begin at 8AM and conclude at 4:30 PM. 7 CEU's will be provided for attendance at the Conference.

There will be some exciting and informative educational sessions, vendor presentations on emerging technology and best practices, the opportunity for networking with our peers – and some great food! This newsletter contains more specifics about the Conference. I am looking forward to seeing you all at Holy Cross!

AHIMA 2024 Advocacy Summit & Hill Day

On March 11th and 12th, four MaHIMA members headed to Washington DC for the annual two day AHIMA Advocacy Summit and Hill Day. Led by Amy Bittle, MaHIMA's Advocacy /Legislative Chair and fellow MaHIMA members Deb Adair, Melissa Young, Lisa Chapelaine and Maryellen Osborne represented AHIMA for the visits with our two Massachusetts Senators in the US Senate and three Massachusetts Congressmen from the US House of Representatives.

This event, as always, is a great learning experience regarding Advocacy especially related to our profession as well as the experiences of meeting with our own state senators and congressmen's staff to discuss two key topics that were raised by our AHIMA colleagues across the country. Not only were we able to connect with the teams supporting our state on the national level but we were able to share experiences about Advocacy, our individual states and common life themes. Also, it was wonderful for Amy, Melissa, Deb, Lisa and I to communicate with each other in person rather than by phone, Teams or Zoom. We all appreciated this perk. Be sure to read Amy's more extensive report on the summit in this newsletter.

Update Regarding AHIMA 40% AHIMA CEU Resistance by CA's

At the moment, AHIMA still plans to implement the requirement that 40% of all member's required CEUs be of educational programs sponsored by AHIMA in 2025. Despite a letter writing campaign to AHIMA Leadership and the new CEO, as well as close to 8000 signatures on the change.org petition, AHIMA's position has not changed.

However, the Component Associations or CAs, including MaHIMA, remain active in taking additional steps to change or eliminate this requirement. Current activities include a request to have a meeting with the new CEO and the potential creation soon of a small subgroup from the CAs to develop the following AHIMA bylaw changes: including CAs and ACEP along with AHIMA within the 40% requirement; developing a bylaw amendment that member and CA feedback must be considered in decisions that change agreed upon certification requirements in the

future; and scheduling a meeting with AHIMA leaders and CCHIIM as per AHIMA bylaws – “CCHIIM has sole and independent authority in all matters pertaining to the certification and recertification activities of health informatics and health information professionals.” There is more work ahead and I am hopeful for a positive outcome given the solidarity of the CAs. The MaHIMA board and I will remain active and keep membership apprised of any new activities.

2024/2025 MaHIMA Elections

We will not be having our annual elections this April, despite our attempts to find candidates to run for our President-Elect and Director of Communications positions.

Over the last few years, it has become increasingly difficult to find candidates for our elected Board of Directors positions as well as volunteers to support our officers, directors, and support staff. WE NEED YOU!

Although we appreciate all the MaHIMA members who currently hold office or serve on committees or individual projects, we need more volunteers! Whether a HIM student, a newly graduated HIM student, newly credentialed person, a new or seasoned member or an HIM retiree – we can use your skills! Whatever your membership status, we need volunteers of all ages and HIM experience to assist in MaHIMA projects, becoming a committee member, assisting with updating policies, and assisting our Officers and Directors. We need your input into our operations. Volunteering does not mean a commitment to a full-time job or giving countless hours of time.

Besides providing key support to our organization, volunteering can allow you to network with a wider range of HIM professionals and to interact with HIM peers. Volunteering can give you new skills or experiences needed to expand your job skills and knowledge base.

Regarding this year’s elections, we will continue to recruit for candidates for President-elect and Director of Communications. If you are at all interested in finding out more about these positions or about volunteering in general, please reach out to me, any member of the Board or our Executive Director, Elisa Pelchat. In the meantime, we will use existing Board members and members of relevant committees to assist with the duties within those roles.

Please consider volunteering with MaHIMA! We need your knowledge, experience, and involvement!

Respectfully submitted,

Maryellen Osborne, BS, RHIA, CCS, CDIP

President, MaHIMA