

# MaHIMA - President's Message



## JULY 2024 - President's Message



Happy Summer to my Fellow Health Information Professionals!

Well, it's hard to believe that a year has passed since I began my term as President of MaHIMA! It has certainly been an exciting and interesting year for MaHIMA and AHIMA. I have enjoyed every minute of this past year as your President.

We began our year with news that AHIMA was updating its CEU recertification requirements beginning on 1/1/2025. These changes mandated that 40% of the CEUs needed in a 2-year recertification period must come from AHIMA courses. The remaining 60% of the CEUs could come from CA, ACEP providers, HCPro or other resources. It is safe to say that AHIMA was not ready for the pushback by its CA community. A group of CA presidents worked together via email to create a letter outlining the concerns of the CAs regarding the new CEU requirements. This effort resulted in two letters signed by the presidents of 30 CAs with the remaining CAs sending individual letters to AHIMA leadership. This project was followed up by a grass roots CA membership campaign using a Change.Org petition drive which garnered close to 8000 signatures of AHIMA credentialed professionals. During this time, a follow-up letter was sent to AHIMA and CCHIIM requesting a meeting to discuss the CEU issue.

The selection of a new CEO for AHIMA in early 2024 changed the direction of this divide. After assuming this position, Dr. Kevin Klauer quickly began to energetically work on improving communication between AHIMA, CAs and members; Dr. Klauer considers AHIMA members the core of all AHIMA activities. He immediately began to improve communications, set goals for better membership services and quickly changed the tenor of meetings between AHIMA and CA leaders. Dr. Klauer led his first AHIMA Membership Town Hall on 6/12/2024 with over 7000 members registering for the session.

It is clear that Dr. Klauer has heard the concerns of AHIMA members and has already streamlined some key transactions occurring between AHIMA and CAs. He became involved in the dispute regarding the CEU recertification process and approved 7 new Micro-credentials. Other updates are in the works including allowing ACDIS CEUs to be counted in the 40% CEU percentage; updating the AHIMA website; and building an AHIMA app. AHIMA has also

already replaced the outsourced Customer Service Center with an internal AHIMA run Customer Service Center.

MAHIMA Activities have expanded and increased this year as well.

**Karen Bogard** and the **Education Committee** have reworked our Education Program and as a result have had a very successful year with the cost-effective Fall, Winter and Spring Conference Series. The committee has created the education agenda for the MaHIMA Annual Conference at Holy Cross College, finalized education sessions for Fall 2024 and started a new quarterly series entitled “Career Building Over Coffee”.

**Amy Bittle** and the **Advocacy Committee** provided a Privacy Matters Forum in May 2024 and a Dot Wagg Legislative Seminar in November 2023. Amy led a team of health information professionals to Washington DC in March 2024 for AHIMA Advocacy and Hill Day. The team was instrumental in encouraging Rep. Seth Moulton’s office in Massachusetts to sponsor the Match It Act of 2024.

**Scott Eischen** and the Communications Committee continue to spread the word about MaHIMA and AHIMA on social media. **Elaine Ippolito** completed her final year as **Editor** managing the **Connect Newsletter**. **Elaine** has begun a new role as **Chair** of the **Mentorship Committee**. The **Awards Committee**, chaired by **Marianne Garfi** was responsible for managing the process that resulted in 4 HIM Team Excellence Awards and 5 HIM Individual Achievement Awards given to MaHIMA teams or individuals in May. Thank you, Scott, Elaine and Marianne, for your years of service to this committee.

Also thank you to **Diana Lindo, Member at Large and Member Engagement Chair**, for her tireless work in supporting the engagement, development and growth of health information professionals and students; **Laura Caravetta** and **Linda Hyde** for their work to keep us financially solvent as the **Finance Chair and Co-Chair**; **Bibi von Malder** as **Nominating Committee Chair** and **Donna Casey** as **Archivist and Parliamentarian**.

It has been my pleasure to and honor to work with all the MaHIMA leaders and their teams - the **Executive Board** Members **Melissa Young, Love Otuechere, Amy Bittle, Karen Bogard** and **Scott Eischen** and the **Board** Members **Diana Lindo, Laura Caravetta, Linda Hyde, Bibi von Malder, Donna Casey, Elaine Ippolito** and *our first Student Board Member*, Shaina Simonis dos Santos. We couldn’t have met our goals without each of you and your teams.

Best wishes to **Melissa Young**, the new **President** and the new 2024-2025 Board of Directors. I’m looking forward to supporting you as Past President as we continue our journey.

In addition to the MaHIMA Board members listed above, we could not have had any success this year without our volunteer members who assisted our team leaders, wrote letters to AHIMA and signed on to the Change.org position. Our members also supported our

education, member engagement and other programs and have always been there to lend a helping hand. Please consider volunteering for a committee, the mentor/mentee program, and many other opportunities. It takes as little time as attending a 1 hour Zoom meeting a month.

Finally, I cannot complete my last President's Message without thanking the person who is the glue that keeps this organization together, **Elisa Pelchat**. Elisa is always there to keep us going, filling in gaps when required and always available when we need her. Thank you, Elisa, for everything you do to support MaHIMA! It is truly appreciated!

Respectfully submitted,

Maryellen Osborne, BS, RHIA, CCS, CDIP  
President, MaHIMA