



Annual Report

2024 – 2025

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President's Message

Dear MaHIMA Members,

As we reflect on the past year, I want to take a moment to sincerely thank you, our members, for your continued support, involvement, and passion for the health information management profession. It has been an honor to serve as your President, and I am proud of what we've accomplished together during this time of transition and growth.

Over the past year, we have faced challenges, the most notable being the resignation of our long-standing and dedicated Administrative Director, Elisa Pelchat. While this was a challenging moment for our organization, we are grateful that Elisa has graciously agreed to continue with us in a part-time capacity during this transition. Her presence has enabled us to take the time and space to identify the right candidate to fill this vital role carefully. Elisa's unwavering commitment over the past thirteen years has had a profound and lasting impact on MaHIMA. Her leadership, insight, and steady presence will be deeply missed, and we offer her our heartfelt thanks.

Despite these changes, MaHIMA has made remarkable progress in advancing member and student engagement. This year, we hosted numerous meet-and-greet events at colleges, universities, and high schools, helping introduce students to AHIMA and MaHIMA. These events have been instrumental in increasing awareness of the health information management profession and inspiring the next generation of professionals. Our "Career Builder Over Coffee" sessions have also continued to flourish, offering invaluable opportunities for networking, mentorship, and career guidance. These sessions have become a cornerstone for member engagement and support.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated Board members, whose invaluable collaboration has been the cornerstone of our success this year. Their steadfast commitment, insight, and teamwork have guided MaHIMA through both milestones and challenges with integrity and purpose. Each Board member has contributed a unique blend of expertise and perspective, fostering open dialogue, thoughtful decision-making, and creative problem-solving. Their collective leadership has not only helped us overcome obstacles but has also positioned us to seize new opportunities with confidence. It is because of their tireless dedication that our organization continues to grow, evolve, and fulfill its mission.

As we look to the future, I am filled with optimism and confidence that MaHIMA is in capable hands. Amy Bittle is poised to step into the role of President with the experience, vision, and dedication needed to lead our organization into its next chapter. Throughout her tenure on the Board, Amy has consistently demonstrated a thoughtful approach to leadership and a commitment to the profession as a whole, as well as to our members. She will be supported by a talented and passionate Board of Directors, whose diverse skills and shared values will no doubt contribute to a strong and united leadership team. Together, I am confident they will continue to build on the progress we've made while introducing innovative initiatives that

reflect the evolving needs of our field. I offer Amy my warmest congratulations and full support as she assumes this critical role. I am genuinely excited to see how her ideas and collaborative spirit will help shape the future of MaHIMA.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize and commend several individuals whose exceptional service and leadership have been instrumental to MaHIMA's success over the past year. Their dedication, initiative, and collaborative spirit have significantly advanced our mission and strengthened our organization in meaningful ways.

- **Karen Bogard**, Director of Education, has demonstrated exemplary leadership by launching the *Career Builder Over Coffee* program, which has become an important part of our professional development and member engagement. Her vision and drive have elevated this initiative into a platform for mentorship and career growth. As Karen transitions into her new role as President-Elect, I am confident she will bring the same level of energy, innovation, and commitment that has made her such a valued leader on our Board.
- **Lisa Chapdelaine**, Director of Communications, has played a vital role in improving MaHIMA's digital footprint. Through consistent, engaging content and strategic use of platforms like LinkedIn, Lisa has significantly expanded our reach and strengthened our brand presence in the professional community. Her efforts have helped ensure that our voice remains visible, relevant, and impactful.
- **Marianne Garfi** stepped into the role of Director of Legislation with grace and competence. Her leadership has been invaluable, and I am delighted to share that she will continue her service to MaHIMA in a new capacity as Administrative Director beginning July 1, 2025. Her knowledge and leadership skills will be a valuable asset in this role.
- **Shaina Simonis dos Santos**, serving as Member at Large and Member Engagement, has gone above and beyond in expanding our outreach to high schools, colleges, and universities across Massachusetts and neighboring states. Her proactive engagement with students and faculty has not only increased awareness of the health information management field but has also helped cultivate the next generation of professionals.
- **Elaine Ippolito**, Mentorship Chair, has done an outstanding job leading our mentorship program, creating valuable connections between seasoned professionals and those just beginning their careers. Her thoughtful approach and dedication have made the program a vital resource for guidance, growth, and professional support within our community.
- **Susan Marre**, Nominating Chair, has worked diligently to assemble a strong and diverse slate of candidates for open Board positions. Her commitment in identifying capable and enthusiastic leaders for our organization's Board and continued success.

- **Linda Hyde** and **Elizabeth Cranston**, our Finance Chairs, have provided exceptional stewardship of MaHIMA's financial resources. Through oversight and fiscal planning, they have ensured our continued economic stability and positioned us to support initiatives that directly benefit our membership.

Each of these individuals has contributed not only their time and expertise but also their passion for MaHIMA's mission. I am genuinely grateful for their efforts and proud to have served alongside them.

As my term as President ends, I reflect with immense pride on all that we have accomplished together. This year has brought both challenges and opportunities, and through it all, the dedication, resilience, and passion of our members have continued to inspire me. The true strength of MaHIMA lies in the collective commitment of its community of professionals who care deeply about advancing our field, supporting one another, and fostering excellence at every level. It has been an extraordinary honor to serve MaHIMA, and I am grateful for the trust you placed in me and for the chance to lead alongside so many talented and committed individuals. Your support, involvement, and belief in our organization have been the driving force behind our progress.

Thank you for the opportunity to lead, and for everything you do to uphold and strengthen the mission of MaHIMA. I look forward to seeing the organization continue to grow and thrive in the capable hands of our incoming leadership, and I remain proud to be part of this incredible profession.

Warmest regards,

Melissa Young, MHA, RHIT

Melissa Young, MHA, RHIT
President, MaHIMA 2024-2025

MaHIMA Strategic Plan 2025-2026

Area of Focus	Objective	Goals
Expand education offerings to meet the needs of students, new graduates, new professionals, and current members.	Engage MaHIMA members, students, and academic partners to determine education needs.	<p>Expand current education offerings to meet the needs of our members</p> <p>Support career and professional development through education offerings.</p> <p>Offer hybrid opportunities for in person events for accessibility.</p>
Encourage members to volunteer on MaHIMA Boards and to run for elected positions.	Collaboration is the foundation of developing strategic partnerships and imperative it be grounded in respect for each partner's contribution while being focused on specific outcomes.	<p>Survey our members for an understanding of how we can support them and encourage them to volunteer.</p> <p>Develop path of succession for MAHIMA leadership positions</p> <p>Increase the volunteerism for all committees and positions for the association.</p>
Expand our communication efforts to reach and inform students, new graduates, new professionals, and current members	Engage MaHIMA members through various communication platforms.	<p>Designate member(s) of the Communications committee for communication tasks e.g. social media posts, newsletter, etc.</p> <p>Encourage use of social media and increase followers of MaHIMA.</p> <p>Highlight our members across platforms, e.g. new grads, newly credentialed, retirement, membership milestones (25, 50 years)</p> <p>Share MaHIMA Committee meetings and events broadly.</p>

MaHIMA House of Delegates

Three Delegates attended the 2024 HOD in Salt Lake City, UT on October 27, 2024

1. Past-President, Maryellen Osborne, BS, RHIA, CCS, CDIP
2. President, Melissa Young, MHA, RHIT
3. Director of Communications, Lisa Chapdelaine, RHIA

MaHIMA Members Volunteering at National Level

AHIMA Advocacy and Policy Council

Deborah Adair, RHIA, MPH, MS

AHIMA Emerging Professionals Advisory Council

Diana Lindo

AHIMA Envisioning Collaborative House Team

Melissa Young, MHA, RHIA

AHIMA Membership Advisory Committee

Diana Lindo

Journal of AHIMA Editorial Advisory Council

Linda Hyde, RHIA

Knowledge and Practice Advisory Council

Annemarie Wendicke, MBA, CCS, CCS-P, CHDA

Payer and System Leaders Advisory Group

Deborah Adair, RHIA, MPH, MS

AHIMA PCAP Review Committee

Marianne Garfi, RHIA, CCS-P

MaHIMA Board, Central Office, Committee Contacts

President	Melissa Young, MHA, RHIT	melissa.young903@commonspirit.org
President Elect	Amy Bittle, RHIA	Amy.Bittle@shrinernet.org
Past President	Maryellen Osborne, RHIA, CDIP, CCS	mosborne202@outlook.com
Interim Director, Legislative Affairs	Marianne Garfi ,RHIA, CCS-P	Marp5000@LIVE.COM
Director, Education	Karen Bogard, RHIA	kbogard@mgb.org
Director, Communications	Lisa Chadelaine	lchpdln@yahoo.com
Archivist & Parliamentarian	Donna Casey, RHIA	dvcasey@comcast.net
Connect Editor	Donna Richer, RHIA, CCS, CPC	donnamricher1125@gmail.com
Finance	Linda Hyde, RHIA	hydela@charter.net
Finance – Co Chair	Elizabeth Cranston	ecranston3577@gmail.com
Nominating	Sue Marre, RHIA	Susan_Marre@DFCI.HARVARD.EDU
Awards	Tina Cloutier	Tina.Cloutier@point32health.org
Administrative Director	Elisa Pelchat	efpelchat@mahima.org
Member at Large	Shaina Simonis dos Santos, CPC, CPCO, CRC, CCA	ShainaM_SimonisDosSantos@DFCI.HARVARD.EDU
Student Board Member	Elizabeth Cranston	ecranston3577@gmail.com

MaHIMA Committee Overviews

Nominating Committee

ELECTION REPORT

May 2025

Director, Nominating: Sue Marre, RHIA

Members: Jeanne Fernandes, Marianne Garfi, Walter Houlihan, Lisa Fernandes Mello, Member at Large: Diana Lindo

GRAND TOTAL OF BALLOTS SENT	394
TOTAL NUMBER VALID BALLOTS RECEIVED	24
TOTAL NUMBER VOID BALLOTS	370
TOTAL NUMBER OV VOTES CAST	24

PRESIDENT ELECT

Karen Bogard

DIRECTOR, Education

Mary Ellen Osborne

DIRECTOR, Legislation and Advocacy

Deborah Adair, RHIA, MPH, MS

- MAHIMA State Election – 2025
Begin Date: 5/9/2025
End Date: 5/30/2025

Legislative Committee

Interim Director, Legislative Affairs: Marianne Garfi (*Jan 2025 – June 2025*)

Members: Amy Bittle, Susan Brierley, George Boulger, Laura Caravetta, Norma Chitvanni, Ann Dooley, Steven Eddington, Ellen Macmullin, Norma Chitvanni, Sarah Parmenter, Donna Richer, Ophelia Smith, Nilda Tamburello, Ann Vaughn, Bibi Von Malder

Events

1. Dot Wagg Seminar Series- Friday, November 1, 2024, at 8:00 AM -12:00 PM ET

- Registered attendees 36
- Total Income \$4,728.00
- Total Expense \$242.00
- Total Profit \$4,486.00

Topics/Speakers: MaHIMA Dot Wagg Legislative Series was held on November 1, 2024 from 8:00am to 12:00pm for 4 CEUs.

The 2024 agenda is as follows:

Session 1

8:00am – 9:00am

Title: Health Information Privacy and Security In the Era of Artificial Intelligence

Presenter: [Colin J. Zick, Partner, Foley Hoag LLP](#)

Summary: Data privacy has increasingly become a matter of concern in the era of large public digital repositories of data. This is particularly true in healthcare where data can be misused if traced back to patients, and brings with itself a myriad of possibilities. AI also brings increased threats to data security. Custodians of health information have ethical and legal constraints for data access sharing.

Objectives: In this session, you will learn:

- 1) How AI interacts with health information in the real world
- 2) Potential benefits and threats from the interaction of AI with health information
- 3) How statutory and regulatory schemes apply to the interaction of AI and health information

Session 2

9:00am – 10:00am

Title: Revolutionizing Healthcare through Clinical Informatics: Enhancing Patient Care and Outcomes

Presenter: [Grace Vinton](#)

Summary: In 2017, a life-altering experience brought me to the brink of death, leading to a profound appreciation for the pivotal role of the patient diagnostic journey in identifying critical issues within the healthcare system.

Objectives:

- Promote Patient and Caregiver Inclusion: Foster an environment where patients and caregivers are actively included in healthcare decision-making processes.
- Implement Best Practices for Inclusion: Identify and address key considerations for effectively including patients and caregivers in healthcare development and research.

- Enhance Outcomes and Organizational Success: Demonstrate how patient and caregiver involvement leads to better healthcare outcomes and supports the success of value-based care (VBC) and risk programs.

Session 3

10:00am – 11:00am

Title: The Public Policy Life Cycle: A model for managing regulatory change

Presenter: [Brian Vamstad](#), PhD, Director of Regulatory Affairs, Essentia Health

Summary: This presentation will focus on an operating model for hospital leaders to holistically manage major regulatory change from building relationships, gathering intelligence, advocacy, implementation, and program management.

Objective:

- Understand the basics and foundation of the public policy life cycle
- Identify stages of the life cycle and how it relates to public policymaking
- Link organizational and management strategies to each stage in the cycle

Session 4

11:00am – 12:00pm

Title: Looking Ahead: Policy & Advocacy in the 119th Congress and New Administration

Presenter: [Caterina DeBarros](#), Legislative Health Policy Associate, AHIMA

Summary: This presentation will focus on understanding the potential impacts of the 2024 congressional and presidential elections, what the election could mean for AHIMA policy priorities, and how MaHIMA members can get involved in advocacy in the new Congress.

Objectives:

- Understand the potential impacts of the upcoming election
- Learn about relevant legislative policies concerning health information
- Learn how to get involved in AHIMA grassroots advocacy

Awarded

1. HIM Advocacy Award – Deborah Adair, RHIA, MPH, MS
2. The Privacy Matters Forums were successfully continued.
 - a. 1 Forum held
3. The Medicolegal Guide Book updates in progress

Education Committee

Director, Education: Karen Bogard

Members: Diana Lindo, Obiageli C. Egbunike, Walter Houlihan, Love Otuechere, Karen Bogard, Amy Bittle, Patricia Barry, Melissa Young, Elizabeth Cranston, Stephanie Lupien, Robin Talbot, Patrice St. John

Program Title	CEUs	Attendees
2024 Fall Virtual Conference Series	5 sessions for 10 CEUs	67
MaHIMA/NYHIMA/ACDIS Collaborative Meeting	4 CEUs	198
Career Building Over Coffee	2 CEUs (2 Sessions)	31
Coder2Coder Forum – October 30, 2024	1 CEU	10
Privacy Matters – November 13, 2024	1 CEU	25
Winter Coding Series with Oby	3 CEUs (3 sessions)	27
Winter Meeting	4 CEUs (4 sessions)	45
Annual Conference	7 CEUs	98

8 Educational Sessions -Total of 27 CEUs offered

Communications Committee

Director: Lisa Chapdelaine

Newsletter Editor: Donna Richer

Member Engagement Chair: Shaina Simonis Dos Santos

Members: Amy Bittle, Karen Bogard, Donna Casey, Tina Cloutier, Elizabeth Cranston, Susie Furtado, Marianne Garfi, Elaine Ippolito, Diana Lindo, Stephanie Lupien, Love Otuechere, Theresa Pirie, Melissa Young

The Communications Committee worked on the following projects:

- Continued mentor/mentee program
- Oversaw subcommittees: Awards and Member Engagement
- Quarterly publishing of Connect Newsletter
- AHIMA Silent Auction donation: Donations to Certification scholarship

Member Engagement

As part of a pilot initiative, the MaHIMA Member Engagement Committee collaborated closely with the Communications Committee to enhance overall member engagement within the health information community. This joint effort was designed to strengthen outreach, particularly among students and early-career professionals, while also reinforcing the visibility and value of MaHIMA's mission.

Through this collaboration, the Member Engagement Committee has accomplished several impactful accomplishments below:

1. Revamped Member Engagement Presentations: All "Meet and Greet" presentation materials were thoroughly revised to align with MaHIMA's branding. These improvements included clearer messaging, refreshed visuals, and comprehensive information about the MaHIMA's student benefits. The revised presentation now serves as a more engaging and informative tool for introducing MaHIMA to new and prospective student members.
2. Creation of a Centralized Student Resource Page: A new student resource hub was added to the MaHIMA website, providing a single, easily accessible location where students can find essential student-related resources. This page includes networking and mentorship opportunities, access to free education, student award information, and volunteer opportunities.
3. Expanded College Outreach via Virtual Sessions: By partnering with multiple colleges, MaHIMA organized and hosted a collaborative "Meet and Greet" virtual session. This allowed students from various institutions to network and learn about the health information profession within a shared, interactive environment. It also fostered a broader sense of community among future health information professionals in the field.
4. Enhanced Student Recognition Programs: The MaHIMA Student Awards program was expanded to more comprehensively recognize the accomplishments of students at different stages of their education. Two award categories—Rising Star Award and

Student Achievement Award—were introduced to celebrate academic excellence, leadership potential, and commitment to the health information profession. These enhancements aim to motivate and support students throughout their academic journey.

5. High School Engagement through Educational Expo: Recognizing the importance of early exposure to the health information field, MaHIMA participated in a high school-level expo. This event introduced younger students to the organization and the career opportunities available in health information management. The outreach initiative served to inspire interest and build awareness among the next generation of health information professionals.

This collaborative pilot between the Member Engagement and Communications Committees exemplifies MaHIMA's commitment to evolving and enriching the member experience. By investing in targeted outreach and engagement strategies, particularly among students and emerging professionals, MaHIMA continues to strengthen its role as a leading advocate for health information education and career development in Massachusetts.

Awards Committee

Awards: Tina Cloutier

Members: Linda Hyde, Lisa Chapdelaine, Marianne Garfi

Awards 2024/2025 Presentations at the Annual Conference 2025 – June 17, 2025

- HIM Advocacy Award (Awarded virtually at Dot Wagg 2024) - Deborah Adair, RHIA, MPH, MS, Mass General Brigham
- MAHIMA PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2025 - Susan Marre, RHIA
MAHIMA OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL AWARD 2025 -Shaina Simonis Dos Santos, CPC, CPCO, CRC, CCA
MAHIMA STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2025 Rebecca Velliky, RHIT Connecticut State College
MAHIMA RISING STAR AWARD 2025 Natalya Bonchukov Springfield Technical Community College
MAHIMA RISING STAR AWARD 2025 Brooke Martin Fisher College

HIM Team Excellence Award 2025 –

- Best Practice – *Coding and Quality Team Point32 Health*
- Financial Impact – *Health Information Team Community Healthlink*
- Collaboration – *Health Information Team Southcoast Health*

MaHIMA 2025 Membership Information (6/15/25)

Professional	316
Professional Premier	180
Professional – Global	2
Emeritus	11
Students	67
Total Membership	576

MaHIMA Annual Meeting Overview

Event: 2025 MaHIMA Annual Conference

Date: June 16, 2025

Attendees: 73

Exhibitors: 8

Annual Conference Committees:

Education Committee

Members: Diana Lindo, Walter Houlihan, Melissa Young, Karen Bogard, Amy Bittle, Oby Egubunike, Patricia Barry, Jessica Meehan, Diane Thompson

Program Agenda: Total of 7 CEUs for the Monday one day conference

Monday, June 16, 2025 – [Agenda Link](#)

*June 2025 Conference**

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| • Preconference Total Income: | Not offered |
| • Preconference Total Expense: | Not offered |
| • Preconference Total Profit: | Not offered |
| • Main Conference Total Income: | \$20,075.00 |
| • Main Conference Total Expenses: | \$10,619.95 |
| • Main Conference Total Profit: | \$9,455.05 |

**Preliminary as of 6/25/2025*

Financial Report

March 31, 2025*

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Education Award	\$ 223.76
MaHIMA Checking	\$ 18585.38
Total Checking/Savings	\$ 18,809.14
Other Current Assets	
Fidelity Investments	\$ 56,091.24
Total Other Current Assets	\$ 56,091.24
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 74,900.38
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Retained Earnings	\$ 9,638.50
Net Income	\$ 65,261.88
Total Equity	\$ 74,900.38
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$ 74,900.38

* Fourth quarter is not complete yet. Providing financials through the end of the third quarter

MaHIMA URL

<http://www.mahima.org/>