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An Affiliate of  
**AHIMA**

## Perspectives Online

Volume XI Issue 2

October 2007

### FROM THE PRESIDENT



Well, the year is off and running! I want to start by publicly saying a huge “thank-you” to President-Elect, Renato Estrella, and Executive Director, Art Ambuhl. Due to a family emergency this July, I was unable to attend the AHIMA Summer Team Talks and Leadership Conference in

Chicago. Renato did attend, as planned, and graciously filled in for me as a facilitator in an education concurrent session. He and Art also attended as many meetings as they could to gather information for NYHIMA members.

Typically, the NYHIMA president and president-elect attend summer team talks to help transition the incoming president-elect for their role and duties as president. Renato and Art represented NYHIMA this year and have relayed important information about the AHIMA House of Delegates to all our delegates, Board members, and each locals’ president or president-elect that attended the Local Presidents meeting in Albany on September 7.

We all have commitments with careers, family and our professional associations and, when we make plans to fulfill our obligations in one area or another, we assume they will be possible. However, the “best-laid plans . . .” (as they say ☺) do not always come to fruition. Life happens, and adjustments need to be made and we all need to be flexible on a daily basis.

This experience was just a further validation that we all, as members of NYHIMA, need to work together to accomplish our goals, strategic plan, or any initiatives that arise, as well as being able to take advantage of any opportunity as it is presented.

Being a member means you have made a commitment and are willing to volunteer to help the association move forward. There are all levels of time commitment, but the fact that our members are willing to pitch in and work together, while remaining flexible and giving of their time to any task, is evident by all that we do each year. Taking a phone call from a fellow member who has a question that you can help with is volunteerism to your profession and to your associations.

Just look at the various committees, task forces, and Board positions at the local, state, and national level that NYHIMA members participate in – on the state level there are members serving on the Board of Directors, legislative committee, education committee, membership committee, etc. At the local level are your Boards of Directors, education committees, newsletter editors, etc. At the national level we have representatives on AHIMA’s Council on Certification, exam construction committees, and Board of Directors with Vera Rulon becoming President on January 1.

We all need to be willing to share our experiences, information, and time. Those of you that are already doing so, please continue to offer your time and expertise. If you are not as yet involved, consider becoming a volunteer. There are great experiences to be had and friendships to be made that will last a lifetime when you volunteer. The rewards are endless and the satisfaction is beyond compare.

*Donna J. Rugg, RHIT CCS*

## IN THE NEWS

### **Coding News:**

#### ICD-10 Updates

Changes for the PCS Coding System and Reference Manual updated in July 2007 can be accessed by copying and pasting the following URL into your Web browser:

[http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ICD9ProviderDiagnosticCodes/08\\_ICD10.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ICD9ProviderDiagnosticCodes/08_ICD10.asp).

An updated release of ICD-10-CM is available for viewing. However, the codes in ICD-10-CM are not currently valid for any purpose or use. There is not yet an anticipated implementation date for the ICD-10-CM. Implementation will be based on the process for adoption of standards under the HIPAA act of 1996. You can access the changes by copying and pasting the following URL into your Web browser:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/dvs/icd10des.htm>.

Submitted by:  
Kelley J. Lawson, RHIT CCS CPC-H

#### 2008 ICD-9-CM Guidelines

FY 2008 ICD-9-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting, effective October 1, are posted on the National Center for Health Statistics Web site. A conversion table for diagnostic and procedural code changes and addenda showing the changes for the ICD-9-CM index and tabular are also posted. To access the full document, copy and paste the following URL into your Web browser:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/datawh/ftp/ftpicd9/ftpicd9.htm#guidelines>.

Source: AHIMA Advantage e-alert,  
Volume 9, Issue 38, September 19, 2007

### **e-HIM News:**

#### HHS Awards Contracts for NHIN

HHS announced on October 5 that it has awarded contracts totaling \$22.5 million to nine health information exchanges in California, Delaware, Indiana, North Carolina, New Mexico, **New York** (New York eHealth Collaborative), Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia for trial implementation of a Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN).

In making the announcement, HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt said, "These trial implementations are taking place in communities across America that are leading the way to healthcare transformation using secure, interoperable health information technology. Trial implementations of the NHIN will bring us steps closer to a health IT system that will improve quality of care, increase efficiencies in healthcare, and improve disease prevention."

To read the HHS announcement, copy and paste the following URL into your Web browser:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2007pres/10/pr20071005a.html>.

Source: HCPPro EHR Connection e-newsletter,  
Volume 4, Issue 41, October 15, 2007

### **HIPAA News:**

#### Study: NPI Data Invalid, Outdated

A recent study by SK&A, a provider of healthcare information solutions and research, shows that, despite CMS' repeated dissemination delays giving healthcare providers extra time to update their contact information, nearly one-fifth (19.7%) of physicians' business addresses in the database are incorrect.

According to a press release issued on October 1, the study reports that much of the incorrect contact information results from physicians who have moved, retired or passed away since CMS issued their NPI numbers. The study also found that the average NPI number was issued just over thirteen months ago, and that more than two-thirds (68%) of the numbers are over eight months old.

For more information on the study, go to:

<http://www.skainfo.com/news.php?article=48>.

Source: HCPPro HIPAA Weekly Advisor e-newsletter,  
Volume 8, Issue 39, October 8, 2007

#### Survey: Privacy Rule is Ineffective, Troublesome

A recent survey by Harris Interactive suggests that both average Americans and healthcare researchers find the HIPAA privacy rule ineffective and troublesome, according to an October 2 *Government Health IT* article.

The survey, commissioned by the Institute of Medicine as part of an effort to consider the effects of the HIPAA privacy rule on health research, found that nearly three out of five Americans believe that federal and state laws do not protect the privacy of their health information, according to the article.

The study also found that privacy rules slow down medical research and increase costs, and that difficulties have only increased since the rule took effect in 2003, and some researchers responding to the survey felt that the increasingly complicated consent forms for human research subjects actually means their information is less protected.

To read the entire article, copy and paste the following URL into your Web browser:

<http://www.govhealthit.com/online/news/350058-1.html>.

Source: HCPPro HIPAA Weekly Advisor e-newsletter,  
Volume 8, Issue 39, October 8, 2007

### **On the National Front**

#### OIG Posts 2008 Work Plan

The OIG 2008 Work Plan was posted on October 1, and includes the areas and issues that will be focused on in the coming year through audits, evaluations, and inspections. The plan focuses on Medicare hospitals, including 10 new items that facilities should take into account, including hospital capital payments, Medicare disproportionate share payments, provider bad debts, and other areas related to operations.

Health care fraud will continue to be addressed through investigation of false claims, violations of the Federal healthcare anti-kickback statute, and the application of lessons learned through the OIG's work related to fraudulent DME suppliers in South Florida to other areas of the nation.

To download the full document of the plan, copy and paste the following URL into your Web browser: [http://www.oig.hhs.gov/publications/docs/workplan/2008/Work\\_Plan\\_FY\\_2008.pdf](http://www.oig.hhs.gov/publications/docs/workplan/2008/Work_Plan_FY_2008.pdf). Please note that the file is quite large (111 pages) and may take awhile to load.

*Source: HCPro Compliance Monitor e-newsletter, Volume 10, Issue 78, October 3, 2007*

#### OIG Report on CMS' Prevention of Fraud

On October 11, the OIG released CMS' *Implementation of Safeguards During Fiscal Year 2006 To Prevent and Detect Fraud and Abuse in Medicare Prescription Drug Plans*. The report examines CMS' efforts in 2006, and provides recommendations for the coming year.

The OIG found that:

- CMS implemented safeguard activities throughout 2006, but further development and application of the activities is necessary;
- CMS largely relied on complaints to seek out potential fraud and abuse in the Medicare Part D program, but not all complaints were investigated in a timely manner; and
- Limits to jurisdiction, legal authority, and CMS' ability to monitor enrollees switching plans complicated CMS' efforts to safeguard Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plans.

The OIG recommended that:

- CMS develop a comprehensive safeguard strategy for Medicare Part D PDPs, with target dates and specific activities;
- CMS ensure that all fraud complaints get appropriate attention; and
- CMS address legal concerns that might affect program integrity efforts.

Copy and paste the following URL into your Web browser to download the OIG's full report:

<http://www.oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-06-06-00280.pdf>.

*Source: HCPro Compliance Monitor e-newsletter, Volume 10, Issue 82, October 17, 2007*

#### NPPES FOIA Disclosable Data

National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) health care provider data that are disclosable under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) will be disclosed to the public by CMS. In accordance with the e-FOIA Amendments, CMS will be disclosing these data via the Internet and will be available in two forms: a query-only database, known as the NPI Registry; and a downloadable file.

CMS has extended the period of time in which enumerated health care providers can view their FOIA-disclosable NPPES data and make any edits they feel are necessary prior to the initial disclosure of the data. CMS began making FOIA-disclosable NPPES health care provider data available on Tuesday, September 4, 2007. The NPI Registry became operational on September 4 and the downloadable file a week later.

CMS has posted several documents to help providers understand what the downloadable file will look like, including a 'Read Me' file, Header file, and Code Value document for the downloadable file on its NPI Web page. Copy and paste the following URL into your Web browser to access the information:

[http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/06a\\_DataDissemination.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/06a_DataDissemination.asp).

*Submitted by:*

*Kelley J. Lawson, RHIT CCS CPC-H*

*Source: Empire Medicare e-News, August 29, 2007*

#### SCHIP Amendment to be Introduced

Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) plans to introduce an amendment to the Senate's bill to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program that would permanently return to 60% the threshold for the inpatient rehabilitation facility "75% Rule."

The 75% Rule threshold increased to 65% in July 2007, and is scheduled to increase to 75% in July 2008, meaning 75% of patients discharged from an IRF must be treated for one of 13 conditions to be reimbursed by Medicare.

Schumer is also a co-sponsor of **S. 543**, referred to the Senate Finance Committee in February 2007, which would also freeze the threshold at 60%.

*Submitted by:*

*Kelley J. Lawson, RHIT CCS CPC-H*

*Source: AHA News Now, September 5, 2007*

#### On the State Front

##### CMS Denies Plan to Raise SCHIP Income Limits

CMS has denied a request from New York State to extend its State Children's Health Insurance Program to children in families earning up to 400% of the federal poverty level.

In a letter sent September 7 to the NYS DOH, CMS Acting Administrator Kerry Weems said the state's proposal failed to meet certain requirements for expanding income eligibility outlined in an August 17 CMS letter to states, including an assurance the state had enrolled at least 95% of eligible children with family incomes below 200% of the FPL and a one-year period of uninsurance for populations over 250% of the FPL.

*Submitted by:*

*Kelley J. Lawson, RHIT CCS CPC-H*

*Source: AHA News Now, September 7, 2007*

## AHIMA NEWS AND INFORMATION

### *Report from the House of Delegates*

The members of the AHIMA House of Delegates discussed strategic issues during the issue forums. Delegates were divided into small groups to discuss the following important items:

- House of Delegates Structure and Development
- Vision 2016: A Blueprint for Quality Education in HIM
- Accreditation and Certification Governance
- Certification Program Development
- HIM Global Trends

The House of Delegates Structure and Development is one of the five issues discussed during the forum and, since the HOD is a resource that is not fully tapped, I would like to share the highlights of the discussions with you.

One of AHIMA's 2008 strategic initiatives is to "Grow and Strengthen the AHIMA." With the 2008 strategic framework, the AHIMA Board of Directors worked with a consulting group and brought forth the following recommendations to the House of Delegates:

- Develop a new structure model for the HOD to better reflect needed functions.
- Modernize the AHIMA bylaws to reflect current and/or new practices.
- Continue to evolve the AHIMA nomination process for HOD, Board members, and other volunteer positions.
- Reapportion the House of Delegates to achieve its purpose.

A proposal to divide the House of Delegates into six work groups or teams was discussed. The following proposed six groups/teams would present information and recommendations to the full House of Delegates:

- HOD Operations Team
- HIM Higher Education and Workforce HOD Team
- Environmental Scan HOD Team
- Credentialing/Professional Development HOD Team
- Volunteer and Leadership Development HOD Team
- Best Practices/Standards HOD Team (i.e., Code of Ethics)

There was a general agreement on the proposed HOD team structure and this would be the first major change to its structure since 1979. The members of the HOD are in agreement that transition to a new structure could be incremental.

As part of the discussion each issue group was asked to consider the question, "What is needed to move forward?"

The House of Delegates Structure and Operations group produced a summary of participants' feedback and reported to the House of Delegates. The feedback may provide us with direction on how to position our association and its members to meet the challenges:

- Determine role and performance measures of a successful HOD
- Compare current model vs. new model
- Allow for refinement/changes to topics over time
- Align AHIMA strategy and work to CSAs
- Determine size to ensure effectiveness of teams
- Standardize processes for all teams
- Delegates stay on one team for their full term for consistency
- Communication of the work of the HOD teams to the full House of Delegates
- More opportunity for leadership roles within teams vs. current HOD model
- Consider the time commitment of delegates with teams and value of contributions, and making the case for increased engagement and involvement

There were also questions and discussions in regards to delegate apportionment:

- What is the right size of the HOD?
- How best to represent and communicate with large number of members?
- Concern with some states having only one delegate
- Cost of delegates attending the HOD meeting
- Combination of Senate and House of Representatives model

The participants generally agreed on the proposed House of Delegates team structure change; however, as per the HOD, the team structure should be implemented before apportionment is changed.

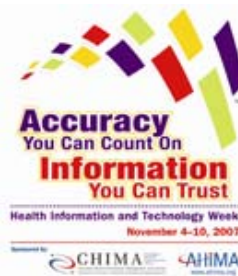
*Submitted by:*

*Renato Estrella, MSHA RHIA  
NYHIMA President-Elect*

### **Health Information and Technology Week**

November 4 through 10 is Health Information and Technology (HI&T) Week. This annual event recognizes the work of HIM professionals who maintain and protect the health information of consumers. Eighteen years

ago, AHIMA launched its first HI&T Week and, since then, the message of awareness and pride has spread from coast to coast, educating healthcare professionals and consumers on the importance of the people and practices behind health information management. AHIMA is partnering again this year with the Canadian Health Information Management Association (CHIMA) to provide even greater outreach across North America.



The theme of this year's celebration is "Accuracy You Can Count On, Information You Can Trust", and AHIMA has prepared a kit to help you plan your week. Visit: [www.ahima.org/hitweek](http://www.ahima.org/hitweek) to get the planning kit online that includes, among other items, suggested activities for the week; articles and quizzes for both healthcare professionals and the public; a press release; and powerpoint presentation.

*Source: AHIMA Update email Alert, September 5, 2007*

### **ICD-10 Impact Analysis Contract Awarded**

CMS announced on October 3 that it had awarded a contract to AHIMA to begin assessing the impact on CMS of replacing the ICD-9 code sets now used in reporting healthcare transactions with the ICD-10 versions.

AHIMA will analyze CMS' systems, policies, and operations to determine potential impacts of transitioning from the ICD-9 to the ICD-10, including the ICD-10's ability to support more accurate payment for new procedures, efficient claims processing, and improved disease management.

ICD-9, which was developed nearly three decades ago, has a total of 17,000 codes, which limits its ability to accommodate new procedures and diagnoses. By comparison, ICD-10 is a more descriptive code set of approximately 210,000 diagnosis and procedure codes, allowing more room for growth to reflect new diagnoses, procedures, and technology. Currently, all G-7 countries, except the United States, have adopted the ICD-10 coding system.

*Source: AHIMA Advantage e-alert, Volume 9, Issue 40, October 3, 2007*

## **NYHIMA NEWS AND INFORMATION**

### ***New Staff Added in the Central Office***

**Vincent Martiniano, BA MPA** began work on July 9, 2007, as NYHIMA's new Education Coordinator. This part-time position will focus on developing, planning, implementing, and marketing high-quality educational programs for NYHIMA's members.

Vinnie earned his Bachelors Degree in Political Science from the State University of New York, College at Plattsburg and his Masters in Public Administration from the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at UAlbany. He recently retired after 30+ years with the State of New York, serving as a Supervising Investigator with the Health Department's Office of Professional Medical Conduct and, most recently, as the Medical Prior Approval Director for the Office of Medicaid Management. He was his bureau's representative on DOH's HIPAA Compliance Board, participated in several ANSI X-12 national conferences on standardized electronic data exchange, and was instrumental in converting the Medicaid prior approval process to a fully electronic platform.

When not working in the Central Office, Vinnie can be found playing golf or tennis in the summer; skiing in the winter; and helping his wife, Diane, to spoil their first grandchild, Lilly. Welcome, Vinnie!

### **Scholarship and Awards Nominations**

If you are a student in an AHIMA-accredited program, or thinking or becoming a returning student, NYHIMA has three scholarship programs available:

- **The Mary M. Zannis Scholarship** is a \$1000 scholarship awarded by NYHIMA to a qualified full or part-time student currently enrolled in an AHIMA accredited health information management program in New York State.
- **The Returning Student Scholarship** is a \$1000 scholarship for an applicant who is a current member of AHIMA and NYHIMA, enrolled in an AHIMA-eligible or accredited program.
- **The Book Fund Scholarship** is a \$300 award given by NYHIMA to two full or part-time students enrolled in an AHIMA-approved health information management program.

The deadline for scholarship applications is **Thursday, January 31, 2008**. All application forms and full eligibility requirements are available on the **Scholarship and Awards** page of the NYHIMA Web site, [www.nyhima.org](http://www.nyhima.org).

NYHIMA is also looking for nominations in three other acknowledgment categories: **Distinguished Member**, **New Professional**, and **Author's Award**. The deadline for these nominations is **Thursday, February 28, 2008**. The forms for these awards are also available on the **Scholarship and Awards** page of the NYHIMA Web site, [www.nyhima.org](http://www.nyhima.org). Please start thinking now of a deserving NYHIMA member that you would like to see acknowledged and nominate them for recognition.

*Submitted by:  
Kathy Barry, RHIT  
NYHIMA Awards Committee Chair*

## **FROM YOUR PEERS**

### ***Working Together – Collaborative Efforts***

#### ***AAPC NYS Coders Day***

I was invited by Karen LaDuke, CPC, NYSAAPC, Albany Local Chapter President, to speak at the New York State-Capital District Coders Day on September 8, 2007. The meeting was held in the Bulmer building at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy and there were over 50 attendees. The topics presented included: genetics, traumatic and pathological disorders of the spine, and physical therapy guidelines.

The Albany Chapter of AAPC celebrates its tenth anniversary this year, having been founded in 1997 by Kelley Lawson, who also served as its first President.

There are currently more than 100 members in the chapter, and Maria DiNovo, CCS CCS-P CPC CPC-H CMBS, an active member of the Adirondack HIMA, is the chapter's inbound president.

At the end of my presentation, I stressed the importance of volunteering to keep the organization strong. I thanked all of the officers and volunteers for their dedication over the past ten years. We all need to volunteer and remain active in our various professional associations. It is important to support other organizations locally that have the same passion to correct coding and provide quality patient care as we do.

The meeting was very successful and all who attended gave positive reviews. It was a pleasure and honor to speak and attend the conference.

*Submitted by:  
Kelley J. Lawson, RHIT CCS CPC-H*

### ***On the Legislative Front***

My role as your elected Legislative Director is to keep the membership up to date on what is happening legislatively and what NYHIMA members can do to support AHIMA's advocacy efforts in protecting patient privacy. There are bills in both the House of Representatives and Senate that AHIMA supports which require feedback from members. One bill, **H.R. 493** (Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act), passed on April 25, 2007, thanks to the efforts of AHIMA members nationwide who submitted letters of support to their legislators.

Some of the bills that AHIMA is currently supporting in Congress are: **S. 1456** (Federal Employee Personal Health Records Act); **S. 628** (Critical Access to Health Information Technology Act); **S. 605** (Allied Health Reinvestment Act); **S. 358** (Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act); **H.R. 2043** (Medicaid Access Project through Health IT Act, MAP-IT); **H.R. 1952** (National Health Information Infrastructure Incentive Act); **H.R. 1467** (10,000 Trained by 2010 Act); and **H.R. 493**.

As legislators convene from summer recess, we will be asking you to contact your representatives at the federal and state level to help our governmental activities efforts. The NYHIMA Rapid Response Network will be activated through your local leadership whenever there is upcoming legislation that needs your support. So when you get an email from your local on legislative issues, please act on it quickly. It's often easy to tell yourself you'll get to it later, but time is imperative when it comes to affecting government policy and legislation.

You can help by logging in to the AHIMA *Advocacy Assistant* and writing your representatives on issues that AHIMA is supporting. You'll find sample letters on the Advocacy Assistant, along with contact information for your legislators. It's that easy to make your voice heard and provide your support at the

grass roots level for AHIMA's efforts. Remember, AHIMA is working hard to strengthen the profession and we need to participate in whatever way we can to assist them in their efforts on our behalf.

*Kelley J. Lawson, RHIT CCS CPC-H  
NYHIMA Legislative Director*

### ***News from the IPRO Front September Quarterly Meeting***

The quarterly meeting of the IPRO Provider Relations Committee was held on September 11, 2007. In addition to NYHIMA, there were representatives from the hospital community and professional associations, IPRO and the New York State Department of Health and Office of Mental Health.

#### **Medicare/Federal Activities:**

- IPRO is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the 8<sup>th</sup> Scope of Work (SOW.) The two largest challenges facing IPRO in the past year have been (1) decreasing acute care hospitalizations from nursing homes, and (2) implementing IT in provider practices under the DOCIT program, primarily a result of delays in funding.
- Under the Hospital Payment Monitoring Program, good improvement plans have been received from hospitals regarding DRGs 174 and 182. At this point in time, there are 18 technical denials outstanding (failure to send a medical record to IPRO.) IPRO is working with the individual hospitals involved.
- Appeals have doubled under the Hospital Discharge Appeal program since it was revised in July 2007.

#### **Medicaid/State Activities:**

- IPRO is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of its two-year contract with DOH, which runs through March 31, 2008. Improvement work continues in diabetes and asthma.

The next Provider Relations Committee meeting will be held on December 11, 2007.

*Submitted by:  
Cindy M. Boester, MS RHIA  
NYHIMA Representative to IPRO*

### ***Congratulations To:***

**Marketa Lanos, RHIT** (RRHIMA) on passing her credentialing exam.

**Sharon Colby** (ROC), a student at Monroe Community College, on her selection as a 2007 FORE merit scholarship winner. Sharon is the recipient of a Care Communications, Inc. award.

**Patricia Harvey** (LI), on her selection as a 2007 FORE merit scholarship winner. Pat is the recipient of a FORE Diversity scholarship award.

**Patty Thomases, RHIT** (CNY), local President, and COO of Infotrak Record Management, whose picture in the exhibit hall at the AHIMA National Convention in Philadelphia appears in the October 23 [Advance E-newsletter](#). Patty's slide is on page 9. Andy McManus, President of Infotrak, appears on page 11. What an honor to have a New York-based company recognized at the national level!

### ***People on the Move***

*Sally Manning, RHIT* (HIMANNY) has taken the position of Director of HIM at Lewis County General Hospital in Lowville.

### ***On the Local Front***

#### *Adirondack HIMA*

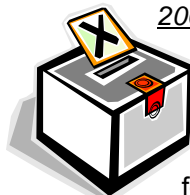
AdHIMA held its 2007 Annual Meeting, "Beyond Compliance", on Wednesday, May 9, 2007 at Malozzi's Restaurant in Schenectady, NY. The program overview included registration; breakfast and sponsor showcase; welcome and opening remarks by our Past-President, Laurie Bach, MS LNHA RHIA; keynote by Alison Nicklas, RHIA CCS, who spoke on "Documentation Beyond Compliance"; vendor showcase; presentations in the morning on interventional radiology by Gary Siskin, MD, of Albany Medical Center; on speech recognition technology and computer-assisted coding by MedQuist; on infusion and injections coding by Jean Russell, MS RHIT of Provider Consulting Solutions; and the AHIMA Ethics audioseminar. After the luncheon with installation of officers, the afternoon presentations included: HIM data quality and quality measures by Eric Niehaus of HANYS; RHIOs update by Chris Baldwin of Northeast Health; and professional etiquette by Tina Marzano of The Leadership Advantage. It was a very successful event that was enjoyed by all who attended!

Our officers for 2007-08 are: Sherry LaBelle, RHIT [**President**]; Sandy Macica, MS RHIA CCS [**President-Elect**]; Tammy Breault, RHIT CCS [**Past President**]; Sherry Benson, RHIT [**Public Relations Director**]; Teresa Yerman, RHIA [**Education Director**]; Janis Leonard, RHIT CCS [**Secretary**]; Lynn Gosier, RHIT CPC [**Treasurer**]; and Ginny Charbonneau, RHIT CCS [**Nominating Committee**]. **Delegates** to the NYHIMA House of Delegates are: Jane Barrese, RHIA CCS; Tammy Breault, RHIT CCS; Julie Brucker, RHIA CCS; Maria DiNovo, CCS CCS-P CPC CPC-H; Cindy Doherty, RHIA; Cathy Fischer, MA RHIT; Lynn Gosier, RHIT CPC; Janis Leonard, RHIT CCS; Carol Maimone, RHIT; Mary Maloy, RHIT CPC CPC-H; Diane Seeley; and Karla Streeter, CCS-P CPC. Congratulations, everyone!!

*Submitted by:  
Sherry Benson, RHIT*

### ***Be On the Lookout For:***

#### *2008-2009 Ballot*



The ballot process is underway to select your leaders for the 2008-2009 Association year.

Watch your mailbox in November for your ballot and cast your vote. Be sure to return your ballot in the envelope provided by the postmark deadline listed for it to be included in the vote count. Every vote is important so add your voice to continuing NYHIMA's growth and strength as we select the leaders who will guide the Association as it moves forward.

**REMEMBER:** This year the eligible voting pool consists of active, active non-credentialed (formerly Associate members), and seniors whose **dues are paid as of November 1, 2007**.

If your dues are still outstanding, copy and paste the following URL into your Web browser to get a copy of this year's dues form, <http://www.nyhima.org/pdf/files/0708memberapplication.pdf>, and submit it with payment no later than noon on Thursday, November 1. If you're unsure of your status, please call Chris Harrington, Member Services Coordinator, at (518) 435-0422 Ext. 300.

### *Education Calendar Events*

The spring brochure is in production and scheduled for mailing in November. The Education Committee has worked hard to put together a schedule of events that include hot topics presented by knowledgeable speakers.



Register early to take advantage of the early bird reduced rates and don't forget to check out our Webinar registration special!

### *2008 Annual Conference*



The 2008 Annual Conference Preliminary Program will be mailed in January. This year's conference, hosted by the members of the Adirondack HIMA, is June 15-18.

Mark your calendar now and be sure to join us as we make some "HIM Magic" in Saratoga!!