



Off The Record

The Official Newsletter of the
Western Pennsylvania Health Information Management Association

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President's Message

Peri L. Long, RHIA- President, WPHIMA

The WPHIMA Annual meeting is just moments away. It is hard to believe a year has passed. It really was just last year this time I was prayerfully entering new territory to serve as President of WPHIMA. I was simultaneously excited about the opportunity and concerned about juggling multiple responsibilities. Now with the WPHIMA year pretty much in the rear-view mirror I can say, that was fast. I'm not sure the speed perception is because the year was jam packed, the many changes that occurred in it, or just because I am a year older and now eligible for discounts that I was not previously privy to. Don't snicker, you are either there and understand or will be sooner than you think.

Certainly all have heard much of the health care debate and historic reform bill. However, the impact of the legislation is yet to be entirely revealed and understood. Not to mention what November will bring to the table. Change however is not a new concept in the HIM profession. Instead, it is a sure thing. The PHIMA conference this past May highlighted many sessions on the current hot topics (ARRA, meaningful use, ICD-10 Prep, HITECH etc). I find networking with others is the best part of this event to discuss the up and coming on the horizon. This year, I had the privilege to make the acquaintance of Alan Dowling, the new CEO of AHIMA. His presence in Pennsylvania and vision for AHIMA were greatly appreciated.

WPHIMA has had a great year as an organization! The board and committees members I had the privilege to work with are not only experienced, efficient, and talented, but they really care about the membership and their chosen professions. Kudos to them!

Special thanks to the members, the reason to do this at all! One last word of encouragement to anyone who has held back in having their name submitted on the ballot for nominations... you can do it! (Philippians 4:13).

RAC UPDATE

Christel Chuderewicz, RHIT/CCS
Publications Committee, Chair

After all the anticipation and waiting, several Western Pennsylvania hospitals have received their first record requests from DCS (Diversified Collection Services).

Peaches & Cream

Ingredients

1 pk. yellow cake mix
1 cup graham cracker crumbs
1 tsp cinnamon
6 tps. Margin
1 egg
16 oz. can of peaches

Mix everything but the egg until crumbly. Remove 1 cup for the topping. Add the egg and mix till chunky. Put in greased pan and press it down.

Filling

1 can vanilla frosting
8 oz. cream cheese
2 eggs

Mix until creamy.

Put well drained peaches over base of graham cracker crust. Pour filling over top. Sprinkle the remaining cup of crumbs on top. Bake at 350 degrees for 50-60 minutes.



WPHIMA Membership

As of 6/1/10

Active Members - 123

Associate - 10

Students - 6

Retired - 1

No status - 2

Total Members - 142

Did you know you can verify your paid membership by viewing our list of members at our website location:

Become a Member

[Click here to join WPHIMA](#)

Take a look at our
2010 members



As posted on the DCS website, the initial focus areas are respiratory failure, major small and large bowel procedures, cerebral infarctions and trachs. For those of you have not received your letters, you will be able to receive some first-hand experience from those who have.....a panel discussion will be held at the WPHIMA Board Meeting on June 18th at West Penn Hospital.

GO WESTERN!

Chris Parfitt, RHIT Installed as PHIMA President

Chris Parfitt, RHIT was installed on May 12, 2010 as President of the Pennsylvania Health Information Management Association (PHIMA). PHIMA is the state professional association for health information management professionals. Chris is currently employed as the Coding Supervisor at St. Clair Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA. She encourages others to volunteer and has served in a number of volunteer positions, including President of WPHIMA previously. Among the PHIMA members and guests present for the installation ceremony were some special dignitaries, including the Parfitt family (her husband, Bruce and two sons Devin and Sean) and her mother. Featured in the photo with Chris are Alan Dowling, AHIMA CEO and Valarie Watzlaff, Associate Professor of HIM at the University of Pittsburgh and *PHIMA's Distinguished Member for 2010* were also present for this occasion. Chris is an Elvis fan. Her theme for the year is *A Little Less Talk and a Lot More Action!* There is no drought on things to do and she certainly has the energy and drive to do them! Congratulations and let's offer our WPHIMA support to Chris in her term as PHIMA President 2010-2011!





ABOUT WPHIMA

WPHIMA is a local association of HIM professionals located in Western Pennsylvania.

Founded February 27, 1930 as the Record Librarians Association of Allegheny County, the original organization consisted of representatives of 16 hospitals in and close to Pittsburgh.

75+ years later, the Association is still going strong and consists of over 200 active members from a geographic area that spans the entire western part of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The membership is diverse and consists of experts from Acute Care, Consulting, Ambulatory, Information Technology, Transcription, Coding, Tumor Registry, HIPAA and Insurance industries.

WPHIMA is a major sponsor and provider of continuing education programs for HIM Professionals. WPHIMA also serves as an important vehicle for networking, exchange of information and ideas and provides an opportunity for professional growth and development of its membership.

WPHIMA welcomes opportunities to work closely with our Vendor community, and invites interested Vendors to review our policy and fee schedule for more information.



Education Update

*Submitted by Michele Maier, MHMS, RHIA, CCS
Education Committee Co-Chair*

There's lots of education to keep WPHIMA Members on top of what is going on in our field. Remember, WPHIMA members get discounts on educational sessions! It pays to join. Go to www.wphima.org today!

Upcoming Educational Offerings:

- ✓ Friday, June 18, 2010
WPHIMA Annual Meeting
West Penn Hospital

Watch your email and the WPHIMA website for more information on upcoming educational events.

PHIMA Election Results

The 2010/2011 elections were as follows:

President Elect: Laura Rizzo

Treasurer: Carol Houlihan

Director: Laurie Johnson

WPHIMA voting was strong and we thank you for your support of PHIMA!

AHIMA Elections - REMEMBER to VOTE

Polls close at 11:59 p.m. June 25, 2010
Pennsylvania Candidates on the Ballot:

www.ahima.org

Mervat Abdelhak, PhD, RHIA, FAHIMA

Eve Elen Mandler, MS, RHIA, CCS

Lynette Williamson, MBA, RHIA, CCS, CPC