



Quarterly eNewsletter



March 2023

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President's Message *Melissa Zavadiš,* *RHIT, CCS, CPMA, CRC, COC*

Let me be the first to welcome you back to the natural state as we celebrate 75th years as a Component State Association. Join us at the Wyndham Riverfront in beautiful downtown Little Rock. A great place to be, and the best time for all our members to get back into the convention spirit. Coming out of this long season, I am looking forward to seeing you in the heart of Arkansas at the ArHIMA state convention this year. We have an exciting line-up that you will not want to miss. Our committees and board members are working hard behind the scenes to ensure we have a successful event. However, we could use more of you to step up and volunteer to help make sure that this first year back meets all our expectations. Let us make this one the best comeback ever!

Have you ever wondered just what does go on behind the scenes of an ArHIMA board meeting and how these committees operate? I wondered about those questions myself about eight years ago. I had been attending state convention meetings for years without a commitment and without a clue how we managed to put these conventions into existence every single year. Then I was asked to join the Coding Roundtable Committee. Although I am a bit shy and not too outgoing by nature, I worked with the best team of coding professionals. We were alike in mindset; in that we had a passion for both coding and our membership. It was the best decision I made that helped me grow, meet new people, and network which all are such vital components to career advancement.

If you feel you are stagnant in your career and you are in need of a boost, then consider this message a personal invite to you and volunteer for your state association. We have a variety of committees and teams in all variations of Health Information that would be a great way for you to express your professional

creativity and allow freedom to grow. Consider joining the best state association in our industry, right here, right now. Because this is your time!

In closing, we all have a responsibility to advocate for our profession. Our healthcare partners and our patients depend on us to be their voice when it comes to legislation that affects data privacy and security, health equality and information blocking. With the support of AHIMA, our Arkansas delegates are ready to combat these agendas on a federal level. We need your help on the home front. Help our advocacy projects by working with our state legislators in your district. Let them know who we are and where we stand. That is all our responsibility. More information is coming on how you can help us succeed with a click of the mouse through AHIMA Grassroots Advocacy policies.

Thank you!

Melissa Zavadil, RHIT, CCS, CPMA, CRC, COC

Join us for the 75th Annual ArHIMA Convention

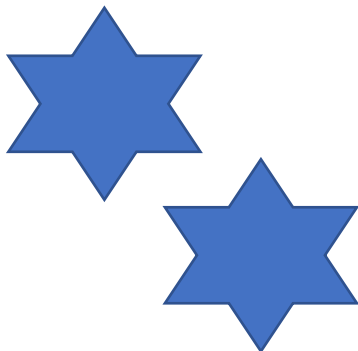
April 5-7, 2023



It is **NOT** too late to register!
Click [HERE](#) if you are an attendee.
Click [HERE](#) if you are a vendor.

Convention T-Shirts are available!
Click [HERE](#) to order.

Congratulations to New Credential Holders!



Valerie Comstock RHIT, CCS
Chelsea Couperthwaite, RHIA
Ashton Damon, RHIT
Ruby Dandridge, CCS-P
Kathy Dixon, CCA
Paula Rice, MS, RHIA, CCA
Lisa Smith, CCS
Janeen Ward, RHIA
Samantha Ward, CCA





~~ Member Spotlights ~~

Click [HERE](#) to read about the members highlighted this quarter.

<p><i>January</i> Mary Bowlan, RHIA, CDIP, CCS Regulatory Audit Manager UAMS Little Rock</p>	
	<p><i>February</i> Rebecca McDade, RHIA Director of Revenue Integrity Washington Regional Medical Center Fayetteville</p>
<p><i>March</i> Jacque Osburn, MSHI, RHIA, CPC Director of Patient Access and HIM CARTI Little Rock</p>	

Advocacy Action Items

Visit the [AHIMA Action Center](#) to participate in the ongoing campaigns!

It is easy to make your voice heard!



Arkansas Tech University Offering Online Option for RHIA

An online option for those wishing to pursue a bachelor's degree in Health Information Management is now available! The master's degree in Health Informatics is already offered all online. These are wonderful opportunities for those of you looking to move ahead in your educational journey. Please feel free to contact Mindy Wilkins at mwilkins@atu.edu if you would like to talk about options and make a plan.



AHIMA Foundation Scholarships



AHIMA Foundation offers scholarships annually to student members in pursuit of degrees in Health Information Management or Health Informatics.

Online Applications are NOW OPEN for All Scholarships

May 31: Online Application Closes

August 1: Scholarship Recipients Announced

August 31: Awards Distributed

Click [HERE](#) for additional information.



Join ArHIMA on Social Media

Click the icon below and like or join our group today!

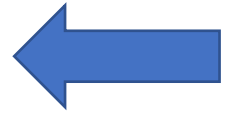


Don't forget to visit the [ArHIMA](#) website for the latest news and upcoming educational opportunities!





**Congratulations to
Tam Bronson**
for winning a **FREE** registration to the
ArHIMA Annual Convention
for completing the **ArHIMA Salary Survey**



Spring Student Open House — Save the Date!

Thursday, March 23, 2023, 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m. CDT

Learn about the dynamic collection of resources AHIMA has for Health Information students and discover how you can use them to excel in your career journey.

Plus, hear AHIMA staff and student peers discuss careers in health information, certifications, scholarships, building a personal brand and more.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

<p>Do you need a Mentor? Or do you want to become a Mentor? ArHIMA has started a Mentor Program. Click here to learn more and sign up!</p>	<p>Looking for a job? Or need to post a job opening? View the ArHIMA Job Board here. View the AHIMA Job Board here.</p>
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Apply for an Elected Volunteer Position with AHIMA

Take the Next Step in Your Leadership Journey



AHIMA is looking for strategic, innovative, dedicated members to be considered for one of our elected roles in 2024. View the opportunities for the AHIMA President/Chair-elect, Board of Directors, CEE member, CCHIIM Commissioners, and Speaker-elect of the House of Delegates on the AHIMA [website](#).

[Click here](#) for the online application.
Applications are due **March 31, 2023**.

Please contact profession.governance@ahima.org with any questions and to indicate your interest in applying.



The ArHIMA Board would like to congratulate once again the newly credentialed from 2022. You are here on this list because you believed in the possibilities. We would like to say your hard work is finally done, but that is not true. We each have our own purposes to fulfill.

How can ArHIMA help you now?
Check out our mentoring program, scholarships, and volunteer opportunities at ArHIMA.org.

Please [CONTACT](#) us if you need anything.

January 2022

Haleigh Farmer, RHIA
Donald Vchulek, CCA
Kasandra Shaw, CCA
Jennifer Taylor, CCA

February 2022

Virginia Hunt, CCA

March 2022

Tammy Bronson, BA, RHIA, CCS,
CPC, CRC
Samantha Yang, RHIA
Nikki Morehead, BSN, CCS-P

April 2022

Kimberly Caudel, RHIA
Patricia Markle, CCS, CCS-P,
AMBAS
Dondra Washington, CCA
Charles White, CCS
Allison Glass, RHIA
Alicia Brautigam, CCA

May 2022

Kelley Chaney, RHIA, CDIP, CCS
Stacy Conner, RHIT
Velvet Lowe, RHIT
Shauna Graham, RHIT
Reanna Harderson, RHIA, CCS
Wendy Founds-Brookshire, CCA

June 2022

Kaitlin Bartlett, CCS
Angela Swales, RHIT
Connie Blackwell, CCS-P
Terri Vaughn, CCS

July 2022

Dena Yakley, RHIT, CHPS
Regina Faulkner, RHIT
August 2022
Jennifer King, RHIA, CCS
Julie Lonon, RHIT, CCS

Marshalene Edwards, RHIT
Matthew Hodges, RHIA

September 2022

Brittney Clark, RHIA
Charlotte Pense, RHIT
Hannah Wilke, RHIT
Nicole Bradfield, CCA
Samantha Nelms, CCA

October 2022

Dawn Sanders, RHIT, CCS
Jamie Lewis, RHIT
Olga Blocksom, RHIA
Rachel Gaston, RHIT

November 2022

Celine Mulholland, CCA

December 2022

Ashton, Damon, RHIT
Ruby Dandridge, CCS-P

2022-2023 ArHIMA Volunteers

Executive Board Members

President	Melissa Zavadil, RHIT, CCS, CPMA, CRC, COC
President-Elect	Bryce Miller, MSHI, RHIA
Secretary	Sherry Slay, BS, RHIT
Treasurer	Darla Sparacino, MSHI, MEd, RHIA
1st Year Director	Tina Cikanek, MBA, RHIA, CCS
2nd Year Director	Lisa Daniels, RHIT

Committee Chairs

Arrangements - Meeting	Maggie Wolfe, RHIA
Arrangements - Vendors	Meghan Klein, MSHI, RHIA
Central Office Coordinator	Mindy Wilkins, PhD, RHIA, FAHIMA
Coding Roundtable	Shelly Rideout, MSHI, RHIA
Legislative	Chris Merle, MS, RHIA, CCS, CDIP, CCDS, CRC
Marketing/Public Relations	Darla Sparacino, MSHI, MEd, RHIA
Nominating	Bryce Miller, MSHI, RHIA
Professional Development	Bonnie Sher, MSHI, RHIA, CDIP, CCS, CCS-P
Program	Tonya Mays, MSHI, RHIA, CCS Sara Daniel, MS, RHIA, CHES

Delegates

Melissa Zavadil, RHIT, CCS, CPMA, CRC, COC (House Leader)
Bryce Miller, MSHI, RHIA (Advocacy Leader)
Vicki Buchanan, RHIA, CHPS
Heather Duke, RHIT
Kyle Johnston, RHIA, CCS

2023 Convention – April 5-7, 2023
Riverfront Wyndham, North Little Rock