



The Scribe

Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity - Washington
Volume 2, Issue 2
Fall/Winter 2009

Welcome to a very special Election Edition of The Scribe

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Welcome to our special election edition of the newsletter this fall. Shortly you will be receiving your ballot via e-mail from AHDI. Please take time to review the candidate bios for each office position on the Board of Directors.

The Scribe

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Circulation:

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WHAT IS AHDI DOING FOR ME?

How many times do we hear this question? It's no surprise to any of us that few outside the healthcare industry know the medical transcription industry exists. This morning I read the "Open Letter to Healthcare Documentation Professionals" posted on the AHDI website, and I read several other articles at the AHDI website as well. It occurs to me that AHDI is doing plenty for us. My question is "what are we doing for ourselves?" Our future depends on US!

- **Educate yourself.** Do you attend educational meetings/programs? I wonder about that -- we currently have 262 members in Washington but at the most recent AHDI-WA annual symposium I counted 19 people in the room. Where were the rest of you? It was an excellent meeting with wonderful educational opportunities, great food, beautiful location, and networking opportunities.
- **Get credentialed.** Those credentials after your name indicate you are committed to lifelong education which is necessary if we ever hope to be recognized and earn respect from those outside our profession. It's not about extra dollars in your paycheck. It's about professional recognition! Get involved in a CMT study group. There are several new programs available to help you get prepared to take the CMT exam.
- **Use authenticated research tools.** Are you using the latest reference books and research tools? Are you aware of the Benchmark KB and all the tools it offers to you? Check into it at <http://www.ahdionline.org/BenchmarkKBOnline/tabid/283/Default.aspx>
- **Embrace new technology.** We keep hearing the EHR is coming, and speech recognition is coming. Well guess what – they are already here! Are you staying relevant and learning about the new technology? This all goes back to being "educated." Will you be ready when speech recognition appears at your place of employment? Read about the EHR and the Health Story Project at www.healthstory.com.
- **Get involved.** AHDI has a Facebook page, and very soon AHDI-WA will have one as well. Check it out at <http://www.facebook.com/AHDI.FB>. What better way to stay involved and up to date. Members in Washington are getting involved – for the first time in many years we have an AHDI-WA election coming up with multiple candidates for each position. What great news! Watch your e-mail and be sure to vote.
- **Contribute to the Power of 10 Campaign.** Are you aware of the Power of 10? Check it out here. <http://ahdionline.blogspot.com/2009/09/power-of-10-facebook-challenge.html> This campaign will support the Dewey Square Group – our lobbying firm in Washington DC. This group is working with AHDI and MTIA to promote advocacy, strategic marketing and grass roots communications efforts. They are opening doors in Washington DC that were never open to us before. We are being invited to the discussion tables regarding "meaningful use" and the future of healthcare documentation.

I have enjoyed serving as your Delegate this past year at the Advocacy Summit in Washington DC in June, as well as in the House of Delegates in Nashville in August. As my term ends, I want to thank each of you for your support, and hope that each one of you will get involved next year.

Carrie McComb, CMT, AHDI-F
2009 AHDI-WA Delegate

CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT 2010 TO 2012

JANICE NIEMI

Current AHDI-WA President

Over the past two years I have proudly served as President of the AHDI-Washington, and have chosen to run for a second term as President. It has been a great pleasure to serve in this role over the past two years, but the most exciting thing for me is having met new members, students and current members. Over the next two years I would like to help lead the MTs within the state of Washington to advocate for the need of a narrative in a report and our role within the documentation process. If you choose to elect me as your President once again, I would like to promote credentialing, continuing education and the participation of the whole state by bringing the State Association to you through Meet-N-Greets and symposia within different geographic boundaries of the state.

Thank you for your consideration.

DENISE BEEGLE, CMT –

I have worked in the medical field in some capacity since 1975, beginning as an admitting clerk, moving on to a ward clerk and then as a utilization review coordinator. I became a medical transcriptionist in 1990, and a Certified Medical Transcriptionist in December 2000. For the past 18 years, I have worked as a transcriptionist at Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, WA, and I have been the Supervisor of Medical Transcription for the past 6 years. I have always appreciated the importance of our work and have endeavored to pass this on to the people who share my journey. I enjoy the challenge of being part of a profession that has such a direct impact on patient care. After all, it is all about the patient, and the people who work very hard to record their information accurately.

CANDIDATE FOR VICE-PRESIDENT 2010 TO 2012

KIM BUCHANAN, CMT, AHDI-F

There is a national push to get American citizens' medical records in an electronic format, while at the same time focusing on cutting costs in healthcare. Medical transcription could very well fall victim to these opposing forces if the practitioners of this valuable profession don't come together to make a case for the need to preserve narrative dictation in healthcare documentation.

If elected vice president for AHDI-WA, I would work with volunteers and members across our state to raise awareness about the valuable role medical transcriptionists play in healthcare documentation and patient care. We have been silent as an industry for too long. Using my experience as a national board member and the 2005 AAMT President, and my 3 years on staff at AHDI, I would help Washington state take a leadership role in advocating for the need to maintain dictation and transcription in a world of electronic medical records to ensure that accurate and complete patient records are preserved. I hope you'll join me.

CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY 2010 TO 2012

CORINNA FRENZL

My name is Corinna Frenzl, and I am running for AHDI-WA secretary for 2010-2012. I have been a member of AHDI-WA since I started my MT education in 2006. Since joining I have been very active in inspiring, motivating and helping my fellow students and also in learning and networking with seasoned MTs who have walked this path before me. I was the 2008 Co-chair of the AHDI Student Alliance, and here in Washington I helped create and develop the AHDI-WA Student Alliance Board Partner position and stepped into the position in 2008. I recently graduated from M-TEC in December 2008, and I am now working as an independent contractor full-time.

I am really passionate about medical transcription and I am excited about all the new changes that are happening in our field. I hope as secretary, I can continue to be a voice for the new medical transcriptionists of the future and to also facilitate in our transition from transcriptionists to medical language specialists. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to run for office and to serve you.

DONNA WOODS

My name is Donna Woods, and I live in Kennewick, WA. I graduated from an industry approved (ACCP) medical transcription education program (M-TEC) in 2001. In 2003, I received my certification as a CMT. I have been a member of AHDI since 2000. I regularly attend local, state, and national conventions. I served on the planning committee for AHDI-WA convention held in Richland and on the fundraising committee and nominating committee of the Online Chapter of AHDI. I am married to a wonderful man and have 2 daughters and 3 Saint Bernards. I love my career! I will be committed to making my community aware of what I do and why it is important. I will be committed to the professional development of all MTs in Washington by attending meetings and being available to address component related issues.

CANDIDATE FOR TREASURER 2010 TO 2012

CARRIE A. MCCOMB, CMT, AHDI-F

Office sought: Treasurer

As a member of AHDI since 1983 and WAAMT/AHDI-WA since its inception in 1986, I have remained active in leadership on a local, state and national level. Because I have previously held the office of Treasurer several times, I understand the fiscal responsibilities of the chief financial officer of the state association. I promise to handle the funds appropriately and make sure the funds are used for the advancement of MTs in the state of Washington.

Previous offices held: [President, Rainier Chapter 1993-1995; Treasurer, Rainier Chapter, 1999; WAAMT/AHDI-WA Treasurer 1996, 2000-2002; WAAMT/AHDI-WA Delegate 1997-2002, 2009; Member/Chair Credentials Development Team since 1998.](#)

CANDIDATES FOR DELEGATE 2010 TO 2012

PAT STETTLER, CMT, AHDI-F

I am currently Program Administrator for a national online medical transcription program at Everett Community College. Since falling in love with MT in 1984, I have worked in an office and managed a small transcription service, becoming an educator in 2000. I am currently finishing my second year as President of the Greater Puget Sound Chapter of AHDI. I have served on a variety of committees for AHDI on the national level and was a member of the AAMT/AHDI Board of Directors from 2004-2006. I have also served one term as delegate for Washington State in the past. I enjoy being part of the interaction between local and national leadership and as your delegate my goal would be to help drive AHDI's current initiative to maintain the narrative "Health Story" as a vital part of the electronic medical record.

STEPHANIE CLEMENS

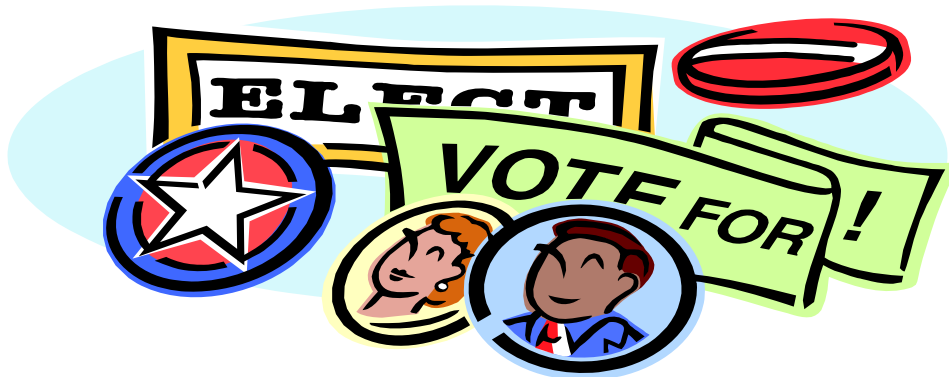
My name is Stephanie Clemens and I am running for the position of Delegate for the Association of Healthcare Documentation Integrity in the state of Washington. I have been working as an MT since 2004 and became a member of this association in 2007. I joined the Board of Directors as a Board Partner/Newsletter Editor, and was then asked to fill in as Vice President last fall.

I have enjoyed my travels throughout the state thus far, meeting and networking with fellow members and MTs and hope to continue these travels as delegate. I truly believe that you should wholeheartedly belong to an association that is for your profession.

As delegate I will represent the MTs in Washington to the best of my ability through promotion of the national and local initiatives and educating the public about this wonderful field of Medical Transcription or Medical Language Specialist, whatever the future holds for all of us.

Above are your eight candidates for the Board of Director positions for AHDI-WA. Please visit our website at www.ahdi-wa.org to put a face to the bio as pictures are posted online.

Be sure to cast your vote once you receive your ballot! Your vote really does matter!



Did you attend the annual
convention?

Then AHDI-WA thanks you for attending.

We also would like to thank our sponsors:

InstantText
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Also sending out a huge thank you to our speakers!

Marc Pierson, MD, Regional VP, Quality & Clinical Information
Peter Krautwald, HIM Director
Ross Fewing, Values/Spiritual Care Director
Barb Marques, CMT, AHDI-F, AHDI Board of Director, President-elect AHDI
Joni Och, Director Quality Management

**YOUR VOTE DOES MATTER,
SO REMEMBER TO CAST YOURS!**