



The Scribe

Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity - Washington
Volume 1, Issue 1
March 2008

Welcome to the first AHDI-WA Newsletter!

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PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Janice Niemi

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the first edition of *The Scribe*. The purpose of the AHDI-WA newsletter is to bring you news from around the State and nationally regarding the healthcare profession. We hope you enjoy receiving the newsletter once again via mail. If you know of someone who is not a member of AHDI, please pass this on and share the information they are missing. Also, please feel free to contribute to the newsletter. *The Scribe* is a publication of your association.

WELCOME ONE AND ALL

Stephanie Clemens

Welcome all members and nonmembers to the first official AHDI-WA newsletter. Janice, our fearless President, and myself as Newsletter Editor have decided to go with the name, *The Scribe* for the title of the newsletter. Along with the new name there will be some changes to the newsletter format. As many of you know I was appointed by our President to be the Newsletter Editor. Through my travels in the last 10 months, I have met several people all over the state and all over country and look forward to meeting many more.

As Newsletter Editor I have been wondering what to put in each edition. Of course there will be articles submitted by our President Janice Niemi, Vice President Sue Krajewski, Delegate PJ James and Co-Chair Student Alliance Corrina Frenzl. There will be news of the State Association and Components, calendar of events, abbreviation trivia and/or matching, downtime fun and activities, bloopers and word scrambles or searches. Of course, if you ever have an idea of what you would like to see included in the newsletter, please feel free to let me know and you can email your submissions to ahdiwanewsletter@yahoo.com.

I hope you enjoy this "first official" newsletter as much as Janice and I enjoyed putting it together.



PRESIDENT'S NOTE

"Bring a Friend"

Janice Niemi

Do you remember growing up and hearing the question, "Did Anyone Bring a Friend Today?"

I can remember hearing this question quite often from Sunday morning church to Girl Scouts. It was meant to help bring membership numbers up and give you an opportunity to share an activity with a friend. Recently during the first Board of Directors meeting in January, we decided to institute a similar program here in Washington for the State association. Whether at a local Meet and Greet or one of the conventions held statewide, we will be asking you that question.

Last year the program of Meet and Greets in local areas was started, and we wish to continue with this throughout 2008 and into 2009, reaching out to other communities in the State of Washington. The goal is to bring the elusive MT out of the office, whether working at home or in a clinic/hospital setting, to share their experiences with others and give each other more of a networking opportunity. So, if you have a friend who happens to be an MT and is not a member of AHDI, I encourage you to bring them with you to the next

Meet and Greet. Or have that friend sign-up for the spring symposium, and indicate on the registration form that you have referred them. If you bring a friend or refer a friend, who is currently a non-member of AHDI, you will receive a \$10 off coupon for AHDI-WA's Annual Convention in September (one coupon per person).

With the many changes going on in our industry, it is more important than ever to stay in contact with others in the field. It can provide an opportunity for you to learn more about the technology advances that are being made along with the implementation of an electronic medical record and how it will impact you as an MT now and in the future.

So, I challenge each and every one of you to bring a friend or coworker to a meeting and show them what we are all about. Those of you have not attended a meeting in a long time are also challenged to come out and join us. We have definitely missed you and wonder where you are!

I would really love to see a room filled with people laughing and sharing the many trials and challenges we face today in the industry.

The Scribe
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Credentialing Cup



Make 2008 the year you and your buddies become credentialed. It is as easy a 1-2-3!

1. Create a Testing Team with 9 or more of your study buddies
2. Pick a Testing Team Name and register it with AHD!
3. Form or join a study group and take the exam by July 31

Study together, apply for the exam together, and celebrate together!

The team with the highest pass rate is eligible to win a shared prize of \$2000 in AHD! gift certificates (good toward products, events, even ACE!)

Teams of 10 or more who participate in the 2008 AHD! Credentialing Cup will pay the lowest possible price - \$95 for the RMT, \$150 for the CMT.

Teams must apply for the exams as a group using a team application, available on the AHD! website.

A Study Group Kit is available for a free download at

<http://www.ahdionline.org/scriptcontent/credesig.cfm>

The kit includes Study Group guidelines and suggested curricula, test taking tips, FAQs, and three information-packed PowerPoint presentations. Everything you need to succeed!



Growing up and Liking It – Part II

Susan Krajewski



How often do we hear of MT's disgruntled with their profession complaining of lack of recognition and more importantly, inadequate compensation? What can we do? It is not necessarily in all of our natures to be outspoken advocates. Together, though, if we can find our common ground, state our collective concerns clearly, we can take positive action.

It is time to for **US** to take action.

AHDI-WA is pleased to announce the following new members:

Selina Woody of Orting
Jennifer Blake of Renton
Debbie Hayes of Spokane
Helen Stanford of Federal Way
Karen Vandermeer of Olympia
Kristin Crane of Redmond.

Let's talk ourselves up wherever we happen to be; on elevators, at PTA meetings, on the sidelines of the soccer game. More importantly, let's share with our employers and clients how important we feel our continuing education is and how they can benefit, too, by supporting and encouraging our involvement in AHDI activities.

Let's support legislative issues that promote quality health care documentation.

What better way to demonstrate the benefits of our knowledge to the public, and specifically the medical community, than through registration and certification? Got any better ideas? Let's open the dialog and get there! It's time for **US** to move forward on this one.

The 2008 AHDI-WA board is enthusiastic and committed. It is our goal to reach out to you, hear your concerns and get acquainted. We all have so much to offer one another. Please share yourself in whatever way you can – attend meetings, symposiums, request a meet and greet in your area. Be sure to keep in touch. Make sure we have your current mailing address to receive our quarterly newsletters. Feel free to share your concerns -- we all have them. None of us are under the misconception that we have a perfect organization. Let's do what we can to make it the right one for **US**.



SILVER SPONSOR
SPRING SYMPOSIUM
April 12, 2008
Bremerton, WA

Rider & Associates, Inc.
Vancouver, WA
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JOIN US

EVERETT COMMUNITY COLLEGE MEET AND GREET
Saturday, March 29, 2008
10 a.m. to Noon

You won't want to miss this wonderful networking and socializing opportunity with other medical transcriptionists in the area. Be sure to mark you calendar, grab some buddies, and join AHDI-WA and GPSC board members for refreshments, conversation and fun. For further information, see the AHDI-WA website www.wamt-aamt.org.



WASHINGTON'S NEW DELEGATE

By Patricia "PJ" James, CMT

After moving to Washington from Virginia in 2005, it took me a while to get up to speed with the local AHDI component. Active in the Tidewater and state components in Virginia, I was forced to reduce my involvement after accepting a position as a traveling MT.

Once in Washington, it was about a year before I was hired by Harrison Medical Center in Bremerton. Once I had a local position, there was time to scout out the local components.

I found a dynamic and engaged state component. Since there was no component near my home, my first experience was at a state symposium offered in nearby Tacoma. So encouraged by what I saw, I continued to attend symposia and meet-and-greets whenever I could.

After repeated contacts with Washington members of AHDI, including then-Delegate Susan Krajewski and State President-Elect Janice Niemi, long conversations about AHDI, its mission and direction, I decided to accept the nomination for Delegate from Washington.

Working in the field of medical transcription for over 20 years, I was first certified in 2001, then took the new certification exam in 2005.

Beside my work as a traveling MT consultant, my professional background includes instructor of medical transcription for the Virginia Beach City Schools Adult Learning Center, working onsite in several hospitals, subcontractor and owner of a small (very small) MT service where I did work for hospitals (civilian and military), family practices, Community Service Boards and other MT services both large and small. After five years' experience as a supervisor, I have an especial respect for those who take on such responsibilities in our profession.

Apart from work in the medical transcription profession, I spent eleven years in the United States Navy, half of that time on sea duty. My son-in-law is also currently serving in the Navy. So, I have a particular place in my heart for those currently serving our country and their families.

It is my goal to continue your past Delegates' active and dynamic representation of the interests and concerns of AHDI-WA's members to the best of my ability. As with any representative position, I can only do that by interacting with you, the members.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES UPDATE

The first House of Delegates meeting occurred on February 23, 2008. There were also meetings arranged for first-time Delegates. Once the "housekeeping" issues were covered such as establishing the rules of our meetings, we were given information on several issues.

Advocacy Summit in Washington, D.C., will take place May 15 through 17. The agenda for the trip includes time for appointments with our legislators and informational meetings on legislative issues including those associated with the EHR.

Issues touched upon in the opening addresses of the meeting included the campaign for NexGen and thinking outside the box by House Speaker Kathy Rockel, and the mentoring program, ACE (on track) in Orlando, a competition to bring in new members into ADHI and the Advocacy Summit by AHDI President Betty Honkonen.

The membership competition involves state components who recruit at least 10 new, never-before-members and local components recruiting at least 5 new members. This contest will run from March 1, 2008 to April 30, 2008 with submission deadline of April 30, 2008.

Committee assignments have been covered. As your Delegate I will be working on the Legislative Issues Group, the Military Spouse Initiative Group and the Educators Alliance.

I will be working on setting up meetings on the military bases in Kitsap County to introduce the Military Spouse Initiative locally.

The Education Alliance will be working on an evaluation of the AHIMA 2016 White Paper, updating the Model Curriculum, promoting the RMT as a graduate exam and work on developing a database of educational schools and their characteristics.

The Legislative Issues Group not only helps coordinates advocacy at the state and federal level, but tracks any legislation at the state and federal levels that has the potential to impact patient safety, privacy and security of health information and the workforce development in allied health.

I would like to encourage any of you with interests or questions that coincide with these committees to contact me through the website.

Our next House of Delegates meeting is May 7, 2008. If there are any issues you would like to see addressed by the House, please contact me at least a month in advance so we can work out the details before the deadline for additions to the meeting agenda.



STUDENT ALLIANCE NEWS

Corrina Frenzl
ADHI-WA Student Alliance Board Partner
AHDI Co-Chair Student Alliance

One of the most frequent things I hear as the Co-Chair of the Student Alliance is, "It is impossible to get a job after I graduate – I am so frustrated!" As a student myself, I am the first to admit that I cannot yet speak from experience; however, having asked professional MTs for their feedback, I have received several tips and ideas for us to utilize. Diana Gish, Educations Coordinator at AHDI, has informed me that there are approximately 30,000 MT jobs currently available. These jobs are out there, so here are ways to help you land one...

1. **Be informed of the resources you have available to you.**

- a) The Student Alliance Postgrad Mentorship program is a short-term mentorship to help you transition into your first job. We pair students with a professional MT who can offer advice and answer questions. Take advantage of their knowledge and continuously engage them with questions.
- b) Webinars are a great source of information. On March 27th Diana Gish will present a webinar specifically on "Getting your foot in the Door. 2 years' experience not required." To register, visit the Student Alliance website (www.ahdisa.org). If you are not able to attend, AHDI offers an e-book on the same topic.
- c) Visit the Student Alliance Forum frequently for other resources for students. We continuously update our programs to offer support to you.

2. **Network, network, network.**

Take every opportunity to meet other MTs. GPSC (Greater Puget Sound Chapter) has monthly meetings in Redmond. AHDI-WA is currently looking into having Meet and Greets around Washington. Keep your eyes peeled on our Website for dates, times and locations. Several MTs have landed their first job from connections they've made at these meetings. Any time that MTs are gathering carry a business card with you. Hand them out. Introduce yourself. During your time as a student and postgrad – marketing yourself is key to getting yourself in the door.

3. **Come to the AHDI-WA symposiums.**

These are great opportunities to meet the MTs who live near you. Introduce yourself, get involved and take advantage of all the speakers/vendors they have arranged to come. We have two of them, one in the spring, April 12th in Bremerton, Washington and another in the fall, October 27-28th in Vancouver, Washington.

4. **Come to the GPSC Career Expo.**

GPSC is holding a Career Expo sometime in June. Be sure to bring business cards and resumes with you to hand out to recruiters face to face. There will be tons of information there on what types of jobs are available in our local area.

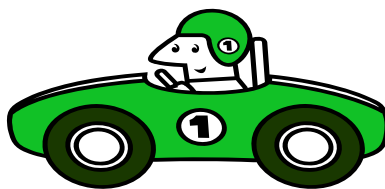
5. **Attend the Annual Convention (ACE) in Orlando.**

Unfortunately, due to financial difficulties this year, I will not be able to attend. However, when I attended last year I was amazed at how much I learned. I visited with several recruiters and learned about their companies. I have saved their business cards to contact them once I'm through school. Try to attend at least one annual convention while a student or a postgrad. You will not be sorry that you did.

6. **Get credentialed – go for the RMT.**

Once you've graduated, show future employers that you know the basics you need to get the job done – take the RMT. We will also offer support and study groups for students at the Student Alliance. Want to learn more about resources in our local area? Chat with Leslie Slusarski, AHDI-WA Cert Coordinator.

The biggest piece of advice I can give you is to start making connections NOW. As a student, this is not the time to wait, hold back and be shy. If you attend any of our local events, come find me and introduce yourself. I'd love to meet you. I also welcome any student to connect with me via email anytime (corinna.frenzl@ahdisa.org). If I don't know the answer to your question – I'm sure I can find someone who does. Don't go through this process on your own, as isolated as it may feel studying alone, there are MTs out there that would love to help you and meet you.



MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTEST

Recently during the House of Delegates meeting on February 23, 2008 announced a contest for a membership drive. As President of your component I have been asked to share this news with the members of AHDI-WA. Please take this opportunity to read what is involved, and keep in mind our own membership drive here in Washington. Just think what we can do in the next couple of months!

WHAT: AHDI's Membership Council is sponsoring a component level membership contest to increase membership at the national level in all membership categories. Components will compete in two separate categories, local components and State/Regional components. Only *new* national members will qualify for the membership contest. New national members are considered any individuals who have never been a member in any category with AHDI.

HOW: Components will be responsible for collecting and submitting all new membership applications and payments to the national office to count toward component totals. *To qualify for contest prizes, state/regional components must recruit at least ten new national members in any category and local components must recruit at least five new national members in any category.*

Submission must be received no later than **April 30, 2008**. If the new member chooses to pay directly by contacting Member Services, they must email btwist@ahdionline.org with the name of the component that they want their application credited towards, no later than April 30, 2008. The email must come from the new member not the component association.

WHEN: The dates of the contest will be March 1, 2008 through April 30, 2008.

WHY: If every State/Regional Component brought in 10 members and active local components brought in 5 members, AHDI would have 540 new members in two months. These 540 new members will help create energy and excitement about the association and help the leadership at all levels of the association spread excitement about AHDI programs and potentially help recruit additional new members.

HOW: AHDI staff will work with the membership council to keep the energy up about the membership contest through advertisements in *Vitals* and the Leadership blasts. The Membership Council and component members will be encouraged to place a tag line under their signature lines in emails during the length of the contest.

Prizes: Winning components will have the option of choosing their prize from the items below. Only one prize from each category will be awarded to the winning component on the State/Regional level and one prize in each category to the Local Component level. To see the prizes go to www.wamt-aamt.org.





ANNOUNCEMENTS

AHDI-WA Spring Symposium - "The Heart of Transcription"
April 12, 2008
Kitsap Conference Center at Bremerton Harborside

Schedule includes William Caine, M.D., Satya Pulkarthy, M.D., Diana George of CAPRI, a special presentation by Amy Klatch of eScription and Kat King, FAAMT.

We are hoping to have the new AHDI Book of Style, Third Edition, available for sale. Vendors scheduled to be there so far include Transcend Services, Inc., Tomboy Tools and Rider & Associates

Announcing the First Ever . . .
GPSC MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION CAREER EXPO
June 21, 2008, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Time and Date Pending Final Confirmation
Everett Community College Multipurpose Room

This is a free event for all working medical transcriptionists interested in advancing their careers, medical transcription students wondering how to get their foot in the door, and members of the general public who want to learn more about the medical transcription profession. The Greater Puget Sound Chapter of AHDI is inviting a representation of employers in our area, national and local MTSO's, AHDI-approved schools, as well as assorted speakers to address such issues as independent contracting versus working as an employee, and starting your own business. More information will be forthcoming soon. Further information will be posted on the GPSC website at gpsc-aamt.org as it becomes available.

DETAILS HAVE BEEN FINALIZED!!!
AHDI-WA Annual Convention - "Journey Through Medicine"
September 27 and 28, 2008
Red Lion Hotel, Vancouver at the Quay
100 Columbia Street, Vancouver, WA

Room Rates: Single Beds \$89.95; Double Queen Beds \$99.95
Riverview Upgrades available at \$15.00 additional per night

Watch the website at www.wamt-aamt.org for further details



TIDBITS OF NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

March 29, 2008 -- Meet and Greet, Everett Community College, 10 a.m. to Noon.
For further information, see the AHDI-WA website, www.wamt-aamt.org.

April 12, 2008 -- AHDI-WA Spring Symposium, "The Heart of Transcription";
Kitsap Conference Center at Bremerton Harborside, located in Bremerton, WA.
Registration form is included in the newsletter and on the website. Be sure to join
us!!!!

May 2, 2008 -- AHDI-Oregon Component Workshop with Brenda Hurley, 7 to 9
p.m. at Red Lion Inn at Jantzen Beach, Portland, OR

May 3, 2008 -- AHDI-Oregon Annual Convention, Red Lion Inn at Jantzen Beach,
Portland, OR

May 15-17, 2008 -- Advocacy Summit, Maryland/Washington, DC

May 18-24, 2008 -- Medical Transcription Week

June 21, 2008 -- GPSC-sponsored Medical Transcription Career Expo, Everett, WA

August 5-9, 2008 -- AHDI Annual Conference and Exposition, Orlando, Florida

September 27 and 28, 2008 -- AHDI-WA Annual Convention, Vancouver, WA; Red
Lion Inn at The Quay

October 31 and November 1, 2008 -- AHDI-Oregon "Sand and Savvy" Symposium,
with an adult Halloween Party on Friday evening. Hallmark Inn located in Newport,
OR

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Address Correction Requested

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The Scribe

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