

Ahdi-Colorado Association

Ahdi— Colorado Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1 2008

First Quarter

Message from the President

President's Message

Everyone I talk to these days seems apathetic. The new "ahdi doesn't represent transcriptionists," "Why bother joining an organization--what's it going to do for me?" My mother always told me that you get out of something what you put into it. The same holds true for the newly named AHDI-CO. Whatever we are willing to put into it, in equal measure we will receive benefit from it.

One of our problems, as demonstrated perhaps by my repeat presidency this year and the dissolution of the once highly successful Mile High Chapter, has been the same people doing the same things year after year. We need an infusion of "new blood," a **transfusion**, as it were. In the ahdi-WS chapter where I live, we have gained a few new transcriptionists but none of the coders, billers, tumor registrars, etc., our new name represents. They have their own professional organizations but few belong to them. Nonetheless, we want and need them to join us. We have nearly identical continuing medical education credit requirements. We should be able to work together to achieve great educational meetings.

When I first joined AAMT many years ago I was the only "outhouse" transcriptionist in Western Colorado. I joined then because there were so many things I needed to learn and because I didn't want to feel alone. Meetings were so exciting--not just because of speakers but because I got to "network" with other transcriptionists. At lunch and

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Message from the Immediate Past President

be Beth Sutherland, MA, CMT; Andrea Pieterick, CMT, and our new Delegate will be Rashell Coleman, BS. Congratulations to each of you. I know you will each add a wealth of knowledge to our board and each of us will benefit from you being on the board.

Mark your calendars for the AHDI Annual National Convention . It is always a great experience and an opportunity for a

variety of knowledge to be gained.

It has been a pleasure serving as the CAMT (now AHDI-CO) President, and I look forward to the evolution of our State Association.

Nora Maine CMT
Immediate Past
President



**Knowledge is power!
Show your power by
becoming certified.
Take the RMT or CMT
Certification Test
this year!**

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Special points of interest:

*18th Annual
Colorado State Convention
will be held in Denver
Dates TBA
See you there!*

*30th Annual
ACE Convention in Orlando Florida
August 6-9*

My term as the CAMT President is over. In January 2008, Marty Ealey took over as the AHDI-CO President, and I know she will do a terrific job in the Presidency position. I encourage each of us to give her as much support as possible to make our State chapter one of the best! As it has been said, "It does take a Village."

Speaking of our State chapter, the elections are over and new to the board members for 2008 will

break times we would cluster and an example would be raised. "What would you do in this situation?" I'd be amazed at having had most of those problems arise in my own work. Hearing other people's solutions inspired me. Everyone said, "'They' should write a book!" Well, now they have. Several, in fact. The fact that we now have online, CD, and hard copy references is great! These give our work a constant format, a "correct" way of doing things (though we occasionally still have to bow to our clients' odd ways). In a sense, however, the availability of reference materials seems to have erased the need for interaction with other people.

As I took this position in January I tried hard to think of ways to instill my passion into members and potential members. Everyone is so busy! And so tired!! Weekends are often the only time we have to spend quality time with our families, the only time to clean our homes, the only time to pursue recreation and hobbies. Yet, I'm asking that we give up at least 6 weekends per year to pursuit of excellence in our profession. Meetings are important. One of the things I have heard complained about for years is that "we" are not taken seriously. "Everybody" thinks they could do this. "If you can type, you can do medical transcription." Okay, so you know that's not true. Let's set about to prove it.

My personal goals for this organization this year are, first, to have every single member achieve, or begin working to achieve, a certification--either RMT or CMT, and for those who are already credentialed to maintain it by fulfilling those continuing education credits. I would like everyone to become willing to hold an office--this is one of those things that is necessary to become a "Fellow." "Fellowship" is a big deal to doctors. Many of them have at least one fellowship listed after their medical credentials. They know that leadership and outstanding effort is required to become a Fellow.

Secondly, I would like to double our membership. For example, I know there are over 200 medical transcriptionists here in the Grand Valley; we average fewer than 30 at our ahdi-WS meetings. Why? Let's find out what the needs are and begin to fulfill them, each in our own areas. Years ago when I was researching how to begin a successful small business I was told "Find a need, then fill it." It's sort of like "If you build it, they will come," from the movie Field of Dreams.

My third goal is to provide the best possible experience at our state convention this year. Work on that has begun. Dates will be announced in March. It will be held in the Denver area and promises to be **OUTSTANDING!**

Let's try being a little gung-ho this year. No more, "Let somebody else do it." Let's become the best state association in the country. Working together we can achieve so much. Let's not leave a single transcriptionist behind. Okay, enough cliches, though these are true rather than trite. We can do this, shall we?

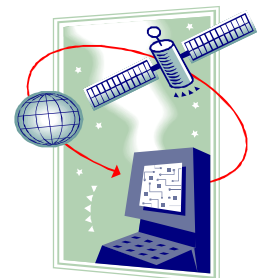
*Marty Ealey, BS, CMT, FAAMT
President, AHDI-CO*



Have you found a new term or drug that you would like to share with this audience?

**Send them to
Rashell.coleman@gmail.com
for inclusion in the next
newsletter.**

**Volunteer
organizations only
function when
people volunteer.**



EHR, PHR

**What are they? Find
out in the next
ahdi-CO newsletter.**

2008 ahdI- CO Board of Directors

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Term Ends: 12/10



Did you know you and take a practice CMT or RMT examination at your local testing center before actually going to take the test? For more information visit www.ahdionline.org.

18th Annual
Colorado State
Convention
Denver
Dates to be
Announced

Chapter Contact Information

Western Slope Chapter-

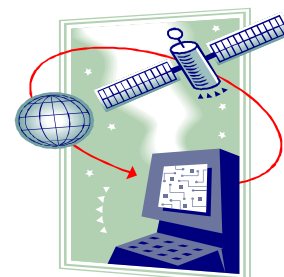
Lani Standifer, CMT
President
377 W. Valley Circle #C
Grand Junction, CO 81503
970-245-6661
coloconn@bresnan.net
Future Meeting Dates:
March 29th
May 17th
Aug 16th
October 18th
Community Hospital Lower
Level Conference Room

Four Corners Chapter -

Judy Sewell, CMT
President
1204 Camina Vega,
Farmington, NM 87401
505-327-4362
jsewell@sjrnc.net
Future Meeting Dates:
April 23rd in Durango
June 18th in Cortez
September 13th
Symposium in Farmington
November 15th in
Farmington

Pikes Peak Chapter -

Pamela Bartlett
President
18475 Lower Lake Road
Monument, CO 80132
719-488-1220
bartlettam@msn.com
Future Meeting Dates:
March 8th
May 10th
July 12th
September 13th
November 8th
Penrose Hospital Cancer
Conference Room D



Ever felt lost in space,
have you moved or
changed your email
address?
Update your
personal
information on the
ahdi website.

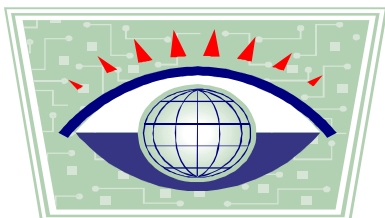
www.ahdionline.org

Ahdi-Colorado Association

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Capturing America's Healthcare Story

We are online at <http://www.ahdionline.org/ca/colorado/leadership.htm>



We have our eye on the world of Healthcare.

FREE REFERENCE SOURCE!!

All transcriptionists should be receiving advance for Health Information Professionals. It's a free magazine from AHIMA. There are usually articles and a column ("The Transcription Zone" written by and for transcriptionists, and it's another great reference source for new words and equipment. To receive it, contact 800-355-1088. If you don't need any more paper references, consider joining online at www.advanceweb.com/him. As soon as one sees the section called "Words to Watch" enter them into your medical spellchecker/ custom dictionary, as you should with those published in Plexus. They usually come up in transcription soon, as doctors are always looking for new equipment and methods to do things better--just as we are.

Delegate Corner- News from the House of Delegates by Rashell Coleman

Our first Quarterly HOD meeting was held on Wednesday, February 13th. The meeting included an update from ahdi President Betty Honkonen on several initiatives that the ahdi Board of Directors and various HOD committees are focusing on. The following is information on the 2008 ahdi strategic plan and the initiatives presented in the "Fireside Chat with Betty Honkonen."

- The Credentialing Cup- Teams of MTs are encouraged to form study groups and complete certification by taking the RMT or CMT test by July 31st to compete for \$2000 worth of products and meeting fees.
 - A national and local membership drive and The Next-Gen Campaign is being created to encourage people in Generation X and Y to become Medical Transcriptionists. Local and State Chapters can participate in a membership drive contest with a first place prize of 1 FREE Ace registration and 3 nights of hotel paid for by ahdi.
 - Mark your calendars now for the Advocacy Summit May 15-17th in Washington D.C. —To far to travel you say. Consider writing your Congressman and Senator telling them that MTs and MTSOs will be in Washington D.C. in May and that you hope they will meet with them, tell your representative who you are and what you do. Your best ADVOCATE is YOU!
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