

# IAMT INFORMER

July 2006

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*IAMT is truly blessed by the fact that we have so many talented and committed individuals who are willing to contribute their time and skills for the good of our association and profession.*

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## Message from the President

I hope this newsletter finds you enjoying the summer. There is much going on in the world of transcription and it involves change. Whether it is to change the name of our national organization from American Association for Medical Transcription to something else, or to abolish the House of Delegates and establish Regions (which are both in the talking stage and will be voted on in the HOD at the AAMT meeting in August in Boston), or whether it is lobbying our representatives at the state or national level on behalf of our profession, it is all about change. It is also time for a "changing of the guard" so to speak for the IAMT Board of Directors, time to elect a new Board.

Longfellow once said "all things must change, to something new, to something strange." He didn't say we would like it or that we would feel comfortable with it. Yes, change can often take us out of our comfort zone, but it can also be rewarding, challenging, beneficial, simple, or complex. It can also make a difference in your personal and professional life. This I know from experience.

When I decided to run for President of IAMT almost 4 years ago, I wasn't sure I wanted to. It definitely took me out of my comfort zone. I was nervous and perhaps a little intimidated at first, but with each passing month and year, I gained confidence and began to feel more comfortable in this role. Involvement at this level has made me a better person and medical transcriptionist and has been rewarding professionally. As our profession continues to evolve, the experience becomes invaluable.

Our profession is undergoing changes of its own, and yes, sometimes these changes may seem awkward, strange, or daunting. IAMT is truly blessed by the fact that we have so many talented and committed individuals who are willing to contribute their time and skills for the good of our association and profession. Why not consider becoming active at the state level and get involved? Make the commitment to run for state leadership. IAMT needs and welcomes new "blood." Step out of your comfort zone and help make a difference. It can be a rewarding experience, and a way of giving back to the profession.

**Janet Koltun, CMT**  
**President, IAMT**

## Delegate's Report

Hello Everyone:

Since this is the last year I will be serving as the Illinois Delegate, I want to thank each and every one of you for allowing me to represent Illinois at the HOD. It has been my privilege to serve you and I have always considered it an honor. I will be attending the HOD in Boston August 2nd-5th. The slogan this year is "BE REVOLUTIONARY." From what I have read and experienced on our Webinars, I believe this year will definitely be a year of change.

One of the proposed items on the agenda is RENAMING AAMT. As we expand the association to encourage a broader group of practitioners participating in data capture and documentation cycle to become involved in our best practice research, advocacy, standard setting and educational efforts, it is felt that we need a name that reflects a broader mandate and broader scope in the health information arena.

The Name Change Task Force recommends the following name(s):  
Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity (AHDl)  
Association for Health Data Capture & Documentation (AHDcD)  
Association for Quality Healthcare Documentation (AQHD)

Many of you received e-mails from me asking your opinion and overwhelmingly Association for Quality Healthcare Documentation was your first choice. I would appreciate hearing from the rest of you to let me know your thoughts and ideas on this proposal.

Another proposal being submitted is the REVAMPING OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES into six regions with each region having an elected regional director who would hold a seat on the AAMT Board of Directors. This would increase the total number of board members from 9-12 general board members to nine (9) general board members and six (6) regional directors, totaling 15 board members, hence eliminating the HOD as we know it today.

Our region would be Region 4 and would consist of Illinois, Missouri, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Kentucky, Indiana and Michigan.

I need your guidance in these very critical matters that will be presented at the HOD Meeting in Boston. Please e-mail with your thoughts and ideas ASAP as I will be leaving for Boston of August 1<sup>st</sup>. My e-mail address is mecoburn1@aol.com  
Sincerely,

Mary Coburn, RHIT, CMT, FAAMT  
Illinois Delegate

## Cathy Black, CMT, FAAMT

As many of you may know, our IAMT Secretary, Cathy Black, passed away after a lengthy illness in May. Cathy was proud to be a CMT and transcriptionist. She was active in the state and local components. We will miss her bubbly personality, her smile, and her presence. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family at this time.

## IAMT Elections 2006

It is that time again, to nominate members for the upcoming election of the Illinois Association of Medical Transcription Board of Directors. This is a great way to serve your profession. We need candidates for President-Elect 2006-2007, Secretary, Treasurer and Delegate. It is a great way to meet new people, network, and work on behalf of the members. Anyone interest in running for the IAMT BOD, please send you name to Linda Hershman, CMT, at [linhersh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:linhersh@sbcglobal.net) The ballots will be mailed August 15, 2006. Why not consider getting involved? We would love to pass on our knowledge to the up and coming new MTs who are bringing their fresh ideas and inspiration to this association. Thanks for considering this worthwhile endeavor.

## AAMT and IAMT Lobby Days

On April 5, 2006, Illinois held their first state Lobby Day in Springfield. This was Illinois' first opportunity to rally together to advocate for our profession. Our group included Peter Preziosi, PhD, CAE, Janet Koltun, CMT, President, IAMT, Cathy Baughman, CMT, FAAMT, President-Elect AAMT, Marian Beck, RHIA, Jill Mickelson, CMT, FAAMT, LeAnne Herrington, CMT, Susan Herald, CMT, Michelle McBeath, and Gigi DeLuca.



We met for breakfast at the State House Inn and to plan strategy. We then walked the short distance to the state Capitol to meet with our state legislators. Information packets were prepared for handout to the various legislators with whom we met. These packets contained information to help educate the legislators about the profession of medical transcription, the critical role MTs play in the health care industry, and medical transcription priority issues and facts, to name a few items.

For most of us, this was our first experience with lobbying our senators and representatives about our profession. We didn't always have a lot of time to present our cause, maybe 5 to 10 minutes. It proved to be educational, informative, and at times, exhilarating.

Plans are underway for the 2007 Illinois Lobby Day in March. Please plan to attend and help advocate for your profession.

Also, AAMT held their second Lobby Day in Washington, DC, May 18-19. The Illinois delegation attended a Constituent Coffee with Senators Durbin and Obama. We met with the legislative aides of Senator Durbin, Senator Obama, Representatives Dennis Hastert and John Shimkus. We met with Representative Tim Johnson and Representative Ray LaHood and their respective legislative aides. Then, at a reception, we shared our experiences with other attendees. It was informative, exciting, and a great learning experience.

## IAMT Annual 21ST Annual Educational Meeting



The annual meeting of the Illinois Association for Medical Transcription will be held October 6-8, 2006, at the Northfield Inn, Suites & Conference Center, Springfield, IL 62702. Telephone: (217) 523-7900. Sleeping room rates will be \$72 per night and will include 2 queen size beds and a continental breakfast each morning. We have a block of 25 sleeping rooms reserved. **The cutoff date for registration for these rooms is September 22, 2006, at 4 p.m.** Attendees will be responsible for making their own hotel room reservations.

We plan on 9 CEUs for the meeting. Registration will begin on Friday evening at 6 p.m., with the first speaker slated to begin at 7 p.m. Saturday activities will begin with registration at 7:30 a.m. and the first speaker scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. Sunday's schedule includes 2 speakers, with the first speaker at 9 a.m. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending this year's event. It is a great way to see old friends, make new ones, and network.

### Northfield Inn, Suites & Conference Center

3280 Northfield Drive  
Springfield, IL 62702  
Phone: 217-523-7900  
Toll Free: 866-577-7900  
Fax: 217-523-7273

The registration form for the meeting is available on the web site at [www.aamt.org/ca/ilamt](http://www.aamt.org/ca/ilamt) . There is an excellent map under the Contact Us portion of the hotel web site that zooms in/out, located at <http://northfieldinn.com/> for those who wish to check it out. There are very explicit local directions there.

Detailed turn-by-turn directions also follow below:

#### **DIRECTIONS TO THE IAMT MEETING**

From Interstate 55...

- \*Take Exit 100B (Sangamon Avenue)
- \*Turn Right at the first stoplight onto Dirksen Parkway
- \*Turn Right again at the first stoplight onto Northfield Drive
- \*Northfield Inn is located on the right-hand side of the road

From Interstate 36/72...(Decatur/Champaign)

- \*Take I-72 West to I-55 North
- \*Go North on I-55 and follow the directions above

From Interstate 36/72...(Quincy)

- \*Take I-72 East to I-55 North
- \*Go North on I-55 and follow the directions above

From Downtown Springfield

- \*Take Clearlake Avenue East To Dirksen Parkway
- \*Turn Left onto Dirksen Parkway and go approximately 2 miles Northfield Center
- \*Turn Right on Northfield Drive, just past Sangamon Avenue
- \*Northfield Inn is located on the right-hand side of the road

**ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION FOR MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION**  
**October 6-8, 2006**  
**Northfield Inn, Suites & Conference Center**  
**3280 Northfield Dr., Springfield, IL 62702**  
**217-523-7900**



REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____	AAMT No. _____
Address: _____	Day Phone: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____	Eve Phone: _____
Chapter: _____ Office Held: _____	E-Mail: _____

REGISTRATION FEES: (Please circle correct fee)

<b>AAMT MEMBER FEE<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Early</b>	<b>Regular</b>	<b>On-site</b>	<b>NON-MEMBER FEE</b>	<b>Early</b>	<b>Regular</b>	<b>On-Site</b>
<b>Total Package</b>	<b>85.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>125.00</b>	<b>Total Package</b>	<b>120.00</b>	<b>135.00</b>	<b>160.00</b>
<b>Saturday only</b>	<b>75.00</b>	<b>90.00</b>	<b>115.00</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>115.00</b>	<b>140.00</b>
<b>Friday OR Sunday</b>	<b>40.00</b>	<b>45.00</b>	<b>60.00</b>	<b>Friday OR Sunday</b>	<b>60.00</b>	<b>65.00</b>	<b>80.00</b>
<b>Students<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>60.00</b>	<b>60.00</b>	<b>60.00</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>60.00</b>	<b>60.00</b>	<b>60.00</b>

Extra lunch for non-registrants: \$25.00

<sup>1</sup>To qualify for Member rates, a photocopy of your current AAMT membership card must be attached in the space below. Forms without cards will be returned to you.

<sup>2</sup>To qualify for Student rates, proof that you are a student (letter from an instructor on school letterhead, a report card, or a copy of the paid class registration form from your school) must be attached to this registration form. Forms without proof will be returned to you.

**PAYMENT POLICY:** Payment must accompany registration—no exceptions. **NO REFUNDS ARE AVAILABLE.** **Early registration** must be postmarked by September 1, 2006. **Regular registration** must be postmarked by September 15, 2006; otherwise, on-site rates will apply.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to IAMT and mail with registration form to:**  
**IAMT REGISTRAR (Attach copy of membership card here.)**  
**32 Westwood Terrace, Springfield, IL 62702**

Inquiries:  
 Janet Koltun, CMT President e-mail: [Jan.Koltun@aol.com](mailto:Jan.Koltun@aol.com)

NOTE: Contributions or gifts to IAMT are not tax deductible as charitable contributions for Federal Income Tax purposes; however, they may be tax deductible as ordinary and necessary business expenses.

<p><input type="checkbox"/> Please check here and describe if you are disabled and/or require special services. The hotel is handicapped accessible.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Check here if this is your first IAMT Convention.</b></p>	<p>Some of our exhibitors and door prize donors request a list of names and addresses of those in attendance.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check here if you prefer NOT to be included on such a list.</p>
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**HOTEL REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 22, 2006 at 4:00 P.M.** Rooms will be released after that date. When registering, state you are with the IAMT convention to get the special rate of \$72 for double queens. Northfield Inn & Suites Conference Center **217-523-7900**.  
<http://northfieldinn.com/>

## Members in the News

### CELEBRITY CITIZEN AWARD

In May 2006, the City of Springfield and the Convention and Visitors Bureau held their first Celebrity Citizen Recognition Event to honor citizens of Springfield who had steered new meetings and events to the City of Springfield. Each citizen received a plaque, director's chair and had their picture taken with Mayor Tim Davlin. As President of IAMT, Janet Koltun, CMT, was recognized as a Celebrity Citizen for bringing the 2006 IAMT State Meeting to Springfield. The plaques presented read "The City of Springfield honors you. In honor of your pride for the City of Springfield, your support for the community, and your contribution to our economy, the City of Springfield hereby recognizes you as a Celebrity Citizen." It was a great opportunity to meet other members of the community and tell people about the profession of medical transcription and what it is exactly we do.

Do you have someone you know who is in the news in your area, or should be? Let the editor know. Write to the IAMT Informer at [mjgaffney@ameritech.net](mailto:mjgaffney@ameritech.net) so that we can recognize you for the achievements you make in advancing the profession. You do make a difference to your fellow MTs in the state of Illinois.

## CEC Opportunities

The following are some web sites I have used to obtain creditworthy material to aid MTs in accumulating CEC credits when they are unable to attend meetings due to scheduling and work commitments. I hope some of these prove to be of benefit.

Medscape <http://www.medscape.com/cmecenterdirectory/> offers free, continuously updated continuing education activities for physicians, registered nurses, pharmacists, and other health professionals. All activities have been planned and implemented in accordance with the Quality Criteria of the American Council on Pharmaceutical Education (ACPE), and have been produced in collaboration with ACPE-accredited CE providers.

The URL above links to pharmacist CEs, but there's a drop-down menu for other specialties. Medscape keeps track of CECs with CE Tracker, a spreadsheet that can be printed out and attached to the CE Summary Form. When completing the CE Summary Form, the CMT can put "online cont'g educ credit, see attached" in the column for title of presentation, Medscape in the presenter column, and the date range during which the credits were obtained in the date column, rather than individually listing each activity.

Ever have that physician who is unavoidably called away just before his presentation to your group? The following links, posted in the Resources forum on MT Chat, are to online webcasts that can be shown at a chapter meeting using a computer and LCD projector.

<http://www.jeffersonhospital.org/webcast/library.html>

<http://www.or-live.com/archives.cfm>

[http://www.entusa.com/surgery\\_videos.htm](http://www.entusa.com/surgery_videos.htm)

There are excellent CEs available at <http://discoveryhealthcme.discovery.com/> on several different topics. The above have been proved from other newsletter editors sharing their sources via a newsgroup in Google that was begun by Lea Sims at AAMT. If you are an editor you may wish to avail yourself of this group. They are a wonderful source for materials.

## Upcoming Events – The Great Lakes Region

Labor Day Holiday September 4  
 Davenport, Iowa  
 Iowa Association for Medical Transcription  
 1st Annual Symposium  
 Kaplan University September 16-17  
 Springfield, Illinois  
[IAMT Inc.](#), Annual Meeting [Registration Form](#)  
 Northfield Inn, Suites & Conference Center October 6-8  
 Waukesha, Wisconsin  
 WMAMT - Wisconsin-Minnesota AAMT  
 Annual Education Conference  
 Country Springs Hotel and Water Park October 13-14  
 Springfield, Missouri  
[Tri-State Chapter](#), Annual Symposium  
 The Library Center October 14  
 St. Louis, Missouri  
[AAMT Technology Vendor Showcase](#) November 3-4  
 Thanksgiving Holiday November 23

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## IAMT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Janet Koltun, CMT  
[jankoltun@aol.com](mailto:jankoltun@aol.com)

Pres Elect, Linda Hershman, CMT  
[linhersh@sbcbglobal.net](mailto:linhersh@sbcbglobal.net)

Secretary,

Treasurer, Janis Nussman, CMT  
[nussman.janis@mhsil.com](mailto:nussman.janis@mhsil.com)

Delegate, Mary Coburn, RHIT, CMT  
[mecoburn1@aol.com](mailto:mecoburn1@aol.com)

Newsletter Editor/Web Site Coordinator  
 Marcia J. Gaffney, CMT  
[mjgaffney@ameritech.net](mailto:mjgaffney@ameritech.net)

NOVEMBER 2006						
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