



MAMT

**Missouri State Association
of Medical Transcription**

THE DOGWOOD DISPATCH

October - December 2006

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Season's Greetings!

I hope that everyone has had great holidays! They have certainly been busy and the year is drawing to a close. It has been a good year, and I have really enjoyed being the president of MAMT.

I attended the national AAMT meeting in Boston this summer. It was a great experience. I attended the House of Delegates meeting to support Rhonda, and that was a new and informative experience. A lot of work goes on at AAMT. I also went to the first Technology Vendor Showcase held in St. Louis in November. That was a good meeting as well. I will have to say that I think our meetings in Missouri rate right up there with the caliber of speakers that we have. We can be proud of ourselves!

Work has already started on the May 2007 meeting. We worked on some of the details at the last board meeting. The cost of the conference will be going up minimally this year. With moving to a more expensive location such as the Country Club Spa and Hotel, we will have to do so this year. We already have some good speakers lined up for the meeting! We will also be having some special raffles at the meeting in May, including an item by Patti Niemeyer. We are starting to work on vendors as well. We will give you more details early next year.

The next board meeting will be on January 13 at the lake. The new officers will be installed at that time.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you in May!

Sincerely,

Kate Bergman
MAMT President

MAMT CONFERENCE 2007!

The MAMT Board is very pleased to once again host our 2007 conference at the lake at the **Country Club Hotel & Spa**. Visit www.countryclubhotel.com to find out more about CCHS and for directions.



We will have many more details in our first newsletter for 2007, but be sure to mark your calendars now for **May 4-6**.

DONATIONS FOR DOOR PRIZES

As always, we welcome any door prizes and goody bag items members can provide. We will be doing theme baskets again, which are always creative and a big hit. More prizes mean more chances to win, and it's always fun to rummage through the goody bag! We will need goody bag items Friday May 5th by 4 p.m., so please make arrangements so we can include your items in the 'loot.'

One of our featured raffle items is from Patti Niemeyer. Apparently she has yet another talent, crocheting, and she will be donating an afghan as an auction item. We will be selling tickets for this and other raffle items before the conference as well as during. We will also provide a picture in the next newsletter. Thank you, Patti!

SPEAKERS AND FEATURED ITEMS

We will once again try to have the water aerobics class on our agenda. As you recall, a series of unfortunate events occurred, which started with a young girl getting sick in the pool and ended with a major renovation that kept it from opening in time for our conference. Of course, this activity is optional, but we'd love to have you jump in and join us as it will be a lot of fun.

If any of you have ideas for speakers, please e-mail your ideas to anyone on the board. We have the comments from last year's conference, and we are following up with those as well.

For the last 2 years we have provided a credit-worthy activity during our lunch hour, which was a fashion show from Coldwater Creek. This also included some COOL discounts at the local store. We are looking for something new this year, though. Any ideas? Again, e-mail us with your suggestions.

MAMT STATE AND LOCAL CHAPTERS 2007

Welcome to all of our new 2007 state and local officers. We are lucky to have you!

MISSOURI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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LOCAL CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Chapter Representative:	Suzanne Veltrop	smv7999@bjc.org
AAMT Liaison:	Gigi DeLuca	gdeluca8@aol.com

TRI-STATE:

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Vice President:	Rhonda Werdeman	flynnecat@aol.com
Secretary:	Pat Woodward	patricia.woodward@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer:	Patti Brant	proofinpatti@yahoo.com

TRI-STATE MEMBERSHIP LIASONS:

Donna Christensen, dchriste@hughes.net - Mountain Grove and West Plains area
Glenda Cunningham, dcunningham@getgoin.net - Lebanon area
Rae Dene Ipock, ripock@sbcglobal.net - Joplin and surrounding areas
Rhonda Werdeman, Rhonda.Werdeman@coxhealth.com - Cox Hospital and affiliates
Liz Webb, ewebb@sprg.mercy.net - St. John's Hospital, Springfield

LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS



Central Missouri Chapter

We had a very successful fall symposium and looking forward to next year. We elected our 2007 officers at that meeting, and they are listed on page 2.

We discussed and agreed upon giving all of the officers a break on their AAMT dues for 2007. Not only is it an incentive to remain a member of AAMT, but it is also an incentive to be an officer.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 10 in Columbia. We will begin planning for our 2007 symposium. Hope to see you then!

Linda Stone

Greater St. Louis Chapter

We are starting off 2007 with some great news. We are extremely pleased to announce that **Peter Preziosi, Executive Director of AAMT**, will be speaking at our first meeting in 2007! This meeting is to take place on January 8, 2007. We were able to confirm this just this week, so we have been rushing around to get details in order. The meeting will be held at Missouri Baptist Center on Ballas Road, Auditorium 1, and will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Peter will be giving an AAMT update and will be offering one continuing education credit. Please keep this date open and join us! Please RSVP Lisa LaRose, CMT, at either lisaal@bjc.org or (314) 457-1554.

Our 2007 officers are listed above on page 2.

More details on our GSL chapter meetings for 2007 will be announced at a later time. Be sure to visit our website for our latest newsletter, <http://www.aamt.org/ca/gsl>.

Jennifer Lyons, CMT, and Lisa LaRose, CMT

Tri-State Chapter

Lot going on in Springfield, Missouri, Tri-State Chapter! New officers are listed on page 2.

Our schedule for meetings this year are listed on the MAMT Events page and on our website, <http://www.aamt.org/ca/tristate>.

Since our area is so widespread and cost of gas is up, we decided to have it at several surrounding areas to make distance and travel fair for all members in 2007. As is our routine, we will have speakers at every meeting.

Our Christmas get-together was held at the Outback Restaurant, with 12 attending and a great time plus good food - and we didn't have to cook this year!

Rae Messick, CMT

MISSOURI DELEGATE'S MESSAGE

Rhonda Werdeman

This year the AAMT House of Delegates (HOD) has made great strides in working toward reforming our association. We have had several HOD webinar meetings, tons of emails back and forth on the listserv, and multiple webinar townhall sessions. We had so much to cover at our November meeting that we ended up having 2 HOD meetings that month so that we could complete the agenda. Here's a brief synopsis of what the HOD accomplished:

1. The AAMT bylaws were amended to allow the HOD to make amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and to allow for an elected Speaker of the House.
2. We accepted the Leadership Institute report.
3. The idea of a web-based regional association has been approved to allow for HOD representation for AAMT members who live in states that do not have state/regional associations.
4. Local chapters now have the option of having only 2 officers in order to maintain their status with AAMT.
5. Members can now live in one state and become a member of another state/regional association. Restrictions will apply, but this will help members to retain the membership of their original home state.
6. Student and post/graduate AAMT members now can vote in their state/regional associations. Also, if they have been an AAMT member for more than 1 year, they will be eligible to hold office within their state/regional association.
7. At the recommendation of AAMT's marketing consultants, the new name of the association has slightly changed. It is now the Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity. More information will be forthcoming from AAMT as to when this will be fully implemented, etc.
8. The 2007 HOD calendar has been published and will be on the AAMT website soon.

One of the major items of discussion in our meetings, listserv, and webinar was the HOD Implementation Plan which encompassed several things: The Delegate policy has been updated with new language for accountability of performance and guidance for the role and duties of the delegates. The Code of Commitment for delegates has also been updated. Policies and Procedures for the election of the Speaker of the House and the speaker-elect in 2008. The Speaker of the House will also chair the HOD Lead Team. There is a policy for removal of delegates from office. The checklist scoring and the removal policy itself is to be monitored throughout 2007 and does not go into effect until 2008. Renewing AAMT members will be asked for a contribution to the HOD Operational Fund. This will help off-set the cost of expenses related to the HOD.

New HOD Mission Statement: The AAMT House of Delegates is committed to implementing the strategic initiatives of our association through representation of membership with effective communication to membership and from membership, promotion of advocacy, legislative, and credentialing issues, and the development of future leadership within all levels of our association.

As 2006 comes to a close, we look back on all that we accomplished throughout the year, and we look forward to 2007 and all the exciting things ahead of us in our association. Wishing every one of you a very merry Christmas and continued blessings in the new year.

Rhonda Werdeman
Missouri Delegate



NEWS



AAMT Office is Moving!

In an ongoing effort to maximize resources and create greater operational efficiencies, AAMT is moving its offices to a new location. As of January 1, 2007, please use the following address for correspondence:

4230 Kiernan Avenue, Suite 130
Modesto, CA 95356

Phone numbers will remain the same: Toll Free: 800-982-2182 Direct Line: 209-527-9620

AAMT Office Closed During Move

Please note that the AAMT office will be moving **the first week in January** to our new location. Emails, phone access, and the website may be intermittently unavailable. Please plan accordingly. Staff will return all calls and respond to emails as soon as they are able. We thank you for your understanding and patience during this extraordinarily busy time.

New AAMT Speaker of the House Elected to Serve for the 2007-2008 Term

The 2006 House of Delegates approved a proposal to reform the role and purpose of the HOD to become strategic grassroots organization for the association. Delegates will now become involved in assisting state/regional and local components to implement the initiatives of the national organization, such as Mission: Possible, in a way that makes sense for local and regional associations. Recognizing the importance and time involved in this effort, the proposal called for a separation of the Board President from the role of Speaker of the House and electing a Speaker of the House to oversee the revised function of the HOD. The House of Delegates held an election and AAMT is pleased to announce the newly elected Speaker of the House for the 2007-2008 term:

Kathy Rockel, CMT, FAAMT

AAMT REGION 7 UPDATE

April Martin, RHIT, CMT, FAAMT

Greetings Region 7 and happy fall!

Just a quick update as of October 2006 on what is going on in our association since the whirlwind of activity at the HOD.

This week during AHIMA Annual Convention in Denver, members of AAMT will be attending the AHIMA board meeting and will be meeting with them to discuss the concept of the LLC/think tank approved at the HOD, the QA Special Interest Group will meet to put closure on the best practice document and to determine what other projects they will be tackling in 2007, the Manager/Supervisor Group will meet with Mile High Chapter of AAMT, and the InterFix project will be launched.

Another interesting fact is that the AAMT board has approved for AAMT to move forward with a position statement on verbatim transcription, hopefully to be ready by the end of the year.

The RMT exam has completed the beta phase and the new RMTs have been notified. The RMT exam should go live by November 2006. For more detailed information on the RMT Exam, please refer to the [RMT Candidate Guide](#).

The first Joint AAMT-MTIA Legislative Steering Committee meeting is being held to begin planning for Lobby Day 2007, to develop a legislative agenda for 2007, and to discuss how to shop around the Congressional white paper we developed. Now would be a good time to start organizing activities for your state/region while attending Lobby Day. Did you know, not only is Lobby Day educational and a chance for you to advocate for the profession, that there are other fun activities to participate in, such as a wine and cheese event to see D.C. at night. Many state congressmen hold breakfast briefings or coffees with their constituents at least once a week. Find out what day of the week and plan to attend. I hope to see us double our numbers next year!

How many of you have ordered your *Dictation Best Practices Tool Kit*? This dynamic kit is available to components at the Mission: Possible web page (<http://www.aamt.org/mp/index.cfm>). It is designed to assist facilities with adoption and implementation of policies and training practices that will promote high quality dictation and ensure the best documentation outcomes. This kit includes *Dictation Best Practices: A Guide for Physicians*, a self-running audiovisual presentation, as well as a PowerPoint presentation with handouts for a live seminar. In addition, the kit includes the rationale for promoting better dictation practices and *Dictation 101*, recommendations for instructing dictators in good dictation habits. Model Policies and Procedures are also available for adoption by healthcare facilities. Visual aids include "Q" Cards, a Tip Sheet, and a Documentation Workflow poster. The Kit is free of charge and available to all components and individuals interested in promoting this very important initiative. *Component leaders: Sign in using your Mission:Possible agent ID and then access the DBP Tool Kit materials under Initiative #9.*

With the new name on the horizon, many members have questioned, "Well what will become of my FAAMT or my CMT?" The name change will not eliminate our credentials. They may become different credentials, but we have still earned these credentials and they are not being taken away. How many of us remember when an RHIA was called an ART and an RHIT was called an RRT? If you have been an active member of your association for at least 5 years, I strongly encourage you to pursue applying to be a fellow of AAMT. Being a fellow of AAMT is an honor. It signifies that you have achieved a balance of successful activities in your profession that goes beyond regular transcription practice. The AAMT Board of Directors has adopted a

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set of criteria that AAMT Practitioner members must meet to earn the designation of Fellow of the American Association of Medical Transcription (FAAMT). The criteria strengthen the fellowship designation, enhancing its prestige and value to those who earn the right to use the FAAMT title. Please click on the following link to review the [FAAMT application](#).

Did you know the AAMT forum has taken on a new look? AAMT is pleased to announce the unveiling of the new Professional Practices Network information center for AAMT members. This new member benefit combines the functions of our discussion forums and the Help Desk into one enhanced resource. The Professional Practices Network consists of self-contained professional communities dedicated to different aspects of the industry, with sections for announcements, FAQs, related links, downloadable resources, and a forum where members can post questions, which will be answered by AAMT professional staff and qualified volunteer members. If you have already registered on the forums, your login and password should work on the new PPN. Please check it out at <http://www.aamt.org/forum>.

Finally, just a reminder that AAMT needs practitioner members to mentor students and postgraduate MTs. The mentoring program partners a practicing MT with a student MT in a mentor/mentee relationship via email. Wouldn't you have loved this resource when you were a struggling student? Contact Sharmaine Paiva at sharmaine@aamt.org to be added to the list of available mentors.

Well I think that about covers this month's update. As always, do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if I can assist you in some way.

April L. Martin, RHIT, CMT, FAAMT
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FEATURED ARTICLE

The Churn is at Work in the Healthcare Documentation Industry

By Tina Whitecotton, RMT, FAAMT

The job of the ‘traditional’ MT is changing. Anyone who doubts that, or believes differently is living in a dream world. Some only give lip service to the doctrine “Change is Good.” Others actually live it, incorporating this doctrine into their lives, and do not become disenchanted each time a challenge such as the statement, “Is medical transcription going to be around in 5 years?” appears.

The fundamental impulse that sets and keeps the capitalist engine in motion comes from the new consumer goods, the new methods of production or transportation, the new markets, the new forms of industrial organization that capitalist enterprise creates. Joseph Schumpeter, Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy (1942)

In 1992, W. Michael Cox, vice president and economic advisor of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, and Richard Alm wrote about “The Churn: The Paradox of Progress.” In this article they mention the processes of creative destruction that actually lead to progress, rather than destruction as many who are deeply involved in the process seem to believe.

*Many conclude that the so-called export of jobs represents a failure of the U.S. economy, and they call for restrictive trade policies to save American jobs. There's no denying the churn can cross borders, but the United States doesn't really lose when a job migrates to another country. **The national resource isn't the job; it's the workers and their talents.***

The operative word here is talents. MT’s talents are their knowledge base and medical language expertise. We are linguists in the medical language arena. We know how to document a patient encounter so it is clear and concise. And we have the knowledge base and attention to detail to catch a dictated error, one that a speech recognition engine would completely bypass. These are the talents we must showcase in order to make the profession indispensable in the EHR world.

The article continues:

*A well-educated, well-trained labor force more readily shifts from the jobs of declining industries to those of emerging ones... The skills needed in the past aren't likely to be the same as those valued in the future. **Only education followed by constant reeducation and training can help bridge the gap.***

Education has always been the key difference between a good MT and an exceptional MT. MTs who continue to educate themselves in both the medical and technological arenas are the MTs who will thrive in the new environment. These MTs are the winds of change that will be the cognoscenti of this profession.

Fox and Alm sum up this thought-provoking article in their final paragraph:

Job creation and job destruction are intertwined. They are both key elements in the process through which a society raises its living standards... Societies that deny the churn by trying to freeze employment [or protect jobs with legislation] actually retard the formation of new jobs and new sources of income. Societies that allow the churn to work reap the rewards of more employment and better living standards...

An MT in today's world economy must recognize The Churn early on, and do more than pay lip service to the words "**Change is Everything.**" They must make it part of their everyday lives. As MTs and citizens of today we must live with change on a daily basis. Those who live it, believe it, and make it part of their being, will continue to evolve and grow with the healthcare documentation industry. Those who do not will believe that MT is drying up, leave the industry and go on to another job (and job is what it will be, rather than a profession). Which group do you want to be part of?

In closing, I would like to share a very short poem I composed several months ago that I believe sums up my feelings about this topic.

The Future is Now!

Take on the challenge!
Take a chance
A new day is dawning
Join in the dance!

© 2006 Tina Whitecotton

CERT CONNECTOR'S CORNER

Sara Proctor, CMT



Is your CEC summary sheet up to date? Those of you whose cycle ends December 31st have until January 31 to get your paperwork in. If you receive your reminder and it indicates you are being audited, don't panic! Just make sure you have all of your CEC sheets from your meetings as proof of attendance, and be sure to send those in with your summary sheet.

I was recently asked when do you turn in summaries for articles that are preapproved, such as in Plexus or JAAMT. Since they are preapproved, AAMT does not want them until your cycle is up. Simply log the article info on your CEC summary sheet and send your article summary with it.

For more years than I care to admit, I would wait until the last minute to get my summary done. That's dangerous, because if I turned up short I would then have to scramble to find some credit-worthy activities to make it up. Luckily that never happened, but I got tired of that M.O. Now, I download the CEC sheet from the AAMT website and keep it updated as I go. No more potential surprises. What a concept! Here is the link to download the form: <http://www.aamt.org/scriptcontent/crecertification.cfm>

If you have any questions, e-mail me. If I don't know, I'll find out!

CEC CHALLENGE!

Did anyone try the interactive simulations I suggested in the previous newsletter? If you didn't get the chance, here is the address again: <http://www.medicalsimulations.com>

Also, did you all know that AAMT now has a page that lists credit-worthy articles from JAAMT and Plexus? Here's the link: <http://www.aamt.org/scriptcontent/cepublications.cfm>

NATIONAL, STATE & LOCAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2007

The year's events are not over yet! Please notify us of events and meetings going on in your neighborhood. For more information on national events, go to www.aamt.org. For state and local chapter events, go to www.aamt.org/ca/missouri. Mark your calendars for the following dates:

JANUARY

- 8 Greater St. Louis meeting, Missouri Baptist Hospital on Ballas Road, Auditorium 1, 6:30 p.m. PETER PREZIOSI is featured speaker. Worth 1 CEC.
- 13 MAMT Board of Directors meeting, Lake of the Ozarks

FEBRUARY

- 10 Central Missouri meeting in Columbia.
- 24 Tri-State membership drive, to be held at Clarion Hotel

APRIL

- 21 Tri-State regular meeting in Joplin, 10-12. Meeting place TBA

MAY

- 4-6 MAMT ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE, Country Club Hotel and Spa, Lake of the Ozarks

JUNE

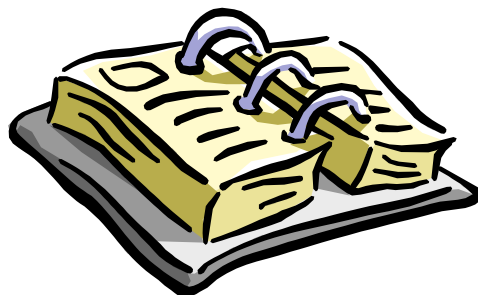
- 16 Tri-State regular meeting in Lebanon, 10-12. Meeting place TBA

AUGUST

- 15-18 AAMT ANNUAL EXPO AND CONFERENCE, Reno, Nevada
- 18 Tri-State regular meeting in Mountain Grove, 10-12. Meeting place TBA

OCTOBER


- 20 Tri-State Fall Symposium, to be held at Clarion Hotel



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FAVORITE QUOTE:

When the world says, “Give up!”

Hope whispers, “Give it one more try.”

Sara Proctor, CMT
2006 Newsletter Editor in Chief
sproctor@bjc.org