

For anyone who has ever attended an AAMT Annual Meeting you have experienced the excitement, the difficult decisions of which meeting to go to next, and also the wonderful camaraderie we all have - meeting new fellow medical transcriptionists and catching up with those we have met in the past.....

The HOD approved changing the name of the Association and the new name is the Association for Integrity of Healthcare Documentation (AIHD). The final step will be to run a trademark check on this name to make sure no one else has their stamp on it. It could take up to a year to fully implement this.

The HOD also approved opening up our membership by collapsing the Associate category of membership into the Practitioner category. We now have a new all-inclusive category of membership called Individual Professional. This will allow anyone working in the field of healthcare documentation to join our association as a full-fledged member, complete with voting privileges and the ability to hold office.

The other category that was approved is a new Electronic Membership. The House approved a price of \$75 for this new membership category and the benefits will include a subscription to Vitals and discounts on credentialing exams and conferences. They will not receive JAAMT, Plexus, product discounts, or full access to our website. They can hold committee positions and offices at the local/state level, but will not be eligible to run for the HOD or the Board of Directors.....

The qualification to run for the Board of Directors was also changed from the 3-year membership criteria in the past to only 1 year.

The HOD approved the exploration in concept of a joint venture with AHIMA – an LLC that will serve as a think tank for industry issues and standards.....

The HOD approved formation of a Leadership Institute to help educate new leaders and people interested in becoming leaders.....

You may also realize that nearly one-quarter of our AAMT membership is not represented by a delegate of a state/regional. The AAMT Board of Directors are members of the HOD to represent these members. Also, not all state regionals are equal. Not all delegates communicate with membership or take their membership's concerns/opinions to the HOD. This situation was brought to the HOD to try to be resolved once and for all. The HOD looked at two models of restructuring - a regional approach that would expand the number of directors on the BOD to 15 and eliminate the House, and a retooling of the current structure. The HOD approved the retooling document, which clearly outlines the roles between the Board and the House. The House is now charged with the responsibility of supporting and strengthening the grassroots efforts, while the Board will be solely focused on the industry at large. Pat Forbis, a past president and past employee of AAMT, gave an excellent description of this structure. She said when she wants her voice to be heard within the components of the Association, she will talk to her delegates. When she wants her voice to be heard outside of the Association and to the industry at large, she will talk to the Board.....

As a state association we were very excited to receive 2 awards this year - Webmedx from Pittsburgh was named "AAMT 2006 Employer of the Year" and I received "AAMT 2006 Advocate of the Year."

Carol Croft, CMT, FAAMT

PAMT Delegate