

.SVHIA President's Message

Hello SVHIA members! It is hard to believe that summer is almost over and it's time to begin a new SVHIA year. I was fortunate to have been mentored by Bill Roush, our past-president, and am confident in taking on the role of president. I am excited to be working with our committee chairpersons and volunteers in preparing for our upcoming events. We look forward to a busy and successful year for all SVHIA members. I hope that all of you will enjoy the upcoming activities and will find participating in SVHIA a rewarding experience. I look forward to your suggestions and input. Please feel free to contact me with your comments and ideas.

We have several events and educational seminars planned including:

- an ICD-9 update Coding Education was presented in September. Great reviews by all attendees.
- an educational "RAC" event with a panel/group discussion format – please see the attached flyer for registration information.
- a CPT Update Coding Roundtable – planned for January.
- a celebration for student attendees and graduates of Cosumnes River College as well as several other events that are "in the works".

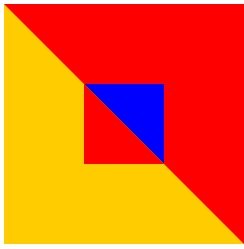
As an additional bonus, SVHIA events are also great opportunities to network with other professionals in our field. CEUs are typically available for a reduced cost to members. I encourage you to take advantage of these valuable opportunities and I certainly am looking forward to meeting you at our events.

Looking to get more involved in SVHIA and truly •
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Fall 2009 NEWSLETTER

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SVHIA Treasury Report
8/01/09

<u>Account</u>	<u>Interest Srv Chrgs</u>		<u>Current Balance</u>
BOA Checking Account (3/09-4/09)	\$ 0.00	\$ 27.00	\$ 2,024.16
BOA Business Account (3/09-4/09)	\$ 4.05	\$ 0.00	9,852.86
BOA CD	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 6,389.85
Current Totals	\$ 4.05	\$27.00	\$ 18,266.87

Income since last report

CHIS Dues Rebate \$ 1,899.67

Total expenses since last report

Conference Call Fees	\$ 54.92
Gifts/Donations	\$ 225.00
HOD Expenses	\$ 2,451.76

Treasurer's Report by Maryn Mason, RHIT

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Three year commitment as President-Elect, President and Past President.

Secretary

- One year commitment.

Treasurer

- Two Year commitment

House of Delegates

- One year commitment

If you are interested in any of the above positions, or know someone that might be interested, please email us at: SVHIA@CaliforniaHIA.org

Visit the www.CaliforniaHIA.org website for the latest newsletter. It will be posted in approximately 10 days. A huge "thank you" to Lori Beckmann, our editor. If you have an article that can benefit our membership, we encourage you to submit them for publication.

I'm looking forward to working with all of you as we continue to shape and lead our industry.

Sacramento Valley Health Information Association

The "RAC" is back (are you prepared ?)

WHAT: Operational Challenges of Preparing for RAC – Panel Discussion

Panelists will discuss lessons learned from the RAC demonstration project, organizational approaches to the RAC process, incorporation of RAC into the revenue cycle, HIM Dept. operational preparation for responding to RAC requests and the RAC appeals process

AHIMA Update: AHIMA Delegate Starla Ledbetter, MHA, RHIA, PMP will share highlights from the recent AHIMA Annual Convention

WHEN: Wednesday, October 28, 2009

TIME: 2:00 - 4:30 pm (Registration 2:00pm ; Program begins at 2:15pm)

WHERE: *Kaiser Permanente – Point West Facility (Conference Room 1)*
1650 Response Road, Sacramento, CA 95815

PANEL: Denise Hunt, MS, RHIA - Director of Medical Information Management, Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital

Joan McCullough, RHIT - Manager of Health Information Services, Marshall Medical Center

Kelly Wittmeyer, CCS, CCS-P, CHC - Documentation and Data Quality Manager, Sutter Health Systems

COST: **\$15 – Non-member;** \$10 – Member (SVHIA); \$5 – Student

CE: **2 continuing education units**
This program has been approved for two (2) hours of CEU's by AHIMA.

SPONSOR: The Coding Source, LLC

Please print

Name: _____

Facility: _____

Day Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

PLEASE ENSURE THAT REGISTRATION/ PAYMENT ARE RECEIVED BY **Friday, October 23**

Note: Walk-ins will be accepted at the door - please add \$5. Snacks will be served. Door prizes.

Please make check payable to SVHIA and mail payment to:
Maryn Mason, SVHIA Treasurer
6819 Mercedes Ave. Citrus Heights, CA 95621

Questions for our RAC panel may be submitted to Shirlye Marymee at smarymee@chw.edu.
Time for Q&A and sharing of best practices will follow the panel presentation



Consumnes River College HIT Program

By Virginia Brunk

Take a look at the Health Information Technology courses offered through Cosumnes River College. This accredited program brings the classroom to the student through the use of an online environment. All of the HIT courses are offered online. When students complete this program, in combination with the general education requirements, the student will have obtained their Associates Degree of Science in HIT. This degree meets the academic requirements set by AHIMA for RHIT applicants.

Credentialed Health Information technicians are at an ever growing demand. In addition to the increasingly complex rules surrounding the privacy of health information records, claims and their coding accuracy are continuously being challenged. Recovery Audit Contractors program mission is to reduce improper Medicare payments. These government enforced audits continue to prove why knowledgeable and certified health information technicians are so important to coding accuracy. In addition to coding compliance, credentials also give employees a means to negotiate a higher salary. According to Dixie Lee in "Shaking Down the Money Tree" (2008) by Juliann Schaeffer, For The Record, years of experience and education are typically the two biggest predictors of salary. "Years of experience obviously play a lot into some levels of salary. If you don't have the experience, get the education; it goes hand in hand. It looks as though additional credentials also give people a little more bargaining power for salary, especially those with less experience. If you get the credentials, that does help to add to credibility."

Obviously, becoming certified or licensed is a major boost to the employee. And the higher level of education offered through the online HIT program at CRC is just the way attain this goal.

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Brunk





CODING POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Come Grow With Us

Mercy San Juan Medical Center, a 250 bed trauma center in Carmichael, is expanding with the opening our new 110 bed inpatient tower. We currently have positions available for well qualified HIM coding professionals. We offer competitive salaries, excellent benefit package and continuing education opportunities

Inpatient Coding Technician - full time:

This position requires a minimum of three years of acute hospital inpatient coding and abstracting experience, or equivalent combination of education and experience which provides the following knowledge and abilities. Strong knowledge of ICD-9 and CPT-4 coding, medical terminology, anatomy and physiology and prior coding classes are required. CCS, CCS-P, RHIT or RHIA is preferred. Upon interview selection, applicant will be tested for knowledge level.

Outpatient Coding Technician - part-time:

Ambulatory Surgery and/or ER coding and abstracting experience preferred. Strong knowledge of ICD-9-CM and CPT-4 coding, medical terminology and anatomy and physiology is required. CCS, CCS-P, or RHIT preferred. Upon interview selection, applicant will be tested for knowledge level.

Contact Shirlie Marymee, RHIA, CHP, Director of Health Information Management at (916) 537-5163

Teaching Is for You! Think about it.

By Diane Lemire, Past SVHIA President, RHIA, CCS, CCS-P

AHIMA has been mentioning in its latest communiqués that there is a necessity for its professionals to consider giving something back, as in teaching. Teaching in an RHIT, RHIA or CCS program is rewarding and soon to be a possible scarcity.

There is a generation of HIM professionals who will be retiring soon, and there may not be enough HIM professionals interested in continuing programs and in teaching them. What will happen to our profession if there is no one to instruct the next generation? The financial reimbursement in teaching is adequate, and is greater depending upon the highest degree earned by the instructor.

Running an RHIA or RHIT program just requires that there be some professional experience in the field they are lecturing, and that there is the right degree. A program director usually has to have one degree above that which is being graduated; i.e. an AA program requires a BA or BS, and a Bachelor program requires a Masters.

Begin by asking at the local RHIT program if the Director needs some help with lectures or tutoring in various classes, or as a backup to another teacher. It takes a while to become accustomed to creating teaching plans, organizing materials for each class, and then looking forward to the end of the semester or quarter ensuring that all the topics/subjects were attained. It takes awhile to learn to control a class, to create tests, and to clarify/explain differing materials so it can be understandable.

Most RHIT, RHIA and CCS programs will mentor new instructors, often not for pay, but in the long run there is assistance for both the mentor and the mentee. More and more courses are on line and still require an instructor to update the material and to keep track of students and tests, just like an on campus class.

Teaching is satisfying. Teachers do help to open the students' eyes to other potentials in the profession, such as working with software companies, and with Tumor registries. Teachers assist students to understand the difference between a career and a job in HIM, and to get the bigger picture within the field of healthcare. Get started today!



