

- **GREETINGS**

I hope that all of you are enjoying this mild spring-like winter. Due to today's snow flurries and the groundhog's prediction for six more weeks of winter, I felt justified in using " Winter 2006" in the newsletter title.

- **CHANGES**

Leane Kratzer, LVHIMA Treasurer has resigned.

Joy U pdegrove, LVHIMA Public Relations Chairperson has resigned.

Thanks to both of them for the work they did.

Anyone wishing to fill the Treasurer's office, for the remainder of the fiscal year, should contact me. In the interim, you may send all invoices and dues to:

Dana K. Sharkey, LVHIMA Pres.
5151 Wood Lane
Emmaus, PA 18049-4945

- **BYLAWS COMMITTEE**

The changes to the bylaws have been approved. Thanks to everyone who participated in the process. Mary Beth McFadden and I are working on revising the remainder of the bylaws and they will be sent out in the next couple of weeks for approval. When all are approved and formatted, they will be posted on the website.

- **WE'VE GONE ELECTRONIC...**

Electronic voting on the bylaw issue worked very well. We will continue using the electronic method for all votes, with postal mailings for those not having e-mail.

The Board has decided to incorporate the Website Coordinator function into a new committee titled: Technology.

Dave McCann is working on the Members section of www.lvhima.org. You'll be sent instructions on how to access the information in it.

- **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

The Kathleen A Lynch scholarship applications should be available to candidates soon. This year's successful candidate will receive a scholarship in the amount of \$500.00. Barbara Thompson, President-Elect will attempt to personally distribute them to AHIMA approved HIM and Coding programs throughout the area. This will hopefully give her an opportunity to meet students and speak with them about LVHIMA.

Mentoring HIM students was discussed at the 2/4/06 Board Meeting. More discussion will be held at the next Board meeting in April. Information will be sent to all members regarding this proposal. If you

have any ideas regarding establishing a LVHIMA mentoring program, please send them to me or the Education Co-Chairs: Ed Mink at hirola61023@aol.com or Mary Lou Nevins at mistynevin@aol.com.

- **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

By this time, everyone should have received a message to contact Chris Staropoli, Nominating Chair, if you are interested in running for Office or serving as a Committee Chair. If you have a limited amount of time, please volunteer to serve as a Committee member. We need your help to keep LVHIMA alive!

- **MEMBERSHIP**

At this time, LVHIMA has 106 members.

- **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

April 5 Gwynedd Mercy College all day session

June 2 Historic Hotel Bethlehem all day Annual meeting

Look for e-mail and postal program announcements. Program announcements will also be posted at www.lvhima.org.

- **PHIMA NEWS**

PHIMA is posting events for local associations on its website at www.phima.org, under the section: Education Calendar. It gives everyone an opportunity to see what other locals are doing and to attend meetings in other locales.

Don't forget to check out the PHIMA Annual Conference on its website. This year it will be held 5/15-5/17 in Harrisburg.

PHIMA partnered with LVHIMA to co-sponsor a CCS Prep Workshop on 2/4/06 at the Lehigh Valley Hospital. 50 people, from all over the state and Virginia, signed up to attend. Requests were made by attendees to hold more sessions of this type in the future.

Dawn Criswell, RHIA, a member of LVHIMA, is a candidate for the office of PHIMA Delegate to AHIMA. To vote in the PHIMA election, please visit its website at www.phima.org.

PHIMA is encouraging all HIM professionals to send advocacy letters to Congress regarding the adoption of ICD-10. If you haven't received an e-mail from them, please go to the www.phima.org or www.ahima.org to participate.

Since PHIMA is listing local association events on their website calendar, they would like members of local associations to contribute human interest-type member stories for publication in the Keystoner. You don't have to be FAMOUS! You don't have to be FABULOUS! You just have to be willing to write or tell us some information about your job, career path, HIM education or experiences. LVHIMA members can contact LVHIMA Public Relations Chair with ideas. If no one is willing to volunteer the info, Keystone Editor, Paula Lawlor, may just be calling your number for a personal one-on-one interview!

Barbara Thompson, LVHIMA President-Elect will attend the PHIMA leadership conference held prior to the PHIMA Annual Conference. Please contact her at jthomps4@comcast.net if you have questions or suggestions for PHIMA.

THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR ALL THEIR SUPPORT! AS ALWAYS, I AM AVAILABLE FOR QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS AT 610-965-3224 AND sharkdj2@netzero.net.

**Dana K. Sharkey, RHIA
President, LVHIMA**

- **JOB OPENINGS—A NEW FEATURE TO VIEW**

**TOP NOTCH CODING & CLINICAL
DOCUMENTATION IMPROVEMENT
CONSULTANTS WANTED!!!**

- Are you ready to expand your horizons?
- Are you looking for a friendly, collaborative environment that values life long learning and continuous improvement?
- Would you like your hard work to be rewarded with an excellent financial package, competitive benefits, PLUS eligibility for BONUSES?
- Are you proactive, positive, organized, flexible, and focused, with a passion for client service?

If you answered yes to the questions listed above, take the next step in joining **HP3** to put your coding and clinical experience to work in a new way - in a new world – our world! Multiple positions are available including senior-level positions. No evening and weekend shifts required. Travel is essential and consulting experience is a plus. Coding positions require a minimum of two years healthcare coding/auditing experience and AHIMA or AAPC credential. Clinical Documentation Improvement consultants require a minimum of five years experience in clinical nursing, UR or case management, along with DRG knowledge, and a minimum RN required. Apply online at www.joinhp3.com or send resume to mdjobs@hp3.com .

Abington Memorial Hospital....

Is a 508-bed community teaching hospital with a Level II trauma center, located in the Philadelphia, PA suburbs. With over 4,800 employees, we are one of the two biggest admitters and the 1st acute care hospital in the Delaware Valley area to earn Magnet designation. Our Clinical Information Services Dept. has the following exceptional opportunities:

Assistant Director, Coding/Abstracting

Responsible for oversight of hospital coding, severity of illness abstracting, data abstraction for monitoring clinical protocol compliance, cancer registry and institutional review board support. Specific duties include: overseeing coding compliance initiatives, performing as an integral player in the hospital revenue cycle team; overseeing appeals process for DRG denials; overseeing coding quality reviews and implementing training programs; managing all mandatory PA healthcare cost containment council data and assisting in the interpretation and review of outcome data; managing the collection of data to support hospital planning, JCAHO standards, hospital goals, etc. Must be able to retrieve, compile, analyze, and interpret data and be PC literate.

Three years operations management experience in an HIM Dept. and three years direct coding experience in an acute care facility required; RHIA, RHIT, CCS preferred. Must have thorough knowledge of ICD-9, CPT, DRGs, and all applicable laws and regulations. Previous experience working with electronic health records and remote coding a plus. Excellent leadership, communication and quantitative skills essential.

Coding Supervisor

Responsible for the recruitment, training, auditing, and education of the inpatient and outpatient coding staff. Specifically, you will coordinate all outsourced coding staff, supervise coding compliance initiatives, coordinate policy and procedure management and compliance, and oversee use of hospital clinical encoding system. Will also participate in the Revenue Cycle team initiatives. Candidates must have an excellent working knowledge of ICD-9, CPT, and DRGs, all applicable laws and regulations, and all appropriate documentation requirements. Must be able to retrieve, compile, analyze, and interpret data and be PC literate.

Three-five years direct coding experience in an acute care facility and RHIA/RHIT required; CCS preferred. Excellent communication skills essential.

Please apply online: www.amh.org or send resume to: Christine Tierney, Abington Memorial Hospital, Human Resources, Dixon Building, 1200 Old York Road, Abington, PA 19001. Fax: 215-481-4289. E-mail: ctierney@amh.org. EOE