

Dear TxHIMA Members,

Fall is finally upon us and it is so nice to dig out those fall favorites for these chilly days in Texas! As the calendar year is coming to a close, the TxHIMA fiscal year is off and heating up. Over the last few months, we have done some pretty amazing things.

In early September, we hosted another successful Leadership Conference in Grapevine, TX. This is a day and a half educational session. The first day has always been free of charge to those that are in attendance and it was loaded with great educational topics addressed to current and future leaders. The second day continued on with the theme of leadership and preparing members for the future. We had an overwhelming turnout with 99 attendees on Friday and 100 attendees on Saturday. Great topics, coupled with great speakers at a fabulous location proved the value of this important leadership conference. Plan ahead! The next leadership conference is scheduled for Corpus Christi and likely to be just as popular!

The day prior to this important education event, the TxHIMA Board of Directors spent a day in meetings and setting the strategic goals for the association for this upcoming year. It is critical to consider the needs and desires of the membership and to closely align those initiatives with that of AHIMA's strategic goals. Using a rather simple exercise, the Board of Directors considered past successes and historical milestones to set the future direction. When it was all said and done, we identified several goals for this upcoming year. Listed below are just a few of them:

- 1) Increase HIM advocacy efforts at local and state level
- 2) Increase involvement in Coding Roundtables initiative
- 3) Invest more into student scholarships and enhance efforts to groom our future HIM professionals
- 4) Build strategic alliances with other like associations
- 5) Increase member communication and redesign message board technology
- 6) Activate 5 inactive districts in the State of Texas
- 7) Seek national recognition for TxHIMA's efforts
- 8) Offer the best annual convention

These are some pretty lofty goals to achieve this upcoming year. However, we have already made significant progress on most of these initiatives. As an example, one goal was to assist inactive districts in the State in becoming active again. In August, District 15 (formally Big Country, now Concho Valley) became active. This is monumental for that region of the State. However, it's only the starting point. We have four (4) additional districts that need our assistance. With the help of the Board Liaison and the interest of successful neighboring districts we can assist them in becoming active again.



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MBA, RHIA, CHP

Another major goal is to offer the best annual convention—ever! This is going to be hard to do. We've had some great sessions in the past! Tina and her committee structure have already made some great plans for our Galveston Convention. We already have our vendor booths sold out and we are firming up our educational tracks and speakers for this important networking event. We've heard the feedback from last year and we are definitely offering a privacy track and we are considering a work/life balance track. This seems to be more and more important to us in HIM! We are also offering another networking opportunity for our coding roundtable participants. We had a wonderful session at last year's convention, but according to those that attended, it wasn't long enough!

The theme through the year remains "Success by Association: Collaborative Minds, Common Vision." It's only with the work that we do together as a membership are we able to achieve the goals of the association. The work of our committed membership can bring our strategic goals to fruition for a stronger State association!

Warmest regards,

Dana Choate, MBA, RHIA, CHP
President, TxHIMA ☺