

A Resolution To Be Meaningful

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By Shawn Wells, RHIT, CHDA

As we move into the second month of the new year I am reminded of our optimistic, yet often-abandoned, list of New Year's resolutions. These promises we make to ourselves every January originated as promises to the pagan gods over 4,000 years ago, with the hope that a reward would be offered. At the annual House of Delegates meeting last September, I challenged the delegates to make our work and time together meaningful. While this isn't a New Year's resolution, it certainly is an optimistic promise with a huge reward guaranteed.

With the new AHIMA strategy ahead of us, the House of Delegates stands ready to fully support our Component State Association (CSA) leaders and members to make 2019 meaningful. The biggest quality of meaningful work is actively working for a higher goal. The House of Delegates has a unique perspective as many House members also serve as elected officers of their CSA and, perhaps, also as volunteers on AHIMA Practice Councils. Our higher goal requires genuine understanding of our membership, strategic direction, and relationship to the association as a whole. This process will be overseen by two leaders in particular—Becci Conroy, RHIA, CCS-P, OHCC, from Montana, who is leading the House Leadership Team, and Auae Beidler, MHA, RHIA, CHPS, CHC, from Oregon, who is leading the Envisioning Collaborative. Each of these groups is comprised of one delegate from each CSA. There may be additional task forces that are created throughout the year as well.

Our commitment to a strong healthcare ecosystem requires all of our participation. While change can be difficult, your House of Delegates knows that if we approach each task with purpose and with the bigger picture in mind this transformation will prove to be successful.

Meaningfulness is rarely experienced in the moment, but rather in retrospect and during reflection when people are able to see their completed work and make connections between their achievements and a wider sense of meaning. In this reflective spirit, I share my distinct pleasure to have worked with Catherine Porto, MPA, RHIA, CHP, FAHIMA, AHIMA Speaker of the House for the 2017-2018 term. Porto engaged delegates, focused our efforts, and improved processes to collect delegate input on our annual meeting priorities and structure. In 2019, I am joined by our Speaker-Elect Christine Williams, RHIA, to continue to improve upon past work and refine our focus to further support AHIMA's strategic direction. New Year's resolution or not, I am looking forward to the House of Delegates and AHIMA members reaping the rewards gained from the determination of the 2018-2019 delegates.

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