

Departing Board Members, Thank You for Your Service

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By Melissa Martin, RHIA, CCS, CHTS-IM

It is hard to believe that I am writing my final *Journal of AHIMA* column as the president/chair of your AHIMA Board of Directors.

As I sit down to write this column, I recall Patty Sheridan, former AHIMA president/chair, saying in 2012 that there is no way to wrap everything up with a nice neat bow because as health information management professionals we are always transforming... and I can't help but agree.

Angela Kennedy's unwavering mission during her tenure as president/chair to "keep the patient at the center of everything we do" has also stuck with me. Over this past year, AHIMA members have continued to work toward this goal with the "MyHealthID" campaign.

As we wrap up this year I would like to honor the efforts of those transitioning off the AHIMA board and acknowledge them personally.

Cassi Birnbaum, MS, RHIA, CPHQ, FAHIMA, past president/chair: We met a major milestone under Birnbaum's leadership in 2015 by successfully implementing ICD-10 with no disruption in the healthcare industry. She played a key role in the grassroots efforts that prevented additional implementation delays.

She also became a certified trainer herself while leading this effort. Her accomplishments have been significant for our profession by ensuring alignment with our affiliates such as the AHIMA Foundation, CCHIIM, and CEE, as well as our key stakeholders such as CAHIIM. She has served as liaison to each and every one of these groups throughout her term.

Her efforts throughout the industry with CHIME, HIMSS, ASAE, and many more have positioned us to truly have "a seat at the table."

Ginna Evans, MBA, RHIA, CPC, FAHIMA, is our governance chair, co-chair of our 2017 and Beyond Strategic Initiative Committee, and past secretary. She has spent countless hours ensuring we are in compliance with policies and guiding us toward 2017 and beyond.

Colleen Goethals, MS, RHIA, FAHIMA, has served as the director in charge of our 2016 Strategic Initiatives Committee and worked closely with me on the Information Governance 2015 Committee.

She has worked on development and monitoring of our 2016 Dashboard, which includes our current goals and objectives as well as key operational performance indicators.

Zinethia Clemmons, MBA, MHA, RHIA, PMP, COR, is our audit chair and her extensive professional experience certainly benefited the association. She has ensured our public accounting firm's work product was shared with the board and that necessary changes were implemented as appropriate.

Elizabeth Delahoussaye, RHIA, CHPS, serves as speaker of the House of Delegates (HOD) and her demonstrated leadership qualities have been put to great use this year as she has boosted HOD engagement, conducted environmental scans, and empowered and engaged our members to transform the profession.

Each of these AHIMA Board of Directors members will be missed tremendously, but have left their mark on both the association and profession by sharing their knowledge and time. We thank you for inspiring big thinking to launch our future!

Melissa Martin (melissa.martin@ahima.org) is assistant vice president, Heart and Vascular Institute, at West Virginia University Medicine.

Article citation:

Martin, Melissa. "Departing Board Members, Thank You for Your Service" *Journal of AHIMA* 87, no.11 (November 2016): 8.

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