

HIM Must Shoot for the Moon

Save to myBoK

By Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, FACHE, CAE, FAHIMA, chief executive officer

ONE OF MY father's favorite sayings was: "Shoot for the moon. If you only get to the stars, it's better than never having gone at all."

It's a saying that kept coming back to me as I was getting ready to write this column for the *Journal* issue on leadership. If you've heard me talk about our "big, audacious goals" at AHIMA, then this will make perfect sense to you.

Leaders Turn Goals Into Successes

While you don't have to have big, audacious goals to be a leader, it does take leaders to get a big, audacious goal accomplished.

No wonder, then, that "leadership" is one of AHIMA's key values as an organization. We've got a lot of big, audacious goals to accomplish. The good news: You don't have to be a CEO, a director, or even a manager to be a leader—as this issue of the *Journal* shows.

An In-Depth Look at Leadership

Each August we publish a special issue of the *Journal* with extended features on a selected subject. This year we feature a broad selection of articles giving examples of ways HIM professionals can be leaders in their organizations. In our cover story, "[Taking Your Seat \(at the Head of the Table\)](#)," by Lisa Eramo, one interviewee points out that it's not just a question of being at the table "but asking 'What does the organization need, and can I meet that need?'"

What may be needed in the broader sense is a willingness to step into transformational roles, both inside and outside the traditional HIM department. Several articles touch on this theme, including "[Realigning HIM to the New Healthcare Environment](#)," by Patricia Bower-Jernigan, Ann Chenoweth, and Jaime James, "[How to Lead Your Organization in Compliance, Ethics, and Customer Service](#)" by Ben Burton, and "[Roles for HIM Professionals in HIOs](#)," written by a cross-section of HIM professionals from AHIMA's Health Information Exchange Practice Council.

At other times, what may be needed is a laser focus in one specific area, such as information governance (IG). As part of AHIMA's ongoing effort to build the industry body of knowledge in IG, Lesley Kadlec presents the results of four case studies in "[Coming Soon to Your Healthcare Facility: Information Governance](#)." (You can find the IG case studies online as well.) IG-centric themes such as information preservation and retention also emerge in Ron Hedges's look at potential changes to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in "[Federal Changes Proposed for eDiscovery Litigation Rules](#)." On another important topic, Sue Bowman positions readers to become knowledge leaders on the ICD-10 code set by taking on the task of dispelling myths and misperceptions in "[Three Myths of ICD-10-CM/PCS](#)."

AHIMA has published an online-only research journal, *Perspectives in HIM*, for a decade. We are pleased to excerpt "[Leader-Member Exchange Relationships in HIM](#)," by T.J. Hunt, in this issue—an article that offers a look at a proven leadership method that gets results.

Finally, this issue contains details on this year's AHIMA election, including information on voting and biographies of the candidates. Further information on the candidates can be found on the official AHIMA ballot at [ivote.ahima.org](https://vote.ahima.org). I urge you to read these carefully and cast your vote for the future leaders of our association.

I hope you, too, will give some thought to what your own big, audacious goals may be—and ready your rocket ship.

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