

Inspire, Innovate, Lead: One Year Later

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By Ann Chenoweth, MBA, RHIA, FAHIMA

AHIMA's greatest treasure can be found in the hearts of our members. During this past year serving as your AHIMA President and Board Chair, I've been blessed to meet and work with amazing, dedicated health information leaders. I've made new friends and enjoyed your gracious hospitality. You have shared insightful strategies, provided outstanding education, and truly exemplified AHIMA values. I have cherished memories and experiences, and I am thankful to have met so many of you along the journey.

Throughout my travels I have been continually reminded about the uniqueness of our profession and how creative and tailored our solutions must be as we "inspire—innovate—lead" to overcome the challenges of payment reform and the rapid adoption of technologies that are revolutionizing how physicians and hospitals treat patients and track disease. As author Reed Markham once said, "Successful leaders see the opportunity in every difficulty rather than the difficulty in every opportunity." One thing is abundantly clear: health information leaders share a passionate commitment to successfully leading our organizations through immense change and uncertainty.

It has been a productive and busy year, and I am so proud of the many initiatives that the AHIMA executive team, staff, and Board of Directors have rolled out. The board established an Informatics Committee that developed strategies for positioning AHIMA as a leading association for healthcare informatics. We also solidified our role as global leaders in coding by expanding our certifications, training, and education, ensuring AHIMA's gold standard is in place worldwide. New programs were developed to support our coding members who work in outpatient facilities and physician practices. In addition, AHIMA launched "HIM Reimagined," a new strategy that includes bold recommendations to ensure the continued vitality of the HIM profession for years to come.

Another highlight is the release of the new "Patient Request for Health Information" form to help ensure patients have access to trusted health information. By partnering with the AHIMA Foundation Board of Directors, we supported even more opportunities this year for aspiring HIM professionals through the granting of scholarships and paid apprenticeships.

I want to thank the AHIMA staff for supporting our members and making AHIMA an indispensable resource for health information professionals. I also want to express my deepest gratitude to my fellow AHIMA Board of Directors members for their support and unwavering commitment to AHIMA and our profession. It has been an honor to work beside you.

I want to thank my wonderful husband, Clarke, who has been extremely supportive and even joined me on a few trips. I am grateful to my employer, 3M Health Information Systems. My colleagues have been incredibly supportive of my travel and commitments to AHIMA. I'm proud to work with the extraordinary leaders at 3M.

In closing, I want to thank all the AHIMA members for the opportunity to serve AHIMA, which I hold in the highest regard. It has been the ultimate professional honor to serve as your 2017 AHIMA President, and I thank you.

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