

Take Part in Team Talks: Your Role in Determining AHIMA's Future

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by Jill Callahan Dennis, JD, RHIA

We're almost a quarter of the way through 2006, so it's a good time to measure our progress on our 2006 goals.

This year, one goal of AHIMA's board of directors is to develop a process to more deeply embed our association's strategy into our operations through the use of a balanced scorecard. In other words, it isn't enough just to have strategic goals--we have to design ways of measuring our progress in achieving those goals. Then our actions are tightly focused on doing what's important.

The question is how our association should decide which activities to act on. One way is by scanning the environment, a year-round cyclical process of gathering input from within and outside the association in order to identify opportunities, threats, and member needs. AHIMA's House of Delegates plays a vital role in environmental scanning. You can play an important role, too, by taking advantage of an opportunity that's coming your way this month.

Get Involved with Team Talks

March is one of the most interesting and important months in the entire association year. It's when we hold Winter Team Talk meetings in locations throughout the country, as well as a virtual Team Talk online. I hope you're planning to attend one of these sessions.

Team talks are a chance for members to get together and discuss important issues facing our profession and our association and to have a say in AHIMA's future direction. It's an important scanning tool for the association. Often, the audiences attending these sessions include state delegates, state association officers, active volunteers, board members, and AHIMA staff. Any and all AHIMA members are welcome, and registration is free.

The locations of these meetings vary each year to make this opportunity available to as many members as possible. Attendees earn continuing education credit for their participation. That in itself is a good incentive to come! But these meetings are not only educational and fun, they're a great way to get more involved in your association's future.

Log In and Take Part

But let's say you can't travel or you're reading this too late to make arrangements. That doesn't mean you can't take advantage of the Team Talk experience. The virtual Team Talk will be held March 30 right from the comfort of any Internet-connected workstation with a phone line. The session functions as a Web-based presentation for visuals, with audio delivered via a free phone line you dial into.

This condensed session will take place from noon to 2 p.m. CDT and is free to any member, with continuing education credits offered. All you have to do is register, log on, and bring your questions and ideas! For more information on Winter Team Talks, visit the State Leaders and House of Delegates Community of Practice, where registration information is posted under community resources.

Team Talks are the chance to get up to speed on what's happening and share your opinions with your peers and national leaders on what really matters to you. Don't miss this opportunity. I hope to talk with you soon.

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