



news

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AHIMA Announces 2014 Board President/Chair, new Board members *Angela Kennedy elected to serve as President/Chair*

CHICAGO (Jan. 8, 2014) — American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) members elected Angela Kennedy, EdD, MBA, RHIA, as President/Chair of the 2014 Board of Directors. Her official one-year term began Jan. 1, 2014. Dr. Kennedy has been serving in this role since June 29, 2013, following the passing of President/Chair Kathleen A. Frawley, JD, MS, RHIA, FAHIMA.

In her role, Dr. Kennedy will work with the board and CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, CAE, FACHE, FAHIMA, to provide strategic direction to [AHIMA](#), the preeminent nonprofit association for health information management (HIM) professionals who are responsible for protecting the accuracy of patient health information as well as safeguarding and preserving its privacy. The association has more than 71,000 members.

Dr. Kennedy is a professor and chair of the department of health informatics and information management at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, La. Her professional experience includes working in health information, cancer registry, medical staff services as well as quality management and quality and project management consulting for rural health information systems implementation. She has 14 years of higher education experience in areas of instruction, administration and research.

Dr. Kennedy served two terms as president of the Louisiana Health Information Management Association and most recently as chair of the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM). Dr. Kennedy previously served on the AHIMA Board of Directors and in 2007 chaired its business and audit team. She is a recipient of an AHIMA Triumph Award for mentoring.

“At this pivotal time in healthcare, Angela’s dedication and professional experience will benefit AHIMA, its members and the Board as we strive to continue to ensure the integrity, privacy and

security of health information and patient access to their information,” Thomas Gordon said. “Angela’s expertise and personal passion for HIM will be an asset to AHIMA.”

“It is a great honor to lead the Board,” Dr. Kennedy said. “I look forward to working with Lynne, board members and the AHIMA staff to continue AHIMA’s important work advocating for patients, the HIM profession and improving the quality of health information to improve the quality of care.”

In addition to Dr. Kennedy’s appointment, members elected a President/Chair-Elect, Speaker of the House and three members of the board of directors (who each will serve a three-year term):

- President/Chair Elect: **Cassi Birnbaum**, MS, RHIA, CPHQ, FAHIMA, San Diego, vice president of health information management at Peak Health Solutions Inc. Birnbaum specializes in providing remote coding, auditing, data collection and analysis, clinical documentation improvement, ICD-10 transition and HIM resource planning services. An adjunct faculty member at San Diego Mesa College since 1993, Birnbaum developed its ONC Workforce Program and its online quality management course. Birnbaum served as a Director of the AHIMA Board from 2009 – 2012; she is the Past President for California Health Information Association from 2006 – 2008, and received its prestigious Distinguished Member Award in 2009. She was the Co-Chair of the CCHIT Privacy and Compliance Workgroup, and Co-Chair of the California Healthcare Association’s Health Care Informatics and Information Technology Group.
- Speaker of the House: **Jennifer McManis**, RHIT, Bozeman, Mont., consultant in the Healthcare Practice Division of Crowley Fleck Attorneys, PLLP. McManis has more than 19 years of experience in the healthcare industry, including acute care hospital and private physician practice settings. She is an AHIMA certified ICD-10-CM/PCS trainer, and an American Institute of Healthcare Compliance (AIHC) Certified HIPAA Compliance Officer (CHCO). McManis is also a published author and speaker regarding compliance, privacy and coding issues. As Speaker of the House, she serves one year on the AHIMA Board.
- Director: **Zinethia Clemmons**, MBA, MHA, RHIA, PMP, Washington, D.C. senior health information privacy specialist for the Department of Health and Human Services’ Office for Civil Rights. Clemmons is the advocacy project manager for the District of Columbia Health Information Management Association and serves on the mayoral-appointed Statewide Health Coordinating Council for the District of Columbia. She is an adjunct professor at University of Maryland University College, in the health informatics administration and an advisory committee member in the HIM division at the Northern Virginia Community College. Clemmons is a past member of the Florida Health Information Management Association and the Greater Atlanta Health Information Management Association.
- Director: **Virginia Evans**, MBA, RHIA, FAHIMA, Atlanta, business analyst, revenue cycle development at Emory Healthcare. Evans has more than 30 years of experience in the HIM profession. Evans served on the Georgia Health Information Management

Association (GHIMA) Board of Directors, including two terms as President. Evans also served in the AHIMA House of Delegates, Chair of the AHIMA Nominating Committee, and most recently the Fellowship Committee and AHIMA Foundation Board of Directors. She received the 2011 AHIMA Mentor Award and earned several honors from the GHIMA including the 1996 and 2008 Distinguished Member Awards.

- Director: **Colleen Goethals**, MS, RHIA, FAHIMA, Belvidere, Ill. HIM consultant for Midwest Medical Records Association, Inc. and Cardone Record Services, Inc. Goethals served as AHIMA's State Advocacy Workgroup chair and was a member of the Consumer Practice Council, Personal Health Record Practice Council, House of Delegates Work Group, CSA Task Force and Consumer Education Committee. She served as Illinois Health Information Management Association President, Delegate, Director of Legislation and Advocacy and Community Education Coordinator. Goethals is the recipient of the Chicago Area HIMA Distinguished Member, Illinois HIMA (ILHIMA) Professional Achievement Award and Literary Award. She is National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) certified in federal records management and is a frequent lecturer and author on topics related to HIM.

The AHIMA Board is responsible for setting long-term strategy and direction, governing the association's activities, and fulfilling the organization's fiduciary responsibility.

To further AHIMA's position as an industry leader, the 2014 Board will provide strategic guidance on information governance, informatics, leadership, innovation and advocating for the public good.

The AHIMA Board is composed of 13 elected members—including the president/chair, president/chair-elect, past president/chair, speaker of the house and nine directors at large—as well as the association's CEO, who serves in an ex-officio capacity. This year, due to the passing of Kathleen Frawley, the Past President/Chair position will remain open.

The newly elected members join the following current AHIMA Board Directors:

- **Ann Chenoweth**, MBA, RHIA, senior director of industry relations and market research, 3M Health Information Systems
- **Dwayne M. Lewis**, RHIT, CCS, president and CEO, DML Consulting
- **Melissa M. Martin**, RHIA, CCS, AHIMA board treasurer, chief privacy officer and director of HIM, West Virginia University Hospitals
- **Susan W. Carey**, RHIT, PMP, system director, HIM, Norton Healthcare
- **Dana C. McWay**, JD, RHIA, AHIMA board secretary, court executive/clerk of court, US Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Missouri
- **Cindy Zak**, MS, RHIA, PMP, FAHIMA, corporate director HIM, Yale New Haven Health

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About AHIMA

The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) is the premier professional association and represents more than 71,000 health information management professionals in the United States and around the world. AHIMA is committed to promoting and advocating for high quality research, best practices and effective standards in health information and to actively contributing to the development and advancement of health information professionals worldwide. AHIMA's enduring goal is quality healthcare through quality information.

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