

### Winter Newsletter - 2021

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## President's Report

Happy December everyone. Where has the time gone? I, along with many others, was disappointed that all our meetings had to go virtual again this year. Maybe next year we can get back together and meet in person again. There is talk that we may try to make it where you can do it either way as we know that a lot of facilities are not allowing any travel. We will try and keep everyone informed.

The 2021 House of Delegates (HoD) Annual Meeting was held virtually on September 19th. There were 188 delegates attending the HoD Annual Meeting from 50 of the 52 CSAs and 10 members of the AHIMA Board of Directors.

HoD Speaker, Aurae Beidler, MHA, RHIA, CHC, CHPS welcomed the delegates to the meeting, provided an update on the past year's activities, as well as reviewed the HoD Communication Task Force's recommendations. Katherine G. Lusk, MHSM, RHIA, FAHIMA presented the AHIMA President/Chair report, Wylecia Wiggs Harris, PhD, CAE presented the AHIMA Chief Executive Officer's Annual Report and Jennifer E. Mueller, MBA, RHIA, FACHE, FAHIMA, AHIMA Board Treasurer and Breian Meakens, MBA, MPA presented the AHIMA Financial Report. The delegates expressed their enthusiasm for AHIMA's great work and promised to amplify AHIMA's message sharing the AHIMA policy statements.

The HoD business meeting was conducted also. There were no action items. One motion was suggested under new business. It was to consider having the HoD Annual Meeting on a weekday. This motion was referred to committee for consideration.

The delegates also broke into eight groups for Strategic Pathfinder discussions. Delegates identified future opportunities for the profession aligned with AHIMA's Strategic Plan and discussed desired competencies and skills needed for the evolving health information industry. A summary of the discussion was shared with the delegates. Additional materials from these sessions will be posted on the HoD Access Community, as well as used in further discussions.

Since this meeting in September we have been sent three toolkits to review before they are put out on the AHIMA website for all to use and have been asked to give our opinion on some public policy statements.

Now on to my pitch. Please consider running for a position on the Board! I can promise you that you will get more out of this than you will have to put into it. I have gained some great friends from joining this group.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Jeff Plemel, RHIT  
NDHIMA President

### President's-Elect Report

Hello fellow HIM colleagues,

It is my honor and privilege to serve as your President-Elect! I am very much looking forward to our years together. I started my working career in health information management back in my high school years where my part-time job was to microfilm (and, yes...I date myself with even mentioning the world "microfilm") legacy paper patient medical records. I was intrigued with the responsibilities of the department and its impact on patient care, the revenue cycle, and the overall facility; so, I elected to make this my career of choice after college. In my current role, I serve as the director of HIM Operations for the Sanford Bemidji, Bismarck, and Fargo markets as well as oversee the dictation/transcription and Dragon support teams for all Sanford locations. I am very passionate about HIM, our impact within the healthcare environments, and our workforce.

Over the past few months, I have had the opportunity to work in various capacities with the board members and some of you. While I have much to learn as a new board member, I can share that by participating in the AHIMA House of Delegates sessions over the past few months, AHIMA strives to move our profession forward and equip our fellow professionals and students with the skills needed for current and future demands. Healthcare has become even more transformative over the past couple of years and we know further growth and change is inevitable. Insuring we advocate for our profession and our patients is crucial. I urge you to continue to support AHIMA and our NDHIMA constituents...together we can continue to move our profession forward during these most challenging of times.

Wishing you a blessed holiday season with a New Year filled with peace and happiness!

Lori Blee, MBA, RHIA, CHFP  
NDHIMA President - Elect

### State Advocacy Coordinator Update

#### LICENSURE FLEXIBILITIES

In October I was notified by AHIMA of an opportunity for our NDHIMA CSA to sign onto a letter urging Governors to maintain or expand licensure flexibilities during the ongoing pandemic. After discussion with the board, we also decided to sign onto this letter along with hundreds of other organizations. This letter:

- Calls for policies that keep licensure and telehealth flexibilities in place throughout the duration of the public health emergency;
- Calls for governors and state legislatures to work with health experts to implement solutions to address the ongoing impact of the pandemic on patient care that provides more access to and choice of care, and;
- Calls for expanded participation in health professional compacts.

The letter can be found here: <https://connectwithcare.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Letter-to-governors-on-emergency-licensure-waivers-FINAL-2.pdf>

#### ACTION IN CONGRESS

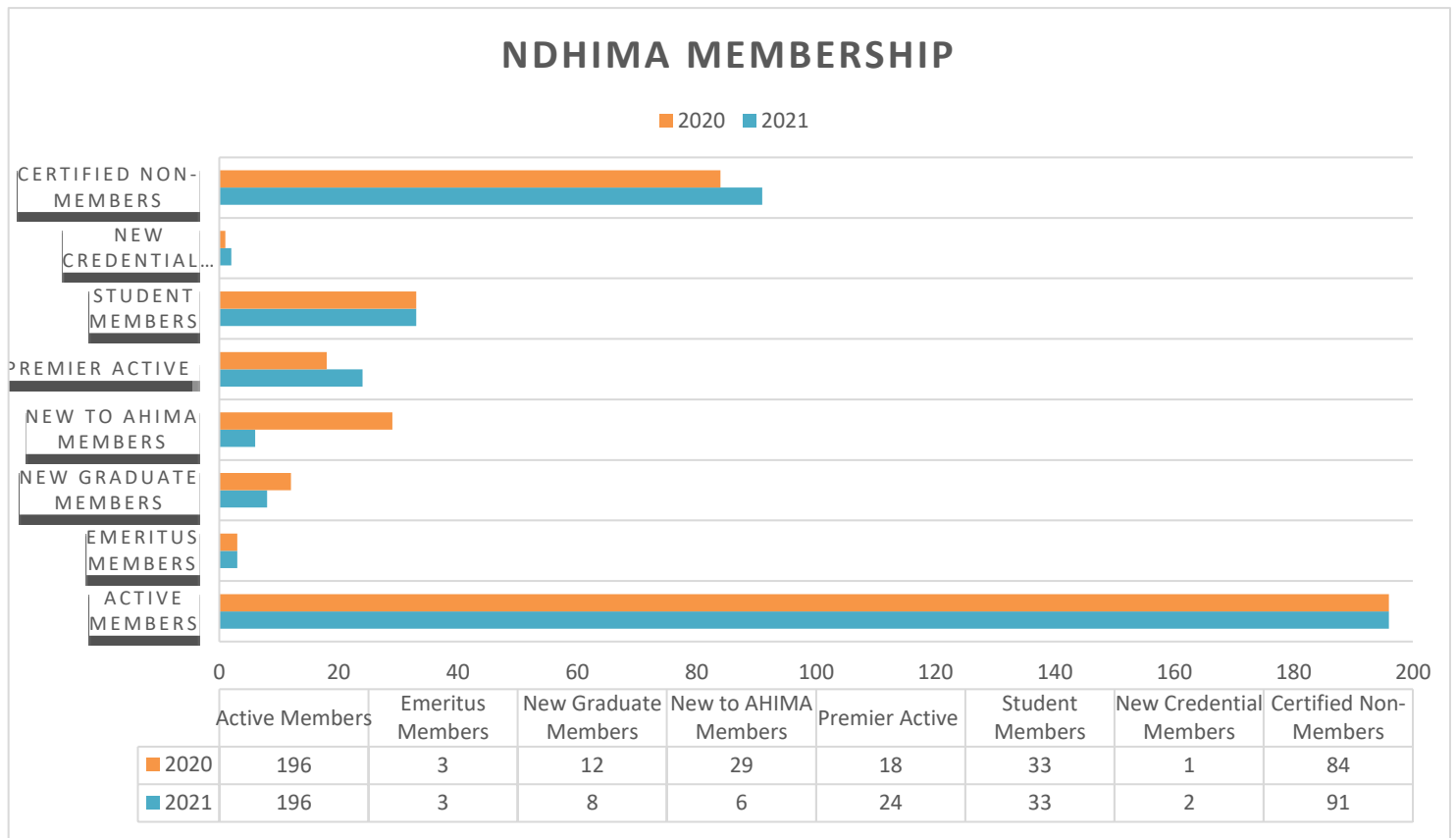
I would also like to give an update regarding patient identification. This has been a main advocacy agenda for AHIMA over the last few years. AHIMA has been involved with the Patient ID Coalition and is urging Members of Congress to repeal Section 510 from the Labor-HHS appropriations bill to allow for a national strategy around patient identification. Earlier this year the House repealed Section 510 from the Labor HHS appropriations bill for the third year in a row in a very bipartisan manner. The Senate put out its draft version of their Labor HHS bill and also repealed Section 510 for the first time ever. This is only a draft version of the bill and has not passed the Senate at this time. The Senate has until February 18th, 2022 to vote on this bill. AHIMA is tracking the progress of this to see what happens.

Jen Kadlec, RHIA  
NDHIMA State Advocacy Coordinator

# Membership Report

NDHIMA membership continues to remain steady with an average of 272 members. The average membership numbers from December 1, 2020 through December 1, 2021 are: 196 active, 3 emeritus, 8 new graduate, 6 new to AHIMA, 24 premier, 33 student, 2 new credential and 91 certified non-members.

Reminder: NDHIMA has a scholarship open to members that are in the that are enrolled in either a CAHIIM accredited or AHIMA approved health information program. Applicant must have a GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale and provider an official college transcript. Applicant must be at midpoint of their program of study and include a copy of the program of study with the scholarship material. Applicant must be a student or active member of NDHIMA. Applicants are only able to receive a scholarship once. Scholarship applications can be found on the NDHIMA website and are due no later than May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.



Ashley Brusseau, RHIA  
 NDHIMA Membership Director

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Prairie Record News

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## Co-Education Report

Thank you to everyone who listened to the presentation for our virtual conference. We look forward to meeting in Bismarck in 2022!

Mandy Medalen, RHIT and Tabetha Schmeets, RHIT  
NDHIMA Education Co-Directors