

CHIMA's History -The Past 70 Years at a Glance

1932 After organizing in September, 1932 and inviting "Record Librarians" of all Class A Colorado hospitals to join, The Colorado Association of Medical Record Librarians held its first regular meeting on October 27 with Maude Spencer presiding. Record librarians from Greeley, Pueblo, Colorado Springs, Denver, and Boulder attended. After adopting a constitution and bylaws, members were invited to present papers on "Record Room Problems" for the next meeting to be held in November in Colorado Springs. Problems mentioned were progress notes, storage and obtaining a preoperative diagnosis preoperatively.

Following organization, discussion ensued on the qualifications of a registered record librarian. It was decided that librarians who were members of the national organization and had two years of experience in an accredited hospital could be registered if they applied within one year. Others would be required to take an examination.

1933 Standardization of the medical record was a topic for discussion. One speaker, Dr. Hillkowitz, noted that "it is an encouraging sign that, recently there is more disagreement between the preoperative and postoperative diagnoses. Sixty percent is about the highest possible to attain and if the percent is given as higher - the doctors are not honest."

1934 The first mail ballot was used because of the difficulty of getting a quorum to elect new officers. Miss Mary Orr became president.

- Two members in Colorado were registered without taking the examination.
- The first meeting to be held at a local hotel (the Cosmopolitan). It included paper presentations and a display of materials used in the hospitals.
- A discussion of insurance problems revealed the "need for definite laws regarding the giving out of information to insurance companies which would apply to all hospitals". An attorney discussed legal aspects of hospital records, stating, "It is a law that all hospitals must keep records and that the attending physician must make a diagnosis. Hospitals are usually considered more or less above the law. However, they are liable for burns or other results of carelessness or inefficiency. . . .The record could not be introduced as primary evidence into court, but in case of death of the patient the record becomes original evidence."

1935 The group begins an ongoing study of Kimber and Gray's Anatomy.

1936 The Association of Record Librarians of Colorado affiliated with the National Association; "if it will not incur too great a financial burden".

1937 "A Drama of Records", a "dramatization of a medical record room in action illustrating obtaining, appraisal and use of the medical records and depicting a medical record conference" was presented by the University of Colorado School of Medicine and Hospitals for the American College of Surgeons.

- Discussed the definition of medical vs. surgical cases.
- Brought a skeleton to the meeting to study bones.
- Miss Margaret Neale from Colorado General Hospital was elected "National Recording Secretary" by the Association of Record Librarians meeting in Chicago on October 25.

- 1938** The first party was Christmas party. Members donated a basket of food and toys to the "Tuckaway Home" at 1147 W. Mississippi Ave. The menu included "Tomato Soup Fixed Up": Campell's Tomato Soup, tiny squares of green peppers, and one tablespoon of whipped cream.
- 1939** Opportunity School of the Denver Public Schools established a course for medical and dental assistants for "new and untrained girls now employed in medical and dental offices."
- 1939-40** Examination questions were reviewed.
- 1942** Members were requested to save cancelled stamps for making casts for English children and to help equip a ward for children in an English hospital.
- 1945-46** Discussion centered on the standardization of insurance forms for release of information and the charge for the information.
- 1946** The Colorado Association agreed to contribute to the expenses of the delegate.
- 1948** Dues were doubled to \$2.00 per year. National dues were \$7.00. Nine meetings per year were to be held.
- 1949** Members noted that "there has been a greater turnover of patients since the development of early ambulation which has given the record library and everyone an increase in the work load."
- 1950** An "Insurance Committee" was established to represent the association on the state level.
- 1951** Bylaws were updated. A motion by Mr. Wayne Sheller was made and carried to have an annual state business meeting to be held the same dates as the Colorado Hospital Association holds their annual meeting.
- 1956** An "Inter-Hospital record Evaluation Committee" was established to work on standardizing forms and developing statistical uniformity.
- 1957** An agreement was made to hold two combined meetings yearly of the Colorado state and the Southern associations, in Colorado Springs and in Denver.
-A proposal was presented nationally, and defeated, to change the association name to the "Medical Record Association of America".
- 1958** The first official "Bulletin" of the Colorado state association was published in September.
- 1960** The newly formed budget committee opened our first savings account at Mountain States Bank in Denver.
- 1961** A joint meeting of the Colorado and Wyoming associations was held with the hospital associations.
- 1964** \$32.00 was donated to the new national scholarship loan fund.

- 1967** 76 active members adopted the State Association Seal.
- 1968** ICDA-8 workshops were held.
- 1969** The national association name became "American Medical Record Association".
- 1970** The Colorado association sponsored the national convention in Colorado Springs. Small spruce tree were given as favors. "Colorado Medical Record Association" was adopted as the state association name.
- 1971** Three delegates were sponsored to the national convention.
-CMRA was incorporated under the state of Colorado.
- 1972** The Northeastern Colorado Medical Record Association (NCMRA) was established by 12 hospitals.
- 1974** The Release of Information and Consent Manual was published by CHA.
- 1975** The PSRO Advisory Group was established as the medical record professions liaison with CFMC.
- 1978** AMRA celebrated fifty years, recognizing Colorado's association as "one of the first twelve states to collectively affiliate" with AMRA.
- The Long Term Care demonstration project received a HEW grant.
- Federal alcohol and drug abuse confidentiality regulations were published.
- 1979-81** The medical record administration program was moved to Regis College from Colorado Women's College.
- 1982-84** Marjorie Weston served as a Director on the Executive Board of AMRA.
- 1984** The newly formed DRG Task Force was directed by Beth Haenke.
- 1986** AMRA held its national convention in Denver. Miniature ore carts were presented as favors from Colorado.
-Carolyn Samuels served as a Director on the Executive Board of AMRA.
- 1990** Virginia Mullen received the Outstanding New Professional Award from AHIMA
- 1991** Our national association's name became the "American Health Information Management Association".
-Kim Sutphin the Outstanding New Professional Award from AHIMA
- 1992** Our state association name changed to the "Colorado Health Information Management Association".
- A 5th Delegate position was given to CHIMA for representation at the National House of Delegates
- CHIMA contributed \$200 to AHIMA members that were victims of Hurricane Andrew
- Cathy Dodds was elected to the AHIMA Nominating Committee
- AHIMA created the new credential of Certified Coding Specialist (CCS)
- AHIMA created the Society for Clinical Coders

- 1994** AHIMA established Core Content areas for continuing education hours
- 1995** CHIMA Bylaws were amended to follow AHIMA Bylaws
- 1996** Mary Poulson received the AHIMA, Mental Health Section, Distinguished Member Award
- 1997** - AHIMA created the new credential of Certified Coding Specialist - Physician Based (CCS-P)
 - Deb Bennett-Woods served as the Chairperson of the AHIMA Career Management Taskforce
 - Susan Clark received the AHIMA Motivation Award
- 1998** AHIMA celebrated it's 70th Anniversary
- 1999** - Mary Cornell was elected to the AHIMA, Behavioral Health Section, Nominating Committee
 - CHIMA contributed \$600 to the Edgecomb Community College for HIT student that were victims of Hurricane Floyd
 - The CHIMA Web site was unveiled
 - CHIMA created a Graduate Scholarship Award
 - CHIMA Recognition Awards were expanded to include Professional Lifetime Achievement Award
 - Jill Callahan-Dennis was elected as the Chairperson of the AHIMA Legislative Committee
 - Virginia Mullen was a member of the AHIMA Nominating Committee
- 2000** - AHIMA credentials were changed to Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA) and Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT)
 - Vi Griffin received the AHIMA Volunteer Triumph Award
 - Cathy Catlin served as the Chairperson of the AHIMA National Convention Program Committee
 - Vi Griffin was elected as a Director to the AHIMA Executive Board
 - Vi Griffin served as the Chairperson of the AHIMA Quality Management Section
 - CHIMA established the Corporate Membership category
- 2001** - AHIMA Winter Team Talks were held in Denver
 - 10% of CHIMA profits from 9/11/01 – 12/31/01 were donated to the New York City Police fund
 - Jill Callahan-Dennis was elected as a Director to the AHIMA Executive Board
- 2002** CHIMA's web site was redesigned