



## Building a Better AHIA

By Joyce Lang, CPA, CIA

Each January, the AHIA Board of Directors holds an in-person meeting that focuses on planning; this year was no exception. The Executive Officers and Directors met for two days in Philadelphia to conduct the January AHIA Board meeting, tour of the facilities for the 31st Annual Conference (The Lowes Philadelphia - August 26-29, 2012), and constructively brainstorm how to continuously better serve AHIA members.

One of the outputs of this meeting was AHIA 2012 Strategic Initiatives; this document is the Board's work plan for the year. Through the processes of developing the plan and monitoring completion of the defined actions, we ensure both alignment with AHIA's mission and objectives, and focus on providing the highest value services and benefits to members.

Many aspects of AHIA's 2012 strategic initiatives are unchanged – we will continue offering and enhancing the services that members value, especially providing education, publications and opportunities for members to interact:

- In addition to the annual conference, committees are planning eight webinars and five regional seminars.
- E-News became standardized last year and the committee will be building on that success to provide you with breaking industry news updates and important AHIA member information.
- Participation in Tech Talk and the listserv continues to grow. Look for more opportunities for member interaction through IT and other roundtables at the annual conference.

Your Board recognizes opportunities to provide even more valuable resources to members. I'm very excited about several

of the initiatives in the 2012 plan and the benefits that will be delivered to AHIA members:

- **Subject Leadership Program**  
The objective of the Subject Leadership Program is to enhance knowledge sharing and the quality of the information shared.

AHIA members with expertise in one or more topics that are important to healthcare internal auditors will have the opportunity to be designated a Subject Leader and serve as a resource to members through responding to questions, reviewing the quality of submissions to the Audit Library as well as conference/seminar presentations, and leading "talks." This is an organized opportunity for experienced healthcare internal auditors to share with their colleagues.

The Professional Practices Committee was organized and started development of the Subject Leadership Program last year; their goal is to launch the program in 2012. Actions are underway—a survey to capture member information needs and areas/levels of subject matter expertise was distributed at the end of last March. In the first two days, over 70 surveys were returned with many members indicating advanced experience with several topics.

Be assured that the technical and practical knowledge and experience of potential experts will be vetted before they are awarded the professional recognition of a Subject Leader.

- **Audit Library**  
Resource/reference materials contributed by AHIA members are shared through the Audit Library.

Enhancements to the Audit Library will occur in conjunction with the development of the Subject Leadership Program. Information from the AHIA member needs survey will be used by members of the Professional Practices Committee to evaluate the scope of the Audit Library (i.e., does the Library contain materials on the topics that AHIA considers relevant). Subject Leaders will have a key role in evaluating existing and new content.

Other initiatives related to the Audit Library include the creation of a healthcare basics section, enhancing IT audit and CAAT resources, and fully implementing enhanced search capabilities.

- **EMR User Groups**  
The Technology Committee and Conference Planning Committee are working together to include more EMR information in the annual conference curriculum. Look for education sessions on Monday and, on Sunday, system-specific roundtables where AHIA members can share their knowledge and practical experience.
- **E-Learning**  
During 2012, the Board plans to investigate E-Learning (i.e., online, ANYTIME training) as an educational offering.

My hope, as you read through these initiatives, is three-fold.

- First, you are pleased with and maybe even excited by the plans the Board has initiated for 2012.
- Second, you understood how much AHIA relies on members sharing knowledge and best practices to help each other realize optimal

performance. I believe that everyone has something to share.

- Third, you noticed the references to committees. What AHIA accomplishes and brings to its members happens mainly through the work of committees; a committee is simply a group of AHIA members who donate time (something all of us don't have enough of) to their profession.

Actually, I hope that I've interested you in participating in the accomplishment of one of these initiatives. I challenge

you to identify your talents and how you can share that expertise with your fellow practitioners/AHIA members. Can you be a Subject Leader? Can you work on Audit Library improvements? Do you have an EMR experience that you could share at a roundtable, or could you help organize users into a group for ongoing interaction? Any experience with the development of online learning?

Email me at [Chair@ahia.org](mailto:Chair@ahia.org) and let me know how you want to contribute to your profession and the professional organization that supports you.

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### *Keeping Things in Perspective — continued from page 4*

Curious, I checked out the website of Bumrungrad International Hospital in Bangkok, Thailand, and according to the 538-bed hospital a 'top 10 world medical destination.' 42% of their one million patients annually come from 190 countries to receive world-class medical care. (Check out their website, the hospital looks pretty impressive.)

Now that's quite a change from when I was a kid and the debate was whether the hospital in our town was better than the one nine miles away. The change going on in healthcare is a worldwide phenomenon, not just something happening here in this country. If your leadership is not thinking internationally, they are behind the curve.

Where there is turmoil and change, there is opportunity. As internal auditors we find ourselves right in the middle of it all. Where are your opportunities? What is your perspective? In this issue we have a number of articles that speak to the changes going on in our nation's healthcare system.

Meaningful Use is perhaps the big one for us auditors and compliance professionals these days. We have two terrific articles that help you down that path.

We also have a theme on crime—fraud and abuse, data breaches, security. These excellent articles will help you protect your organization from the unscrupulous.

We all have to make presentations of our work results, or at times in our personal lives. So the concluding installment of our series on presentation skills is a must-read. Finally, in these times of tight budgets we all need to find ways to make do with less, so check out how to stretch your audit dollars.

There is so much going on in our industry and we are positioned to participate, learn and grow in the midst of it all. With this much happening it is easy to miss the point—internal audit in the US is a great place to be. We have opportunities, chances and choices that so many unfortunates do not have—so keep things in perspective.

I wish you good reading! **NP**

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*The ultimate measure of man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.*  
~ Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

# ahia

Assoc. of Healthcare Internal Auditors

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