

Capital Chat

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Capital Chapter of AHDI Serving Austin and Central Texas

www.capitalchapter.org

March 2009 Volume 6



Capital Chapter of AHDI

Upcoming Events

March 19 - Thursday
Field Trip to Temple, TX
We will tour the
Clinical Simulation Center
at Temple College
Tour is 2:00-3:30 p.m.
1.5 CECs Clinical Medicine
Details can be found at:
<http://capitalchapter.org/gpage7.html>

May 16 - Saturday
Mini Symposium &
Annual Used Book Sale
Celebrate MT Week!
Registration is only \$10
8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Seton Medical Center
Austin, TX
3 CECs anticipated
Registration Form - page 7

Sept. 19 - Saturday
Annual Symposium
Wingate – Round Rock, TX
Don't miss this event!
Mark your calendar now!

Share the News and Invite a Friend

Message from the President

My message must start by offering a sincere thank you and job well done to Kathy Muelker, CMT, who served our chapter very well as President in 2007 and 2008. As I looked toward 2009 when it would be my turn, I thought extensively about what contribution I would like to make to the chapter. I will share with you my goal and ask your support, but first some background.

As many of you have, also, I have served as both a worker and a leader in several volunteer organizations. One common thread seems to run through every group, however, and that is the wish to involve more people. It is not just a matter of increasing the numbers, although no one can deny that it is always desirable to grow. More importantly, however, it is a desire to include as many people as possible in a cause or common interest because you know that that they are otherwise missing out on something that you believe is worthwhile. The second thread common to

volunteer organizations is that people often come and/or join because they were personally invited by someone they know. We all know that it can be hard to walk into a room of strangers and how much easier that is when we walk beside a friend.

So this is my goal and my challenge to the Capital Chapter this year: If you have found value in becoming a part of the chapter, share this with someone you know, extend an invitation, offer to carpool, in other words, take that extra step! The chapter has so much to offer its participants (and vice versa), and people come for different reasons—and that's okay—the chapter has lots of different reasons, programs, and events to offer. Don't stop reading here, as the following pages and our website can help you become informed as we start our next 25 years!

Barbara Rasmussen, CMT

Capital Chapter participates in Career Day

Capital Chapter members participated in a *Career Day* event on March 13, 2009, in Killeen. Marilyn Campbell, CMT, Monica Crocker, CMT, and Kathy Muelker, CMT, volunteered their time to share information with attendees who were interested in learning more about a career in medical transcription. The "Career Connections Seminar" attracted over 50 attendees from the Fort Hood/Killeen area, with the majority being military spouses. Capital Chapter members proudly represented the profession of medical transcription, answering questions and providing information

about education, training, job opportunities, and compensation. This was the second time the Capital Chapter participated in the event, which is held quarterly and sponsored by the *Fort Hood Army Community Service Employment Readiness Branch* and *Workforce Solutions of Central Texas*. Printed materials, including handouts and brochures, were distributed to interested attendees.

To view pictures taken at the event, please visit the Capital Chapter *Shutterfly* album: <http://ahdifun.shutterfly.com/>

Go Green!

Join AHDl in supporting the **Arbor Day Foundation** as part of their **Go Green** campaign this year.

How can you get involved?

Join The Arbor Day Foundation for \$10 (6 mos.) or \$15 (12 mos.). For your membership, the Foundation will plant 10 trees in a national forest in your honor. You will also receive 10 trees to plant in your yard, the Foundation's bimonthly newsletter, and discounts on other trees/plants for your yard.

<http://www.arborday.org/>

Plant a tree in honor or memory of a loved one on **Arbor Day - April 24, 2009.**

Notify AHDl when you join the Foundation so we can track how many trees have been planted by AHDl members!



Do companies offer a higher compensation rate and other benefits to their MTs who are certified?

Yes! Several companies recognize the value of a credentialed MT and offer a higher pay rate to CMTs. Some companies also pay for all or part of the exam fee or offer reimbursement for continuing education or recertification fees.

Check out the benefits offered by companies that value credentialed MTs.

<http://www.ahdionline.org>

TAHDl Celebrates 25th Anniversary

View pictures taken at the event: <http://tahdi.shutterfly.com/>

The **Texas Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity** celebrated its 25th anniversary at their Annual Meeting and Leadership Conference. The event was held February 20-21 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Houston, hosted by the Gulf Coast Chapter. Approximately 75 attendees enjoyed the conference, which included presentations by

national leaders Susan Lucci, RHIT, CMT, AHDl-F, and Brenda Hurley, CMT, AHDl-F.

Sixteen Capital Chapter members attended the event and enjoyed presentations by Betsy Ertel, AHDl-F, Laura Bryan, CMT, AHDl-F, Susan Shaw, Gary Hutchings, Dr. Tim Brandon, and attorney Hugh Barton.

Capital Chapter

Featured In
Plexus

The Capital Chapter is featured in the "Component Spotlight" section of *Plexus Magazine* - March issue

Look for your copy in the mail.

AHDl members can also view publications online through the AHDl website

<http://www.ahdionline.org/>



**AHDl MEMBERS
Get Involved!**

Forums/Networking
Peer Mentoring Program
Resources Link
Student Webinars

There is something for everyone!
Come join us-registration is **FREE!**
www.ahdisa.org !

Capital Chapter 2008 Member of the Year

By Barbara Rasmussen, CMT

The Board of Directors of the Capital Chapter of AHDl is proud to announce the Capital Chapter 2008 Member of the Year:

Kathy Muelker, CMT

Kathy's selection was announced at the January 17, 2009, Chapter meeting.

The Board has submitted Kathy's name to AHDl for consideration for the Hall of Fame, a new program to highlight and recognize members at all levels of the association who have demonstrated a consistent commitment to the association and its objectives and for whom the nomination year represents a period of unique, high-impact contribution. The Board

agreed that Kathy definitely met these criteria. Twelve AHDl members will be selected for the Hall of Fame and announced at the AHDl Annual Convention & Expo in Nashville this summer. From these 12 Hall of Fame winners, the AHDl Member of the Year will be chosen.

Congratulations, Kathy, from the Board of Directors and your fellow Capital Chapter members!

For more information on the Hall of Fame, please see the AHDl website:

www.ahdionline.org/ScriptContent/HallFame.cfm

Message from our AHDI Board Partner

Debbie Bright-Chunn, BS, RHIT, CMT, AHDI-F

I would like to introduce myself to you as your new AHDI Board Partner. After careful restructuring of the geographical areas of our Board members, it was determined that it would be best for us to service the states in our immediate proximity to save on travel expense as well as the fact that we would be "neighbors" already in our efforts to promote membership and lead this fine organization through the many changes ahead. I am very pleased to be of service, especially to the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, and Oklahoma. It is my desire to answer any questions you may have concerning your chapter or state organizations. I can assure you that I will do my best to find the answers you need to move your groups forward through providing information about credentialing, the upcoming electronic health record, speech recognition, and many other technological advances facing us in the coming days.

To tell you a little about myself, I became involved in Health Information in 1990, when I began working in a small acute care hospital in Northeast Louisiana as a medical records clerk. I knew nothing of medical terminology, but because of a fast typing speed, I was placed in the transcription area and told to get to work looking up the words. As you can imagine, this was a difficult approach, but one I grew to love and be very proud of. In that department, I found out that I could work toward the RHIT credential from AHIMA and began that journey. In 1995, I became an RHIT and was promoted to Transcription Supervisor. I held that position until 2000 when our transcription was outsourced to a national company. A few of us went to work for the company, but were never very successful as foreign dictators were assigned to us and production levels plummeted. After two years, I returned back to the hospital scene as Health Information

Director of an inpatient rehabilitation hospital, where I am presently employed. My duties there include all aspects of HIM including the coding and transcription processes as well as assisting with the billing of claims. During this time, I also became a CMT and became active in state and national meetings for AHDI (then AAMT). In 2004, I also opened my own business, Bright Consulting, LLC, a HIM consulting service specializing in transcription resources for physicians, clinics, and hospitals. I presently work with nearly 22 medical transcriptionists to provide services to healthcare facilities in and around Louisiana.

My HIM road has opened many doors to further my education, including receiving my Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and I am now presently working on my HIM Master's Degree through Louisiana Tech University. As you can see, I am a devoted life-long learner! I found out in this profession, you will never stop learning something new, and in every avenue of education, it has been rewarding and something I never regret doing. This is meant to be an encouragement to all of you who have considered going back to school, but thought it might not be worth it because of age or other factors.

Please contact me if you have questions, need a speaker for meetings, or just a helping hand in some way! I look forward to serving you!

Debbie Bright-Chunn, BS, RHIT, CMT, AHDI-F
AHDI Board Member 2009-2011
LA-ARK-TX-OK Board Partner
Owner, Bright Consulting, LLC
debbie@brightconsulting.net
318-282-9908

Debbie and her husband, Ronnie, attended the recent TAHD! Annual Meeting in Houston. You can view all the great pictures taken at the event: <http://tahdi.shutterfly.com/>

Welcome

New Capital Chapter Members

Darla Deen
Emily Garcia Russell
Robin "Bobbie" Hart
Patti Hempen

Upcoming AHDI Webinars

**March 24 – CMT and RMT:
Steps to Credentialing**
By: Kim Buchanan, CMT, AHDI-F
Free!

**March 24 – PowerPoint
Basics, Part I**
By: Laura Bryan, CMT, AHDI-F
CEC Given: 1.5 TW

**March 25 – They're
Implementing an EHR - Now
What?**
By: Sherry Doggett
CEC Given: 1 TW

**March 25 – Your
Association, Your Benefits**
By: Kelly Kappmeier
Free!

**March 26 – Critical
Thinking in Leadership**
By: Kim Buchanan, CMT, AHDI-F
CEC Given: 1.5 PD

**March 27 – MT Job
Hunting 101**
By: Pat Stettler, CMT, AHDI-F
CEC Given: 1 PD

**March 31 – PowerPoint
Basics, Part II**
By: Laura Bryan, CMT, AHDI-F
CEC Given: 1.5 TW

**March 31 – Integrating the
EHR: Medical Offices of the
Future**
By: Mark Anderson
CEC Given: 1 TW

**Register for webinars &
events on the AHDI website:**
<http://www.ahdionline.org>

**Make Plans to Attend
ACE!**

AHDI

Annual Convention & Expo

2009 - Nashville, TN
Gaylord Opryland Resort
July 29-Aug 1 Visit the
AHDI website for more info

2010 - Austin, TX
Aug 4-7 Hilton Austin

2011 - Phoenix, AZ
Aug 18-21 Marriott

Pictures!

**Be sure to view the
Capital Chapter
Shutterfly
photo collection**

Have you seen the Capital
Chapter's Shutterfly site?

Many wonderful pictures have
been taken during the past 13
months and you can view
them FREE online. You can
even post comments, add
pictures, or order prints.

<http://ahdifun.shutterfly.com/>

Congratulations!

The following Capital Chapter
members recently earned their
CMT credential:

Christy Cole, RHIA, CMT

Kathy Muelker, CMT

The Capital Chapter encourages its
members to pursue RMT or CMT
certification and offers partial
reimbursement for the exam fee.

Visit the Capital Chapter website for
more information.

New Secretary Appointed

The Capital Chapter Board of Directors
has appointed **Monica Crocker, CMT**,
as secretary, effective March 4, 2009.
Monica replaces Rachel Recher-Evans
who is relocating to Michigan with her
husband John. We appreciate Rachel's
participation and service to the Capital
Chapter.

Monica has been active in the Capital
Chapter since joining over a year ago.
She was featured in the "Member
Spotlight" section of the Sept. 2008
newsletter. The Board appreciates
Monica's willingness to serve as
secretary. Congratulations, Monica!

2009 Capital Chapter Officers

President

Barbara Rasmussen, CMT
president@capitalchapter.org
512-268-4832

Secretary

Monica Crocker, CMT
msc1661@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Wynette Becker, CMT
wynette.becker@att.net

**Chapter Representative to TAHD
& Immediate Past President**

Kathy Muelker, CMT
k_muelker@msn.com

Facebook popular with MTs

Are you on **Facebook**? Many MTs have
discovered the innovative online social
networking tool. Groups and associations
of all types can be found on Facebook (as
well as old high school or college friends!).
AHDI now has a Facebook page with up-to-
date information, announcements, and
information on events. Kathy Muelker has
created a **Texas AHDI** group on Facebook.
It is open to anyone, and all MTs in Texas
are invited to join. It's quick and easy to
register on Facebook--and it's free!

<http://www.facebook.com/>

Important Websites

Capital Chapter of AHDI
www.capitalchapter.org

AHDI www.ahdionline.org

Texas AHDI www.texasmt.org

Capital Chat Advertising Rates

Business Card..... \$25
Half Page..... \$50
Full Page..... \$75

Submit your ad via email to the newsletter editor:
Kathy Muelker, CMT, at k_muelker@msn.com

Make checks payable to: **Capital Chapter of AHDI**
Mail to: Wynette Becker, CMT, Treasurer
14567 Robert I. Walker Blvd.
Austin, TX 78728

New Member Spotlight



Paula Galloway

Harker Heights, Texas

Paula J. Galloway was born in Gordon, Nebraska, and raised in Merriman, Nebraska. She graduated in 1977 from Gordon High School. Paula attended the Grand Island School of Business in Grand Island, Nebraska, and graduated in 1978 with a technical certification degree in Business.

Paula has been an Army spouse for 30 years and has over 15 years experience working for Civil Service as an administrative assistant. Paula's lifelong dream was to become a full-time medical transcriptionist, to work at home, and have the flexibility to be there for her family. During one change of duty station, Paula decided to actively pursue this dream again and took a medical transcription course to refresh her skills.

Paula started transcription work over 5 years ago. She now works at home with the flexibility she has always dreamed of. The biggest problem she ran into was the required experience that companies want. She soon broke through this barrier after finding out a friend's mother had a small transcription business. Paula talked to the mother and started working for her. This was over 4 years ago and Paula continues to work for her from home. When asked what advice she would have for someone wanting to get into the medical transcription field, she said, "Do not give up your dream; it takes time, but again all things that are good often take time."

Benefits of Membership in the Capital Chapter

Networking

Capital Chapter meetings and events provide members with the opportunity to meet, talk, and build relationships with other professionals in the medical transcription field.

Continuing Education

Educational presentations and activities are provided to assist members in their continuing education, both for maintaining CMT certification and for general self-improvement/professional development.

Discounts on Meetings & Events

Capital Chapter members attend General Meetings at no charge. General Meetings are held approximately 3 times per year and typically include a presentation by a guest speaker as well as a chapter business meeting. Members also receive a discounted registration fee for the Capital Chapter Annual Symposium (scheduled Sept 19 this year).

Note: AHDI membership is not required to be a member of the Capital Chapter; however, AHDI members do receive many benefits: http://www.ahdionline.org/scriptcontent/membership_category.cfm

MTs from all over Texas are welcome to join the Capital Chapter. Students are also encouraged to join. Please see the membership application on page 8.

Visit the Capital Chapter website for up-to-date news and information: www.capitalchapter.org

Save the Date!

Capital Chapter Mini Symposium and Annual Used Book Sale

**Saturday
May 16, 2009
8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

**Join us in Austin to celebrate
National Medical Transcriptionist Week**



Enjoy a super low registration fee of only \$10

This special registration fee is being offered in celebration of
National Medical Transcriptionist Week (May 18-24)
See Registration Form on next page

Continental Breakfast

Door Prizes & Raffle

3 CECs anticipated

Event Location

Seton Medical Center (McFadden Auditorium)
1201 West 38th Street, Austin, TX 78705

Visit the Capital Chapter website for event updates and information

www.capitalchapter.org

REGISTRATION FORM
Capital Chapter Mini Symposium
May 16, 2009

Please print clearly

Name _____ AHDI # _____
First Last (If applicable)

Credentials (please circle all applicable): CMT RMT RHIA RHIT CCS Other _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Students: Name of School _____

Please check here if you are disabled and require special services. Attach written description of needs.

Tell us about yourself! Please check all that apply:

Working MT Student Recent graduate QA Other: _____

AHDI member AHIMA member Educator Supervisor Business Owner

Member of local AHDI Chapter – *Chapter name:* _____

REGISTRATION FEE: \$10.00

Please mail this registration form with payment by: May 9, 2009

We prefer that you register by mail so we can plan accordingly.

We will permit registration at the door, but if you plan to register/pay at the door,
please email Barbara Rasmussen at president@capitalchapter.org by May 9.

We look forward to seeing you in Austin on May 16!

Detach and keep this portion for your records

Please make check or money order payable to: **Capital Chapter of AHDI** (Check # _____ Amount \$10.00)

Please mail payment along with the top portion of this form to treasurer: Wynette Becker, CMT
 14567 Robert I. Walker Blvd.
Please mail by: May 9, 2009 Austin, TX 78728

Note: Registration fee is not deductible as a charitable contribution for federal income tax purposes but may be deductible as a business expense.

Refund Policy: No refunds will be offered for this event.

For questions, contact: Capital Chapter President Barbara Rasmussen, CMT, at president@capitalchapter.org

For event updates and information: Visit the Capital Chapter website: www.capitalchapter.org



Capital Chapter
Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity
Membership Application

New Member _____ **Renewal** _____ Date: _____

Name _____
(Please print) *First* *Last*

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Date of Birth _____ / _____
Month Day

Home Phone (_____) _____ E-Mail address _____

Other Phone (_____) _____ Emergency Contact _____ Phone (_____) _____

AHDI Membership Number (if applicable) _____ CMT Number (if applicable) _____

Current Position/Employer _____ Experience _____ years

Current Student: School _____ Expected Program Completion Date _____

Referring Capital Chapter Member (if applicable) _____

2009 Membership Dues

Check the appropriate category

AHDI Member: (Membership # must be provided above)

_____ Professional Membership (\$20)

_____ Student Membership (\$10)

Non-AHDI Member:

_____ Professional Membership (\$25)

_____ Student Membership (\$15)

Other Categories:

_____ Educational Membership (\$50)

_____ Corporate Membership (\$50)

**Membership is for one calendar year -
January 1 through December 31.**

Make check or money order payable to:

Capital Chapter of AHDI

Mail to Treasurer: Wynette Becker, CMT
14567 Robert I. Walker Blvd.
Austin, TX 78728

Capital Chapter AHDI dues and donations are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes, but they may be deductible as ordinary and necessary business expenses.