



## The Monitor

### From Your President

The air is cool and crisp this morning. Luckily, the smell of smoke is gone and the sky isn't hazy. California has had many fires this summer and they are still going on bringing devastation to many people. It seems that most of Northern CA is on fire, along with Oregon. The hurricanes that hit TX, FL and PR causing damage recently have been on my mind as well. I hope that none of our members suffered any damage with these natural disasters.

This past weekend I drove ten hours to Salt Lake City, UT for our semi-annual face to face meeting with the Board of Directors. The drive has a whole lot of nothing for scenery, with the exception of the twenty-five minutes you drive through the tip of Arizona driving straight through the Virgin River Gorge.

We had a conference site visit for our next conference and met with each other for two days. The meeting was very productive; we covered many topics, some of which I can share with you now. The other things, you'll hear from the other Board of Directors.

We have recently begun exploring the possibilities of forming a partnership with CCMA, with the initial step of defining what "Partnership" means. The BOD is committed in serving in the best interests of our organization, but as certified members, we too have a vested interest in seeing our certifications remaining valid. There will be more on this subject as we progress in our joint meetings to determine how we all can be best served.

You will soon be receiving your membership renewal reminders. Our membership year is from January to December of each year. We are working on bringing more value for your membership dollars as we strive to improve our appearance, communications and commitment to our members. Our membership numbers have remained flat for several years. The BOD tossed around several ideas and incentives to current members to help the organization grow its membership. More information on this will be coming from our Membership Chair, Terese Van Hout.

We also heard chapter news from Texas and Michigan at our meeting, thanks to Theresa Crothers who reached out to both. The BOD wants to reach out to all active chapters all over the country and allow them space in our newsletter to share their news directly with you. We will also be inviting and providing a meeting space at our annual conference for chapters who want to meet at our conference. We are only stronger when we work together, and by offering time and space, we are encouraging chapters to take advantage of this opportunity.

Our lineup for Conference speakers is amazing. This is again thanks to the diligence and commitment of our Educational Chair, Theresa Crothers. Actually, the whole venue for this next conference is pretty cool. Registration materials will be made available after the first of the year

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## From Your President *(continued)*

Recently, I rescued two dogs that were found in a box on the side of the highway in Norco, CA. Fortunately the two were brought in to Southern Star Animal Rescue. I think they're mother and son, and they are definitely bonded. Their names are Joya and Tony. They appear to be mostly Maltese. They show their gratitude to me daily. I cannot sit down without them begging to be placed on my lap and, when I stroke their heads, they fall asleep almost immediately. They are older dogs who were never house broken. We're progressing in that area, but some days it's two steps forward and one step back. Much like the lives we all lead.

Soon our calendars will be filled with holiday plans. The stores already have holiday merchandise, bringing those thoughts to the forefront of my mind. It's my wish that you are all looking forward to the holidays and celebrate them in your own special ways.

*David Eklof*  
AAMAS President



## **A Message From Your President-Elect**

Greetings all,

Last week I was in Boston at my nursing school for my 50-year reunion. I've known these eighty women for 53 years, and we've stayed in touch over that time. Most of us were eighteen when we entered Massachusetts General Hospital. When we finished, we matured 20 years.

I noticed this year (at the age of 72) that each of us has a similar way of looking at life. We are lovers of people, nurturers and community activists. We are givers; we are unique.

What I love about AAMAS is that we share a mixture of a nurture and clinical approach to life and work. I like that we approach auditing with our unique clinical perspective and that we have an Association that now embraces that.

We welcome others to join us and learn what clinical auditing is about. Let's rebuild ourselves to our former glory. To those who have been members in the past, we welcome you home; to those of you who are new—welcome!

Sincerely,

*Mary Jane LaBelle*  
AAMAS President-elect

## **A Message From Your Vice President**

The 2017 Fall board meeting was a great success. The board has done a lot of hard work and has some great plans for the next year. I am very excited about the 2018 conference. Mike did a great job at finding us a hotel and convention center. I am not a big city person, (yes I think Salt Lake City is big) but I really enjoyed my time in Salt Lake City. It was very easy to get from the airport to the hotel. You can hop off the airplane and onto the light rail, and it drops you off next to the hotel. Couldn't ask for anything easier. I hope to see everyone at the 2018 conference.

*Anne Haider*  
AAMAS Vice President

## **Hail Great Lake State and The Lone Star State – meet us in the Beehive State!**

### **Calling all members of organizations in Michigan and Texas**

This will be our first year to honor our history at conference, and it will not be our last. We recognize that the state organizations helped to build AAMAS, and we want to make it clear that we appreciate your membership and service to this field over many years. AAMAS invites you to hold a membership meeting at our conference in Salt Lake City. We have reserved a board room for our own board meeting, and we extend this space to you to use for you to gather and hold a member meeting. If there are any other state organizations with affiliations with AAMAS or would like to affiliate with AAMAS, we want to talk to you!

### **Special Invitation**

We're enthusiastic about plans in the works and the cohesive, service-oriented atmosphere we've enjoyed amongst our board members as we approach the 2018 conference. There is definitely some magic in the air, and we would like to extend an invitation to share the excitement. The AAMAS board meeting will take place on Tuesday. Please let us know if you would like to have one of your state Medical Audit organization representatives sit in on the board meeting.

Please email us at [m.mcmanus@ammas.org](mailto:m.mcmanus@ammas.org) to schedule your meeting at our conference.

*Terese VanHout*

*(continued on next page)*

## Education Committee Report

Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, Hurricane Maria, and the fires in Montana, Washington, and California have caused much damage and heartache. I hope that all are safe and that no great losses have been sustained by our members. Here in Michigan, we had a bit cooler than normal summer, but a glorious fall so far. We are very lucky.

Plans are well underway for next year's conference, to be held at *Little America Hotel* (<http://saltlake.littleamerica.com>) in Salt Lake City, Utah from April 24-27, 2018. The theme is "AAMAS in Salt Lake City- The Frontier of Healthcare Reimbursement".

As I write this, I have just returned home from our Board of Directors meeting that was held at the conference venue. I can tell you that the facility is lovely, close to the airport, and walking distance to Temple Square, shopping, and many restaurants. There is also a Tri Rail (TRAX) that goes from the airport to the hotel for \$2.50!

I am pleased to announce that we have confirmed *Day Egusquiza from AR Systems to be our Key Note Speaker*. Day will actually be speaking for two sessions, one on audit findings with charge capture, matching the order against the documentation, and a second session on Managed Care Denials. Day has always been a popular speaker, and she is excited to address our group again.

I am in the process of confirming speakers on the topics of Fraud and Abuse with the Utah OIG, Charge Master use, ICD-10 updates, Workers Comp, auditing for Rehab, the use of Telemonitoring, and EMTALA, and the Opioid crises.

Pre-Conference sessions we are planning for include Audit 102, a more in depth course on medical auditing. This will be presented by Mary Jane LaBelle of Escalate. We also are hoping to offer pre conference sessions on auditing for Contract Compliance and how to start a medical audit company. As the speakers are confirmed, we will update the website with that information.

The opening reception will have a theme of "Diamonds and Denim" so bring your bling and your cowgirl hats!

There will be a fun special event to be held the evening of Thursday, April 26, where *we plan to honor the founding and long time members*. We will be having a buffet style dinner at the Hogle Zoo, <https://www.hoglezoo.org/about/>, in the Tidewater Cove area

surrounded by the aquarium. The cost for this event will be included in your registration, and transportation will be provided. There will be an opportunity to buy additional tickets for quests.

Look for the conference brochure to be completed and on our website by the middle of January, with details on cost.

We are also looking at venues for the 2019 conference, and will be announcing that location in April.

I look forward to seeing you all in Salt Lake!

Theresa Crothers  
AAMAS Education Committee Chair  
248-207-0013  
crothers@charter.net



# AAMAS WANTS YOU!

## Call For Nominations

This is a Call for Nominations to fill vacancies on the AAMAS Board of Directors expected in 2018.

Positions opening are:

- Vice President (currently Anne Haider RN, CMAS)
- Secretary-Treasurer (currently Amy Armstrong RN, CMAS)

What's in it for you?

1. Help your non-profit association! Your contributions ensure a strong future
2. Advance your professional and leadership skills
3. Discounted Conference registration fees, travel reimbursement
4. Preceptorship/Guidance from a sage board - you are not alone!
5. Grow your audit scope, knowledge and network
6. The fun of working with a group of energetic and dynamic leaders in the field of Medical Auditing
7. Nominations of yourself or others are encouraged
  - Members are ineligible to hold an elected position until they have been a member of the Association for two years. Members shall have attended at least one annual meeting.

Descriptions of the positions are found on the website and are included for your convenience as follows:

### Vice-President: 2-year term

The Vice-President shall, in the temporary absence or incapacity of the President, perform the duties of the President. The Vice-President shall succeed to the office of President in the event of a vacancy in the office of President. The Vice-President shall perform such other

duties as may be requested by the Board of Directors. The Vice President shall serve as the Chair of the Bylaws/Standards Committee.

### Secretary/Treasurer: 2-year term

The Secretary/Treasurer shall be the recording officer of the assembly and the custodian of its records, except those specifically assigned to other persons. The Secretary/Treasurer shall make the minutes and records available to members upon request. The Secretary/Treasurer shall cause all necessary notices to be directed to the members of the Association, conduct and maintain a record of all official correspondence. The Secretary/Treasurer shall perform other functions at the direction of the Board of Directors. The Secretary/Treasurer shall maintain a record of all receipts and disbursements of the Association and oversee the maintenance of records of all receipts and disbursements of the Association. The Secretary/Treasurer shall monitor the receipt and deposit of all monies of the Association in a bank account approved by the Board of Directors and provide an up to date financial statement to each meeting of the Board of Directors or at the request of the President. An annual financial statement shall be presented at the annual business meeting along with an audit approved by the Board of Directors.

Thank you for being a member of AAMAS, and we look forward to serving with you to lead us into the future!

*Terese VanHout RN, CMAS*  
Nominating/Membership Committee Chair  
Michigan

*Chris Payne Bryant RN*  
Committee Member  
Indiana

*Karen Sedevie RT, CMAS*  
Committee Member  
North Dakota

## Membership renewal is coming!

It's not too early to think about your membership renewal. The term of membership is January 1st to December 31st and we all know how hard it is to remember to do this during the busy holiday season.

Renew early and avoid the hassle around the holidays.

Don't forget about the current membership referral program! AAMAS gift certificates will be awarded to members who refer new members! The amount of the gift certificate will be determined by how many new members are referred:

- \$50 for 2 new members;
  - \$100 for 4 new members;
  - \$150 for 5 or more new members.
- The awards are non-transferable and must be redeemed within one (1) years of date of receipt. This gift certificate can be used toward the cost of your renewal and toward the conference!
  - The recipient must be an active member of AAMAS.

We also have a discounted Corporate Rate Membership available. These are open to organizations that have 3 or more individuals that would like to be members. Each membership receives a 10% discount off of the individual membership rate.

We have enjoyed having you as a member of AAMAS and hope you have experienced the many benefits of your membership.

For your convenience, you can renew your membership today by visiting the AAMAS Website at <https://www.AAMAS.org/renew.taf>.

If you have any trouble using the members-only area of the AAMAS website, please contact Nicole Cheever at the number and extension shown below, or you can also contact our AAMAS Customer Care team at (414) 908-4941 ext. 450 or by e-mail at [CustomerCare@aamas.org](mailto:CustomerCare@aamas.org).

If you cannot renew online, you may download, print, fax or mail your application. Please print the attached renewal invoice to mail or fax your membership dues payment. You can also renew over the phone by contacting the AAMAS Membership, Finance and Customer Care Departments at (414) 908-4941 or by e-mail at [AAMAS\\_membership@aamas.org](mailto:AAMAS_membership@aamas.org).

Sincerely,

*Nicole Cheever*  
AAMAS Membership Manager  
P: (414) 908-4941 ext. 116  
F: (414) 768-8001  
Email: [n.cheever@aamas.org](mailto:n.cheever@aamas.org)

## Member Highlight

In every newsletter, we will continue to highlight AAMAS members so that when we get together at conference, we won't be complete strangers! We ask basic questions and then have the interviewee pick out a couple of icebreaker topics at the end. Our next victim...

### Theresa Crothers RN

I was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan the sixth of nine children. I currently live in Salem Twp. just outside of Ann Arbor with my husband of 34 years, a retired Ford Motor Company Engineer. We also have a cottage on a lake in northern Michigan. I don't have children, but I am lucky to have wonderful nieces, nephews, and children of friends in my life.

I spent most of my clinical career in the Burn Intensive Care Unit as head nurse/nursing supervisor for 8 years. I began auditing in 1983 as an Independent Contractor with Republic Service Bureau, and have worked independently for both payers and providers since. My areas of expertise are HBA, Short Stay Review and I was involved in the RAC pilot.

I belonged to the Michigan Association of Healthcare Auditors (MAHA) when I heard about a new national organization called the National Medical Cost Containment Association. I went to my first conference in Atlanta in 1995 and have been to every one since. I have served on the Board of Directors for both organizations in every capacity. I am currently back on the AAMAS board as Education Chair.

On a personal level, I love to be outside. I like to hike in the woods near my house, or out the door at the lake. I like to play golf (though I'm not very good at it). I like to downhill ski, and snow shoe. I also have been doing Iyengar Yoga for about 17 years, and can stand on my head for over 5 minutes.

If time and money were not an issue, I would travel the world. My husband says my middle name should be, "I'll go! I'll go!" My favorite vacation was hiking Inn to Inn in the Lakes District in England.

If there was one thing I could have been instead of a nurse, it would to be an astronaut. I would love to go to space and just look out the window at the earth below. I always request a window seat when I'm on a plane.

I became a crossword addict about 15 years ago, and there is not a day that goes by when I don't do at least one crossword puzzle. I can complete the New York Times Sunday crossword about once a month without the use of Google!

(Editor comment: Whoa!)

## French Toast Casserole Recipe

Enjoy an easy make-ahead freezer French toast casserole. Make a batch whenever you've got some leftover bread or catch a sale. You can freeze the bread/egg mixture before it bakes. It is so convenient to take it from the freezer to the refrigerator the night before to let it thaw and then bake it in a pan in the morning. The original recipe can be found here: <http://www.thetipgarden.com/2012/04/freezer-meals-french-toast-3-ways.html>.

### Ingredients

#### Casserole:

12 slices of bread cubed into chunks (approx. 1-1.5 oz slices)

1 1/2 cups milk

1 1/2 heavy cream, half & half, or 1 (15 oz) can of evaporated milk

6 eggs beaten or equivalent of egg beaters

1 teaspoon cinnamon

1 teaspoon vanilla

#### Topping (optional)- But it really makes this dish fantastic!

1 stick butter or margarine

1 cup brown sugar (or make your own)

2 tablespoons maple syrup

Optional: 1 cup chopped pecans or 1 packet of instant maple/brown sugar or apple cinnamon oatmeal (OR BOTH nuts and oatmeal package)

#### Directions:

1. Cube bread and place in a gallon sized freezer bag
2. In a mixing bowl mix together the eggs, milk, cream (or half & half or evaporated milk), cinnamon, vanilla till well blended.
3. Pour egg mixture into freezer bag over the bread cubes. Seal bag and gently shake to mix bread and egg mixture together. Set aside to make the topping.
4. In a quart sized freezer bag place all the ingredients for the topping. Seal bag well. Squish the bag for a few minutes to mix together all the topping ingredients:
5. Place both the Casserole bag and the topping bag together in a 1 gallon freezer bag and seal. Lay flat in freezer to freeze.

## To Bake French Toast Casserole:

1. Place frozen bag into the refrigerator the night before you want to bake it. In the morning, butter or spray a 9x13 baking dish and pour in the egg mixture. Sprinkle the topping in little plops of crumbles over the egg mixture.
2. Bake at 350 degrees for 45-50 minutes or until it is golden brown and egg mixture is cooked through (Jiggle the pan. If it seems liquidy, bake longer). Serve in bowls with powdered sugar and maple syrup.

**TIP:** Adjust the temp if you know your oven runs hotter or cooler. I find this casserole bakes well at 350 without burning – but it actually takes more than 60 minutes sometimes.

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## Monitor State Report

I am pleased to report that the Michigan Association of Healthcare Auditors (<http://mimaha.org/>) had a successful fall conference on October 6<sup>th</sup>, with 24 members in attendance.

There were sessions on Coding for E&M, Time Based Coding, an Overview of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, and the role of Nurse Practitioners. The speakers all were dynamic, and well received. I applaud the Education Committee of *Donna Copeland and Sherry Luke*, who consistently find interesting speakers on topical issues.

Because of the amount of work and expense that goes into conference planning, and the decrease of membership, MAHA is no longer offering 2 conferences per year. We have eliminated our spring conference and now only offer a conference in the fall.

*Terese VanHout*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*David Eklof, President*

*Mary Jane LaBelle, President Elect*

*Anne Haider, Vice President*

*Amy Armstrong, Secretary/Treasurer*

*Theresa Crothers, Education Committee Chair*

*Teresa VanHout, Nomination's Committee Chair*

*Mike McManus, Executive Director*



**AAMAS New  
Executive Director**

**Mike McManus**

*ext. 119*



**Liz Kutz  
Chief Financial  
Officer at Association  
Executives Group**

*ext. 102*

### **Vice President of Operations at Association Executives Group**

Mike attended Seton Hall University, where he majored in marketing and was a member of the varsity golf and basketball teams. Mike has held a variety of management positions throughout his career, including a Director position with Tiffany & Co. and as general manager with the world's largest Minuteman Press organization. He also has more than 10 years of nonprofit Board and event management experience. He has held the position of Executive Director for eight associations during his career.



**Roy Smith  
Vice President of  
IT at Association  
Executives Group**



**Nicole Cheever  
AAMAS Customer  
Care & Membership  
Manager**

*ext. 116*

### **AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL AUDIT SPECIALISTS**

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