



The Monitor

From Your President

CONTENTS

President's Message	1
President Message (cont')	2
President Elect Message	2
Vice President Message	3
Secretary/Treasurer Notes	4
Education Committee	4
Upcoming Conference	4
Conference Photos	5
Getting to Know Each Other	6
Board of Directors/ Meet the AAMAS HQ Staff	9

Greetings from HOT and sunny California! I write this message to you in hopes that you are all enjoying your summer and finding time to enjoy yourselves in what you like doing best.

The BOD continues to work on moving forward, and the energy from this year's conference in Chicago was strongly felt by me and the other Board members which we have you to thank.

This year's conference was held in Rosemont, IL. Even though our attendance was about the same as last year, we received many more compliments from attendees than in recent memories. The organization owes a debt to Theresa Crothers, who tirelessly devoted time and energy to find excellent speakers, Allen Shane, who negotiated with the hotel to provide us the best quality at the lowest possible costs and to Katie Stanford, who helped arrange and sponsorship of one of our speakers. The conference itself did not generate revenue for the organization, but our losses were reduced greatly. That's a positive move towards keeping us a vital and much needed organization.

The message that I brought to the conference is that we as Medical Auditors are a bridge between the clinical and financial sides of healthcare. We are in the mix of things through understanding both sides, and we provide much needed information to our clients. I believe this is the message we should deliver to others outside of the organization in our attempts to grow our organization.

The entire Board met on the day before conference commenced. It was an all-day meeting where we could complete tasks at hand, but more importantly going through an exercise to determine how to grow the organization. To be honest with you, we haven't done a very good job at identifying our target audiences. We met with the several people, including Ruth Gahan, who represented the Certification Council (CCMA) as well as Denise Harris, a partner in the firm that we employ to manage our day to day tasks. Our methods in contacting and growing are antiquated, our website is not attractive, and we do not have good exposure in social media and the internet. We are exploring how to make our website more attractive, more intuitive, provide more information and gain better exposure on the internet. Anne Haider, our Vice President, knows social media and uses it. She will take an active role in helping us bring our technology into the current century!

Another step forward we were able to accomplish at this year's conference is an amendment to our By-laws to allow for online voting opportunities and elections. This way, we can reach out to all of our members and provide a voice in how things

From Your President *(continued)*

are managed. Our history had been only to have voting opportunities and elections during a conference. We have a proxy system, but it was seldom utilized. This change allows you as a member to vote your mind on issues that arise regardless if you attend a conference or not. We want to know what all of our members think, you're important to the vitality of the organization.

Currently, we are in the process of talking with the Certification Council (CCMA) about bringing that organization back into AAMAS. We are only in discussion phase in this process. We have identified benefits on both sides of the table in how we could best serve both. I know that there has been a lot of confusion within our membership on the separation of the two, and now that we're discussing the possibility of bringing the organization back in, will only cloud matters more. We learn from our mistakes, and if this occurs, we'll make sure we communicate how this will affect everyone. As a certified member, it's in our best interest to keep our distinction alive and well.

We held our elections and our new additions to the Board of Directors are Mary Jane Labelle, President Elect (OR), and Terese Van Hout, Nominations Chair (MI). Our outgoing members are Allen Shane, Past President (FL) and Joan Alexander, Nomination Chair (CA). AAMAS thanks you both for your dedication and years of service to in keeping our organization going and providing the much needed support that you offered to us.

I am happy to announce that next year's conference will be in Salt Lake City, UT. The dates for the conference are April 26 – 27, 2018. Our Executive Director is in negotiations with the hotel property. Theresa Crothers is already working on next year's speaker lineup. There will be pre-conference workshops as well. We will be blasting you with email information about our next conference soon with the details you'll need. Salt Lake City is situated between two mountain ranges. It has many interesting aspects and the downtown area is easily reached from the airport via their light rail service TRAX.

This issue of the Monitor will have included photos of this year's conference. I hope you enjoy the snapshot of the conference and hope you'll consider making next year's conference a reality for yourself.

Enjoy your summer, until next time!

David Eklof
AAMAS President

A Message From Your President-Elect

I'm baaaack!!

Greetings to all. It is a great pleasure to be serving again on the AAMAS Board of Directors as the President-elect after about a 15-year hiatus. After one meeting, I can say that this is a wonderful Board that works together with no agenda other than to help AAMAS grow and be a professional resource for all of you—our members. It is surprising how rare it is to work with such a crew, and I am convinced that you will see some wonderful and creative conferences come out in the future. Much kudos to Theresa Crothers for a great Chicago conference.

We are working to bring CMAS back under the AAMAS umbrella where it was always separate, but well managed. CMAS was developed during my second presidency by Mary Seymour, and I am eager to see it return to its "hometown".

Over the years, I have been unsure about spending the money to contract with a management company. I am unaware of what the first company was like, except it was expensive. Our new management company (less expensive) has assigned a fellow who has been very helpful and knowledgeable about conference sites. I will be happy to work with him on your behalf.

This is my first Monitor writing and my first board meeting in many years. I promise to represent you all in the best way possible and to put my creative mind to work to all your benefits.

I write this on the eve of the Senate vote on Trumpcare. Goodness knows what awaits us professionally if it passes. It behooves AAMAS to watch and learn and pass it along to you.

Here's to substantive growth and learning from each other. Many blessings to each of you in your work and private lives.

Sincerely,

Mary Jane LaBelle
AAMAS President-elect

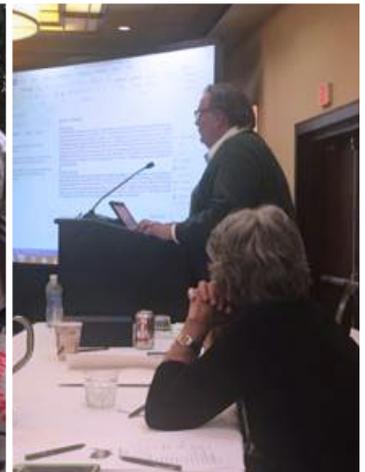
A Message From Your Vice President

The 2017 Conference was fantastic. We have a great body of members, and it is always fun getting to know them. The speakers were very informative and did a great job. Everyone worked very hard this last year to put the conference together, and I think they did an amazing job. I just want to say thank you to my fellow board members for all of their hard work and dedication getting everything put together. Thank you to all the members for attending. Special thanks go out to our speakers for their amazing job. Planning has started on the 2018 conference, and I hope to see you all there!

We are working on getting the AAMAS FaceBook page updated. Hopefully this will be completed soon. We will use this to help keep members informed of conference information, updates in the auditing world, and it is a great way for members to share information and network with other auditors. We will keep you updated on the progress of this.

The Listserv is up and running. Please feel free to use this. It is a great place to post questions and to share information. Questions that have been posted seem to get very quick responses. It is always helpful to have a place to reach out to other auditors and get their opinions.

Anne Haider
AAMAS Vice President



Secretary/Treasurer Notes

It was nice to see familiar faces and some new members at our recent AAMAS conference. As part of our membership meeting, I presented a review of our finances for the last year, 2016. Here are the highlights:

Our year-end balance sheet showed a total of \$56,919.68 in our checking account. Our Morgan Stanley money market account was closed and the funds were transferred to a money market account with the same institution that has our checking account. We will no longer pay a yearly maintenance fee and actually be accruing some interest. There is a \$58,467.80 balance in this account. A Fidelity account will be closed and the funds (\$3,052.19) will be transferred to our MM account. Our total assets were down \$24,635 from the previous year. This is in large part due to decreases in membership and the cost of the yearly conference. Our net loss for the 2016 conference was \$16,477.68. The final numbers for the 2017 conference are not complete, but it appears we did not have such a significant loss. The preliminary figure is a loss of \$6-7,000.

Two areas the board is focusing on is membership and conference attendance. If both of these numbers increase, we will no longer have a yearly loss. We are happy to welcome Terese VanHout to the board. She will be the new nomination chair and also take on membership duties. Welcome also to Mary Jane LaBelle who is our president elect. A big thank you to Allen Shane and Joan Alexander, our outgoing board members, for serving on the board.

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Enjoy your summer,

Amy Armstrong
AAMAS Treasurer/Secretary

Education Committee Report

I would like to extend a big thank you to all who attended the annual AAMAS conference in Chicago this year. It was great to see and spend time with you all. The evaluations have all been very positive, the topics were timely, and the speakers were all interesting. Thank you to all who made suggestions for future topics.

I came away with a renewed sense of hope for the continued growth of our Association. I am excited to be working with my friends on the Board of Directors again this year, and I want to welcome back an old friend and mentor, Mary Jane LaBelle as President Elect. I am also excited to see another new face on the Board--welcome Therese Van Hout, our new Nominations Chair and Membership Chair. Your ideas and enthusiasm are a welcome addition to the Board.

As you know, our next conference will be in Salt Lake City, Utah at the hotel Little America, from April 24-27, 2018. I already have a great list of topics that I think will be of interest, and have started my search for speakers. Our membership is our greatest resource for topics and speakers. If you are interested in speaking, or have a topic or speaker that you would recommend, please contact me.

I hope you all have a wonderful, safe summer.

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

Conference Photos



MISSION: GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

THE NOMINATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

At the last conference, the AAMAS members elected a new Nominations Chair and committee. Terese VanHout RN, CMAS is chair with committee members Chris Bryant RN and Karen Sedevie RT, CMAS. During the chair meeting immediately following the conference, it was decided that Nominations would also be responsible for membership. Another AAMAS member, Tracy Harvey RN, CMAS, has since joined the Nominations and Membership Committee with a strong interest in building membership.

As a way of getting to know each other and finding potential members to nominate for future open positions, interviews with current members will be published with each newsletter. We look forward to interviewing you!

Interview questions will be sent out by email for you to share a little bit about yourself. The goal is that when we get together next time, there won't be so much ice to break!

No fear! We'll lead the way...



Terese VanHout left, Karen Sedevie middle, Chris Bryant right.

Terese VanHout

Hi my name is Terese VanHout and I'm a registered nurse. I was born and raised through my teens in Minnesota, and I remember my mom saying she wished I was a girl. I am number 7 of 10 children and of course, seven is my lucky number. My Dad was transferred to Michigan when I was in middle school, and I equate the move from Minnesota with Dorothy of Kansas coming to OZ, from strict gloomy Catholic School to Michigan public schools where teachers laughed with students (ok, yes – students got high behind the public school). I went to Henry Ford Nursing Diploma School and met a nice Detroit boy (also a nurse at the time), and we have been married for... 32 years now. We have lived in Michigan, then Illinois, then Minnesota and back to Michigan. (I will forever love Minnesota but my kids call Michigan home). We have 3 grown children who currently live in NYC, Seattle WA, and Austin, TX...

We travelled a lot as a family and now good or bad, my kids live as far away as they can be and still be in the continental US. I frequently reflect that educated young adults are Michigan's major export... In our post-kid raising mode, we moved out of the burbs to a little slice of heaven that is still within driving distance to Ann Arbor (work).

A friend asked me if I wanted to try auditing about 6-7 years ago. This sounded like the most boring job in the world. I love being a nurse. I love patients and solving problems and I feel alive and forget myself in that world. I have been a med-surg nurse, an ICU nurse, a visiting nurse, and a pacemaker nurse. I have been the nurse for school trips, and my husband and I still volunteer for Band Camp for our kid's school (they no longer attend!).

I said no. When the next opportunity came up three years later, the flexible hours lured me to try it. I am floored by how interesting this career is. When my kids see me working, they wonder how I can work on my computer so long. They only see my body - my mind is elsewhere... I am in the OR looking at the supplies, I am in the ER trying to figure out where to hang the EPI, I am inserting an IV, or helping to intubate someone...

My coworkers are friendly, intelligent, fun and extremely curious. I am new to auditing compared to many – but in my novice experience, I have found that insatiable curiosity is the defining characteristic of an auditor. I am surprised at how fun (engrossing?) this job is.

GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER *(continued)*

What songs have you completely memorized?

In my misspent youth, I memorized every single Beatles song.

What do you wish you knew more about?

Excel

What game or movie universe would you most like to live in?

Either Star Trek, Star Wars, WoW, LOTR, Harry Potter or Outlander. I'm not picky.

Karen Sedevie

(You never knew this was me I bet.)

I was raised on a farm near the small town of Mayville, North Dakota with my five sisters and one brother. Other than the 15 months that I lived in San Diego when I was in my 20's, I have spent my life in North Dakota. I have two grown daughters and now live in Minot.

When I was 30 I began my career as a Respiratory Therapist at Trinity Hospital in Minot. After 24 years I decided it was time for a change. I then became a Clinical Charge Analyst in the Revenue Integrity department. I have been doing this for almost 3 years and love it. It's a new challenge and very interesting to learn the business side of the hospital while still staying in touch with the medical world.

I enjoy any excuse to spend time with my family. I am closing in on becoming an "empty nester" so I am in the process of trying to create a new life for myself.

I am a member of AAMAS because the director of our department feels it is important as professionals that we belong to an organization that helps us foster our careers. I recently attended my first conference. The education was excellent and I was really made to feel that I belonged. There is an atmosphere of genuine support among this group of people and it was a great experience.

If you didn't have to sleep, what would you do with the extra time?

I would write, read and sketch. (My great loves that have gotten lost in my busy life.)

What hobby would you get into if time and money weren't an issue?

I would love to travel and explore as many places and cultures as possible.

What is one of your favorite smells?

I love the smell of Ben-Gay. It takes me back to the days when I was a sprinter on the high school track team.

Chris Bryant

I was born in Marion, Illinois and like a lot of people, the first thing I wanted to do was to leave Marion. When I turned 21 I left and moved to Jacksonville and met a Jacksonville boy. We had children and in 2005 relocated to... Marion IL! There's nothing quite like the support of this nice small town. Now with my youngest at 18, my husband is looking for a retirement destination.

When someone asks me who I am, I think of my family. My 22yo girl in college for graphic arts. My son turning 18 Wednesday and looking at colleges, maybe Savannah College of Art and Design... That is where my heart is.

My career? I grew up poor – Goodwill Christmas's and church meals at the holidays. When I got married I was an ER tech and worked endoscopy. My husband worked for Anheuser-Busch. After my first born - Brittany – I decided to raise kids with more. I joined my sister in law in going to school as nurse. So here I am at age 30 with a four-month son and four-year-old daughter. My husband and I tag team parented. The support he gave me made my husband my greatest hero for life.

I graduated at Jacksonville Florida, with a nursing degree in 2004. I became an ICU nurse. I loved the adrenalin. I worked PACU, then ER. Then I decided I wanted to see my family more. After many interviews, I became a nurse auditor in August 2016. My boss is amazing – If I need to take a day off, it's not counted against me. I feel I have one of the best bosses I have ever had.

I love the hours. Even better I still interact with staff and managers. I feel I'm their blind side. Managers know I'm not their enemy. I am there to help them get as much revenue as they can to take care of their people. We just started EPIC and that has been a nightmare but we are

GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER *(continued)*

working through it. I feel a different type of satisfaction – it's not saving lives – but I'm helping managers take care of patients in a significant way.

So yes, I'm new to auditing. I went to the Texas conference in 2016 when I was only an auditor for 1 week. The next time I went to Chicago, I felt a real connection with other auditors. .

What songs have you completely memorized?

I memorized the song "SLOW HANDS" I sung that to my husband – WITH the hand gestures- by Nail Horan. We celebrated out 24 years of marriage and he was turning 50 yrs. Unfortunately, no one recorded it!

What's your claim to fame?

My heart is my family. I love God and I have relationship with him. I feel that he's pleased with me most of the time. I adore my family. Also...I am a sun goddess – I have a pool and another goal is to have an RV and drive around the US. To see all the things I haven't seen.

What's the best single day on the calendar?

Saturday; I don't have to wake up or go anywhere. I get to spent the weekend with my family!

Tracey Harvey



Hello, my name is Tracy Harvey. I'm standing next to my daughter in this picture from her wedding 2 weeks ago. I have 3 grown daughters and an adorable grandson. My husband and I live on a lake in the Irish Hills of Michigan. I have been a nurse auditor at University of Michigan Hospital for 27 years. Before that I enjoyed being a nurse at the bedside. In my spare time I enjoy boating, kayaking, sipping on some Folgers instant coffee and binge watching HGTV, I love hosting family get togethers on the weekends. I joined the membership committee because I think AAMAS will be at its peak vitality when current members are connected and when new members are coming on board.

What job do you think you'd be really good at?

I would love to run a Bed and Breakfast. If I had been born in cowboy times, I would have loved to bartend in a saloon.

What is your dream car?

A: That's easy, I have always dreamed of having a hovercraft, and I was sure we would have had them by now. There is a lot of farmland in the Irish Hills and I love to daydream about practicing with my new hovercraft in those open fields.

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

7044 S. 13th Street • Oak Creek, WI • 53154

Phone 414.908.4941 • Fax 414.768.8001

www.aamas.org

The opinions expressed in The Monitor are those of the authors or persons quoted. They do not necessarily reflect the views of the AAMAS Board of Directors.