



# The Monitor

## From Your President

As the year ends and new one begins, we start thinking about goals and what we have achieved. I hope that your personals were met and that you've made new ones to strive for.

The BOD met in October in Chicago for a face-to-face meeting. We met at the property where our conference will be held. We met for two full days and discussed many topics and started reviewing our strategic planning for the future of our organization. Our main focus is normally conference planning and with that comes many tasks. Our Educational Chair, Theresa Crothers has been working to secure interesting speakers to address topics relevant to our profession. There are many details in planning a conference, some invisible to the naked eye but all are important to help us provide you a good conference worthy of your attendance and support.

The hotel site secured by Allen Shane is very nice, close to the airport, near many restaurants and not too far from mass transit if you should want to venture to downtown Chicago. We owe our thanks to Allen for his dedication and willingness to use his skills as a negotiator to bring us the best value possible.

We've improved in getting conference information out to help you know where and when as soon as possible. Very soon registration materials will be made available. And, as in previous years, online registration will be made available. Our goal is to increase our attendance at conference. Timing is everything, so that you as a member can plan to attend.

We have developed a budget, thanks to our Secretary / Treasurer Amy Armstrong. She worked with our management company to create the budget that we can follow.

We've hit a glitch in getting the List Serve up and going. I really thought this would be operational in the last quarter of the year. I know many of you are patiently waiting for it to come back. It's a goal of ours to be running the first quarter of 2017. This will be a moderated list serve; currently our VP Anne Haider and I are the moderators. One of our members has already offered to act in that role as well.

The BOD has discussed and will propose additional bylaw changes to allow for more electronic participation by our members. This information will be forth coming at our annual business meeting.

Our website will be updated shortly and older issues of the Monitor will be made available. There is some tweaking of the website that is necessary to be able to update with more ease. We're aware of it and are working with our management company to achieve this goal.

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## From Your President *(continued)*

In my house, we celebrate many holidays during December, beginning with St Lucia day, Christmas, Hanukah, and Kwanzaa. I'm a little bit of a holiday freak, decorating and putting up 12 different trees with their own theme. Many outside lights light up my home and, I prepare special meals for each prospective holiday.

This is one of the trees; it's decorated with all Swedish ornaments made of pewter, wood or straw. All of the ornaments come from Sweden so I call this my Swedish tree. I'm 50% Swedish.



It's my wish that you all have a happy and healthy 2017. I look forward to seeing you all again at our conference in Chicago.

*David Eklof*  
AAMAS President

## A Message From Your Vice President

### My life with AAMAS

I have been an auditor for about five years and before this I worked as an inpatient psych nurse. Going from psych to the auditing world had its challenges. The main challenge for me when I started was that I had no idea what an auditor did or really, what it even meant. When I first heard I got the job as an auditor, people would ask me what type of work I would be doing, my normal response was "I have no idea". I came into the auditing world blind but it turns out I love it. Much of my training was a combination of learning as you go and researching to find the answers. I live in North Dakota, so there are limited local resources and contacts to help with questions or concerns when performing our audits. In 2013 our department decided to search for an auditing organization to help expand our knowledge and contacts. We went to the internet and found AAMAS. AAMAS has been a great asset for me. I have attended two conferences, and every year I take something away. I have met some amazing people who have been in the auditing world for many years and have a great wealth of knowledge. The conferences have helped to reinforce current practices and have also given us the opportunity to look at the way our hospital is currently doing things and to make changes where necessary.

AAMAS encourages its members to be active in the organization. In 2015, I was elected to the nominations committee and then in 2016, I was elected Vice President. I never thought I would be VP of a national organization but here I am. So far, it has been a lot of fun to see how much work and effort it takes to run AAMAS and to plan the national conference. The board members I work with and all the members of AAMAS are an amazing group of people and have been great to work with. I encourage everyone to be as active as they can in the organization. There are many opportunities within AAMAS to volunteer and help with the growth of the organization. I am very excited for the 2017 conference, and I hope to see you all there!

*Anne Haider*  
AAMAS Vice President

## Secretary/Treasurer Notes

### Know Your Website

Have you recently surfed around on the AAMAS website? There is a wealth of information just waiting for you there and more to come.

Our Home page contains the latest information and links to our conference. There are also links to a wealth of information from CMS, OIG, and HHS. The About Us page is your source for our current bylaws, FAQ and list of current board members and how to contact us. The Resources page includes career opportunities with available links to jobs. As a member, if you are looking for employment, you can also market yourself under career opportunities. This section also includes links to the National Audit Guidelines and National Association of Insurance Commissioners Model Act.

Education and Certification pages are your source for information on how to get your CMAS certification and online CEUs. CCMA is now a separate entity who conducts the CMAS exams. Our latest conference information is under the Conference page. Here you can check out the current list of speakers lined up for Chicago. There is still work to be updated on our website. We hope to have all of the old newsletters available. The members-only section will soon have a list serve and members directory. As an AAMAS member, you have access to the members-only page. If for any reason you have trouble logging in or forgot your password please contact our customer care department at [customercare@aamas.org](mailto:customercare@aamas.org), or (414) 908-4941 x450.

We are all very busy during the holiday season. For a quick dinner, nothing beats a hot roast beef sandwich. I have the easiest and yummiest recipe ever. Next time you are at the grocery store, pick up a chuck roast. Throw it in the freezer when you get home. On the day you would like the sandwiches, take the roast out of the freezer, put in it in the crock pot frozen and add a package of dry onion soup. Nothing else! Cook on low all day- at least 8 hours. Shred the beef and enjoy with a piece of provolone on a bun. So simple, yet everyone loves them. Just be sure you have the roast frozen. Not sure why, it just works magic!

Merry Christmas and Happiness in 2017 to all,

*Amy Armstrong*  
AAMAS Secretary / Treasurer

## Education Committee Report

After a beautiful fall here in the Midwest, we are bracing for our first real snow of the season. Hopefully, it will stick around for Christmas. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season, and a happy and healthy start to the New Year.

The final touches are being made to the Conference agenda, and the registration form will be on the website after the first of the year. We will be meeting at the *Embassy Suites, Rosemont, Ill from May 2-5*. The Pre-Conference workshops have been finalized. On Tuesday, May 2, Dave Eklof will be doing a full day session on Auditing 101. This has been a popular workshop, with great reviews. On Wednesday, May 3 we have 2 afternoon workshops. Lynn Handy from Managed Resources, Inc (MRI) will be presenting a session on ICD-10 updates, and Lauri Laxton from Ability will be presenting a session on RUG auditing. The confirmed speakers and topics are on the website, so check it out to see what a dynamic program we have planned. We currently have 2 breakout sessions that remain unfilled. I have been unsuccessful finding a speaker to address the topics of Health Care Law, Pharmacy Billing, Unbundling, or the new MACRA rules. If you can recommend anyone for these, or any other relevant topics, please contact me.

We are planning for a fun night on Thursday, May 4, at King's Bowl America. Dinner and bowling will be the activities, and it is a short walk from the hotel. Additional information regarding sign up and cost will be posted on the website along with the conference registration. There are also many bars and restaurants within walking distance. For those of you who are staying Friday night, May 5, there is a group of attendees who will be venturing downtown Chicago for a fun night on the town. This is not an official AAMAS event, but traveling as a group may be more fun for all.

Suggestions for speakers or topics can be sent to me at [crothers@charter.net](mailto:crothers@charter.net).

Looking forward to seeing you in Chicago!

*Theresa*

## Upcoming Conference

The 2017 AAMAS conference is taking shape, and I am excited to announce that the following people have agreed to speak:

*Trish Anen*, RN, MBA, VP of Advisory Services, Illinois Health & Hospital Assoc, speaking on the Health Care Model.

*Andrew Reeder*, Director of HIPPA Privacy & Security for Rush University Medical Center, speaking on Auditing and Access to the EHR.

*Tricia Marriot*, PAC, MPAS, MJ Health Law, Senior Director of Regulatory and Professional Activities, speaking on PA and NP Billing Policy.

*Lynn Handy*, VP Audit and Coding for Managed Resources Inc. Lynn will be teaching a preconference class on ICD-10, and a breakout session on the Anatomy of the Audit Report.

*Kristine Bordenave*, MD, FACP, Lead Medical Director / Special Investigations Unit & Provider Payment and Integrity / Health Guidance Organization, Humana.

*Kathy Arnold*, speaking on Alternative Therapies.

*Sean O'Mahony*, MB, BCh, BAO, Assoc. Professor of Hospice and Palliative Care, Rush University Medical Center, speaking on palliative and end of life care.

*Dave Eckloff* has agreed to moderate a general session on Audit Issues, as he has done in past years, and will also be teaching Auditing 101 as a preconference session.

We have reached out to speakers on the following topics: Health Care Law, Cyber Security and the use of Social Media, and are awaiting confirmation.

We are currently looking for speakers to address these issues: HEDIS, Appeals, Contracts, and Bundled Payments.

Also, I want to thank Katie Stanford of Managed Resources, Inc (MRI) for her assistance. Katie lives in Chicago and has been invaluable with her network of connections.

If you know of anyone you think would be a good speaker (including yourself), or have ideas of topics you would like to see addressed, please contact me as soon as possible.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Chicago!

*Theresa Crothers*  
248-207-0013  
crothers@charter.net

## Nominating Committee

### Nominations Committee

What does the United States of America have that AAMAS does not have? You can probably think of a lot of things, but I have one in particular in mind. A PRESIDENT-ELECT. That's right, our organization will be leaderless after 2017. We need someone to join our merry board to plan the future of AAMAS. A year of internship and fellowship will have you ready to step into the presidency in 2018. The other positions to be filled at our next conference are the three members of the nominations committee. Please contact any of your current nominations committee members for more information.

|                       |                         |                    |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Joan Alexander</i> | <i>Arlene Liljeberg</i> | <i>Sue Zietlow</i> |
| 619-593-0539          | 713-553-7166            | 701-720-5669       |

### Too Much Christmas?

I have a new granddaughter who just turned a year old in November, and she is the only grandchild in the family. Grandparents, aunts, uncles and lots of pseudo aunts and uncles, but just one child. So my daughter (the mom) made a request. Let's set limits now and for the future. It's the "4 gift rule"

1. Something she wants
2. Something she needs
3. Something to wear
4. Something to read

I think I did okay, a baby doll, new sleepers, the Christmas dress and a talking book. Also several Angels from the Salvation Army "Angel Tree" in her name. It's never too soon to start sowing the seeds of giving back.

Merry Christmas everyone,

*Joan Alexander*

### Help Wanted

A member who is willing to be a Moderator for the AAMAS list serve. This is a shared position with our VP. The person previews and approves postings to our general membership. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY! Training available. Compensation, knowing that you've contributed to the betterment of the organization! Apply to David Eklof, President to [president@aamas.org](mailto:president@aamas.org).

## Meet the AAMAS HQ Staff!



**AAMAS New  
Executive Director**  
**Paul Rossmann**  
*ext. 109*

## Additional AAMAS HQ Staff



**Liz Kutz**  
**Chief Financial  
Officer at Association  
Executives Group**  
*ext. 102*

## Vice President of Operations at Association Executives Group

Paul holds a degree in Business Management/Travel and Tourism. In 1992, he and his wife opened a child care center that continues to operate successfully today. Previously, he worked for a corporate meeting planning company, where he helped grow the company from 8 employees to over 100 employees. His roles included IT, Director of Airline Services, Director of Operations, Account Executive, Director of On-Site Services, and Senior Corporate Meeting Planner. He also worked at one of the largest corporate travel agencies in the U. S. and rapidly progressed into management. Paul uses his leadership abilities and dedication to excellence to help his clients shine.



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



**Nicole Cheever**  
**AAMAS Customer Care &  
Membership Manager**  
*ext. 116*

**Mike McManus**  
**Vice President of  
Client Services at  
Association  
Executives Group**  
*ext. 119*



**Margie Zizis**  
**Senior Accountant**  
*ext. 105*



## Call for Nominations for the Maria Petz Auditor of the year award.

The “Maria Petz Auditor of the Year Award” award is presented yearly in recognition of an auditor who demonstrates excellence in audit skills and execution of these skills in the workplace.

This award is presented annually at our national conference, this year in Chicago, IL. Previous winners have been;

2016 recipient Amy Armstrong

2015 recipient David Eklof

2014 recipient William Malm

2013 recipient Jody Lazarus Taylor

2012 No award given

2011 recipient Mary Jane Stratman

2010 recipient Ernie King

2009 recipient Susan Palmer

2008 recipient Neta Morse

2007 recipient Pat Bagley

Each year, we poll our membership for nominations for this award. Please visit our website for the nomination form. Deadline for nominations is March 6, 2017 (Monday). This award helps to recognize the valuable work we do. Please consider nominating a friend or colleague that we may all know and celebrate with.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**David Eklof**, *President*

**Allen Shane**, *Past President*

**Anne Haider**, *Vice President*

**Amy Armstrong**, *Secretary/Treasurer*

**Theresa Crothers**, *Education Committee Chair*

**Joan Alexander**, *Nomination’s Committee Chair*

**Paul Rossmann**, *Executive Director*

### 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](http://www.aamas.org)

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