



THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL AUDIT SPECIALISTS

Summer 2018

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The Monitor

From Your President



AAMAS President's Letter to the Membership

Midsummer greetings to all,

...and what a summer it has been with record high temperatures everywhere. I can report that Oregon's rivers are wonderful to swim in for humans, but I fear for the survival of our fish.

This is my three-month anniversary as your President. After three meetings, I can't overstate what a responsible Board of Directors AAMAS has attracted. Two of our directors,

Program Chair Teresa Gulino and Secretary/Treasurer Katie Stanford, come with the backing of their large and successful companies, and as a result we have the support and expertise we need to move forward with some plans that I want to share with you. Our new board seat "Social Media" has director Anne Haider from

North Dakota working to set us up with our special Linked-in account. Our newly elected VP Karen Cooper is working hard with creative Membership chairwoman Terese Van Hout to expand our membership. I would be amiss if I didn't acknowledge my two advisors: Theresa Crothers, who has been on AAMAS boards for decades, and Past-President David Eklof, who is the current backbone of our organization. Together with our Executive Director Mike McManus, we are an unstoppable machine and I am VERY excited to get onto creative and fun things for AAMAS. My mantra: "if it isn't fun, don't do it. Unless you have to." You will be hearing from each of the Directors in this newsletter.

If you attended the "General Membership" meeting at our last conference in Salt Lake City, you may remember that we set out two goals for the next two years: Increase membership and put AAMAS back in the "black". Truth is, we have been running off our past success decades ago and we have to reconstruct the organization. Our minds are open to all possibilities and we are talking to other audit certification organizations about partnerships. If any of you would like to weigh in with your suggestions, please email me at the AAMAS President's email address.

Be sure to put San Antonio on your calendars for next year's conference. There is more detail from Teresa Gulino in this email. We will again be on the Riverwalk, which is a magical place for a conference. The last time we were there was when I met Ruth Gahan, who works to keep CCMA and CMAS up to date. She mentored and became a long time board member. I'm eager to go back and take a short cruise down the river.

Additionally, the BOD (Board of Directors) is spending a day in October creating a new strategic plan that will revitalize AAMAS. Rooted in this plan is a new certification route for our professionals. While CMAS will always remain our first certification, we are planning other strategies to escalate your skills and credentials. You will be hearing more about this as plans coalesce.

Since its inception, I have been committed to AAMAS as an organization that encourages each of us to excel in our clinical audit profession. I believe that our last conference was a joyful time of learning, networking and bonding. We created this organization 25 years ago for just that purpose. That's why I've come back – to reaffirm and remind us what we are about. AAMAS is not about power, it isn't about money...we exist to support one another in our profession and our passion. We are non-profit, and for that I am grateful.

MJ LaBelle

AAMAS President

A Message From Your Past President



Greeting from the desert! It's H - O - T here. Today's high is supposed to be 117 degrees. I long for cooler temperatures and look forward to a break in the heat of summer. This photo is of a cooler time with my first granddaughter Emma Margaret. When I moved here almost 20 years ago, I knew summers were "warm" and decided that the summer of the desert is a fair trade off for the winters of the Midwest.

The word Hot means many different things, depending on the context that it's used. I would classify our Board as "hot" with our newest board members with their creativity and energy that they bring to the table. Our monthly board calls are full of ideas and solutions to move us forward in the many different areas that our organization has identified as critical needs.

The environment of audit has changed and there is more focus on training and identification of markets that our members are well suited. What may be audited changes, how we audit remains the same in many cases. In the realm of our audit world, we have seen focus change from a line item audit to a code based audit. Things are circling back, as payers realize that there is a definite need for charge line hospital bill audit. These are topics that we talk about frequently. Some of it is "hot" and some of it isn't. Embracing change is a vital piece of what we do and if we don't we'll be left behind. Our organization is a part of the change, looking for educational opportunities and new and better ways of delivering this to our members. We also need to attract new people into the organization. Diversity brings innovation, something very desirable and is embraced by our organization.

The web page design is almost all complete. Work remains in the "members only" section. This whole process has taken on a life of its own. I have no background or experience in I.T. issues and never realized that my simple ideas take a lot of computer programming. I cannot wait for the project's completion! Anne Haider and I have been working with the management company to bring AAMAS into the 21st century!

We are getting exposure nationwide and some companies are taking notice. Our next conference hopefully will reflect that with more vendors, bringing more networking opportunities and possible work to our members who attend.

Everything seems to be value based these days, if I do that, what is my benefit? JFK said, "It's not what your country can do for you, it's what you can do for your country."

That same sentiment is true in many things. AAMAS wants and does bring value to its members. We would also like to see what our members can do for the organization. Getting noticed by companies is one of things we've managed to do. You are the jewel that can impress the people who are noticing. Take this as an invitation to volunteer and participate in our organization for everyone's mutual benefit.

You already know that I like and decorate a little for Christmas. What you don't know is that I like to cook and bake too. Here's a recipe for the world's best scones. These are not the dry crumbly kind; these are a little piece of heaven.

1 $\frac{3}{4}$ C Sifted flour

1 Tsp. Baking powder

$\frac{1}{3}$ C Sugar

$\frac{1}{3}$ C Melted butter cooled slightly

$\frac{2}{3}$ C Buttermilk

1 Tsp. Vanilla extract

1 C Blueberries or raspberries, or chopped fresh peaches, or ??? It's endless!

Course sugar for topping (cake decorating large crystal)

Combine the dry ingredients together. Melt butter in MW, allow to cool slightly. Add buttermilk and vanilla to melted butter. Fold wet into dry. Add berries, folding them into the dough. Dough will be sticky. Divide dough evenly into 6 (big) or 8 (medium) sized portions and place on a cookie sheet lined with parchment paper. Sprinkle tops with course sugar. Bake at 400 degrees for 18 - 20 minutes.

You're welcome!

Enjoy the last weeks of summer. Stay cool and hydrated.

David Eklof
AAMAS Past President

Maria Petz Auditor of the Year 2018

This year, the Marie Petz Auditor of the Year award was given to two individuals. These two have demonstrated through their practice a level excellence and professionalism we all strive for as Medical Auditors.

Our first nominee and awardee is Katie Stanford. The following is an excerpt (Edited for content) from the person who nominated her.

“She has demonstrated all the attributes of an excellent auditor and possesses the utmost professionalism. Katie has been a strong proponent of education for her staff. She encouraged everyone to join AAMAS and our local state auditing association.” Katie, RN, MSN, CMAS “Was instrumental in helping for auditors get their CMAS designation and thus having 100% of her staff CMAS certified Katie has contributed to AAMAS over the years, not only attending conference but helping the board with strategic planning. She has encouraged her staff to contribute to AAMAS by becoming board members and participating in conferences. The leadership and management skills I now possess are a result of Katie’s patient encouragement and support. She has not only been a great mentor and manager, but she became a true friend who I will continue to look to for guidance and advice.”

– Submitted by Amy Armstrong.

Our second nominee and awardee is Karen Cooper. The following is an excerpt (edited for content) from the person who nominated her.

“It is a privilege to recommend Karen Cooper, RN BSN CMAS for the Maria Petz Auditor of the Year Award. As an employee of Bottom Line Systems, LLC for the past 11 years, Karen has been a true leader in the chart auditing division. You will not find a more professional or nicer person to represent AAMAS. Karen was auditing a couple of years before sitting/ achieving the CMAS certification. She takes great pride in this accomplishment and strongly encourages her fellow auditors to do the same. She uses multiple resources to enhance her skills like attending AAMAS conferences. Karen completed her studies to earn her BSN a few years ago. She stated the continuing education keeps her on her toes. The integrity of her work is not matched by any outside auditor she encounters. She provides quality and will not settle for anything less from anyone else in the industry” – Submitted by Nancy Binder

Having been a recipient of this award a few years ago, I can think of no one better to join our ranks than the two people who were awarded the Maria Petz Auditor of the Year. Congratulations to the both of you! You are well deserving of this recognition and accolade from our organization.

David Eklof
AAMAS Past President

A Message From Your Vice President

Hello from your Vice President in hot and humid Kentucky!! I hope everyone has been keeping cool and enjoying summer. It’s sure been a scorcher here on the farm. We’re thankful for the recent rain that has helped to green the pasture fields. We’ve had some terribly hungry cows here on the farm who decided telephone line would be a good source of nutrition. Needless to say, my phone and internet service did not hold up to the chewing. Oh well, at least we all got a good laugh from it and thankfully the cows are back to grazing on green pasture.

In my ten years as a member of AAMAS, I have always known that membership provides online educational resources, networking, conference and certification. After three months of working with the Board of AAMAS, I have learned this organizations number one focus is its members. We may be in different roles, but we’re all connected by AAMAS. By sharing the issues and trends we face we can become stronger, smarter and more advanced auditors.

Call for Volunteers

The board has been working hard on many projects to improve our association for all members. In an effort to work efficiently and concentrate thoroughly on areas of need we have developed focus groups that meet and brainstorm ideas to present later at regular board meetings. For example, Terese VanHout, Anne Haider and myself are working together on improving membership. We are calling on all AAMAS members to become active in your organization. We are asking for your input and recommendations for membership. Things like education on the website, at conference or any other area you feel is needed in your practice as an auditor. We welcome volunteers to join us in our huddle calls to brainstorm. Please feel free to reach out to myself or Terese VanHout with your suggestions or to schedule a time to share ideas.

Karen Cooper
AAMAS Vice President

Professional Organizations: Why We Join



It's summer and we all try to think less about our work-related lives and more about time for friends and family, travel, walking, hiking, biking, swimming and just being outside and active. I live in the Midwest so the summer months are precious and few.

Sitting down to write this article was a bit difficult, thinking of a topic even harder. But then I thought about the main goal of the Board for this year, which is to grow and improve AAMAS. And I thought about why we join professional organizations.

1. Knowledge – Auditing requires that we constantly update. Rules and regulations change so fast it is hard to keep up. I always hear about something new at the conferences. And I can validate my knowledge and experience talking to other auditors.
2. Credentials – Adding credentials such as the medical audit certification says a lot about you. People assume that you are competent and that you took time to learn a body of knowledge. Just seeing that you took the extra step makes a difference.
3. Networking – The annual conference, the website, Facebook and LinkedIn all provide opportunities to network. The AAMAS Board is trying to enhance the networking opportunities because sharing is so important in auditing.
4. Motivation – I work mainly from home and find it difficult to stay motivated at times. The annual conference really helps me gear up again.
5. Power – AAMAS sets standards for our profession. I realize not everyone in auditing follows them but for those of us who do, the standards and the professional identity of AAMAS give us power.
6. Leadership – Becoming involved in a professional organization is an opportunity to develop leadership skills either by being an officer or participating in a committee. You can also be a leader by being a mentor to a less experienced member.
7. Career – Networking can offer career opportunities. I know several people with new positions that resulted from networking at the annual conference.
8. Friendships – A professional organization membership allows us to make new friends and to see friends at the conference each year.

All of us can help with growing AAMAS and as it grows, it becomes more valuable to each member. If you know auditors that could use the assets above, invite them to explore the new website, come to conference or to a chapter meeting.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Katie Stanford
AAMAS Secretary-Treasurer

2019 AAMAS CONFERENCE



Meet us at the “Venice of America” to celebrate our SILVER anniversary for the 2019 annual AAMAS conference in San Antonio, Texas!

Call for Speakers: 2019 Conference

The 2019 AAMAS Conference, will be held on the 23-26

April 2019 in San Antonio, Texas and we are seeking speaker nominations for both keynote and concurrent sessions.

As we explore potential speakers and vendors we are seeking experts to support current trends that impact the profession, offering new perspectives while sharing insights and best practices for both the provider and payor markets. Please submit session proposals no later than the 15th of December 2018.

For the past 25 years, the American Association of Medical Auditors Conference is the leading event for healthcare auditors who want to hear powerful keynote speakers and presenters representing the profession. Attendees are presented with a number of concurrent sessions on today's current issues and trends, industry best practices addressing common challenges, and knowledge-sharing opportunities. The overall experience enhances professional development, provides engaging peer-to-peer networking, affords access to key service firms and vendors, and much more.

Join us for a stroll down the River Walk in San Antonio, Texas for this 25 year celebration!

Teresa Gulino
AAMAS Program Chair

Membership

Not many people pay close attention to updating their resume or making sure their online professional profiles are up to date until they are thinking of or forced to look for employment. This happened to me in the past year and I found myself doing exactly that – cleaning up my resume and my LinkedIn profile and adding the recent education and certifications I had acquired. Since it was only a few years since I had done this, it really didn't take that long to do.

I was surprised at how quickly I began getting views to my LinkedIn profile and inquiries into whether I would be interested in an interview. Luckily, I found employment in the job I wanted almost immediately and in my locale. I am still getting inquiries and views to my profile – even though I am not really looking. The views and inquiries are a welcome source of security.

I would like to disclose that one of the requirements to getting my current position was that I was CMAS. I was so glad that I had taken the time to become a CMAS. The first thing my new employer did was to sit down the group of auditors I was being hired with and have us all fill out our membership renewals for AAMAS. My new employer obviously knows the value of training and education. Certainly, having a 100% CMAS staff helped my new employer obtain the contract with the client we are working with.

It might be important for those members to know that having a staff with CMAS may not only improve the quality of their audits, but help may also help them to obtain the type of jobs, contracts or clients they desire.

Knowing this, Anne Haider (appointed as social media specialist by our board) and Karen Cooper (VP) and I are working on ways to reach out to our employers and hospitals to make them aware of the benefits of CMAS. Anne has worked diligently to overhaul the AAMAS LinkedIn profile. These are a couple of things we are working on to reach out and find new members. We are hoping that other members of AAMAS are interested in ways to educate those doing the hiring in ways to find a qualified medical auditor and those seeking an audit career to join AAMAS and become a certified auditor. If you would like to help us grow our membership and reach out to our employers and associates in medical auditing – please contact us!

Please keep in mind we have a couple of board positions coming open next year, which means you will have the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to AAMAS. If you know someone who would be interested, ask them to apply – sometimes a little nudge is all it takes to encourage someone to try something new. As always, do not hesitate to nominate yourself! Brief descriptions of the positions are on our website in the bylaws.

Positions opening in 2019 are:

Membership and Nominations Chair
President Elect

Terese VanHout BSN, RN, CMAS, CPC-A
Membership and Nominations Chair

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mary Jane LaBelle, *President*
Dave Eklof, *Past President*
Karen Cooper, *Vice President*
Katie Stanford, *Secretary/Treasurer*
Terese VanHout, *Membership and Nominations Chair*

Teresa Gulino, *Program Chair*
Anne Haider, *Social Media*
Theresa Crothers, *Advisor*
Mike McManus, *Executive Director*



AAMAS
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

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.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL AUDIT SPECIALISTS

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL AUDIT SPECIALISTS Membership Application

Please Print Clearly:

Name: Dr./ Mrs. / Mr. / Ms. _____ Date: _____

Title: _____ Credentials: _____

Affiliation: _____

Preferred mailing address: Home Business

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

Home phone number: _____ Office Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Fax number: _____ E-mail: _____

Referred by: _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES SCHEDULE: Each membership is good for one full-year.

Individual Membership \$125.00 \$_____ Membership Total

Corporate Membership If three or more employees from the same organization join/renew, they each receive the discounted rate noted below. Please provide names and contact information on the back of this form.

Total Number of Members: _____ X \$112.50 = \$_____ Membership Total

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Please list other professional organizations to which you belong: _____

EMPLOYMENT SETTING

- Hospital
- Vendor
- Insurance Company/Other Payer
- Other

JOB CLASSIFICATION

- Auditor
- UR/QA
- Case Manager
- Other

BIRTH YEAR

- Prior to 1925
- 1925-1945
- 1946-1964
- 1965-1979
- 1980-2000
- After 2000

Your name, address, and email address will automatically appear in our online membership directory available only to members. Please check if you would like your name **withheld** from the online membership directory:

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

Check/Money Order Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name on Card: _____ CVV Code: _____

Signature: _____

Return this form with your payment. Checks or money orders (in U.S. dollars) payable to AAMAS.

7044 S 13th St.

Oak Creek, WI 53154, USA Tel: 414-908-4941

Credit Card Payments can be faxed to AAMAS at **414-768-8001**.

TOTAL DUE: _____

Please FAX or MAIL
your application form to the
address at left. Or, you may join
online at www.aamas.org.