



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
MEDICAL AUDIT SPECIALISTS

Winter 2020

## CONTENTS

President's Message	1
Membership, Nominations, Recipe	2
Q & A Regarding The CCFA Certification	3
Your Conference Trifecta: Clinical, Coding, Compliance!	4
Treasurer's Report	4

# The Monitor

## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



### New Year Greetings to Members and Friends!

Welcome Home! The Board of Directors has had a busy 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. As usual, in October we held our annual onsite meeting at the site in Louisville where our April 2020 conference will be. It is a boutique hotel and I think you will appreciate the art deco lobby and restaurant. There are some pictures in this issue as well as information on the conference.

Also in October, Board member David Eklof and I represented AAMAS at the NAMAS conference in Clearwater, Florida. We gave two sessions on “ED Encounter Flow: Professional vs Facility”, and we operated an AAMAS booth in hopes of attracting some professional coding auditors to AAMAS. It was a very good conference and we hope to see some NAMAS people at our April conference. Pictures are in this issue as well.

You will be receiving save the date cards in the mail to remind you of the conference. Please sign up as soon as possible. Theresa Crothers has the agenda completely set and you can see our conference opportunities in this issue and on the website. Exhibiting fees are \$500.00 per table which should attract more companies.

Our other monthly meetings are held via 2 hour conference calls once a month. We are lucky to have two mentors: Sandy Tagher and Pat Hodney-Gould who have been with us all this year. They hopefully will transition to more permanent seats on the Board.

We have signed a new contract with our management company, AEG. They have been true partners in reviving and refocusing AAMAS. Our director Janet Wilhelms has our gratitude for all she does for us.

Regarding the CCFA prep bootcamp: this is not only a six hour class to prepare you to take the exam. It is a review of all clinical auditing skills and will be a good exercise for even the most experienced auditors. I plan to attend myself. Board members Katie Stanford and Karen Cooper will teach this class and it will be a great foundation for your practice. The bootcamp and the exam are being offered this year at a discounted package rate. If you take the class and prefer to put the exam on hold for up to a year, the discount will remain intact.

Here's looking forward to seeing you in Louisville! May 2020 be your year to shine!

Respectfully,  
MJ LaBelle, RN, BA, CMAS, CCFA  
AAMAS President

(see next page for photos)



## Membership, Nominations, Recipe



Here it is, the start of a new year and hopefully a better one for one and all. It's membership renewal time. If you haven't renewed, please consider it and stay current. Stuff happens, holidays, family or just life could have put your membership on a back burner. Our numbers are growing, little by little, as renewed interest sparks activity and new members

are coming on board recognizing the value of joining a professional organization. Currently, we have 244 members in various states. We have members in 36 states and one foreign country. California remains the leader with 51 members or 21% of the membership. We derive most of our operating income from membership. Without you, we will cease to exist.

With the coming of our annual conference, in Kentucky, we are in the search for officers to help guide the organization forward. Open slates for the following officers will be; Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and Certification. This is an investment of your time and commitment to help grow the organization. Nominations will be accepted and can be sent to Dave Eklof at [deklof7012@gmail.com](mailto:deklof7012@gmail.com). Giving of yourself will benefit you in more ways than one. Help us help you. All we require is a willingness to help. You'll learn about organizations and benefit from it growing your ever expanding list of valuable experiences.

I was informed with my last newsletter submission that I forgot to include a recipe. Here's one, it's an oldie but goodie. It's easy and seems fancy, for those occasions when you want to impress your guests. It's always a hit here.

### POPOVERS

- 4 Eggs
- 2 Cups Milk
- 2 Cups Flour (sifted)
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 Tablespoon Vegetable Oil

Heat oven to 475 degrees. Grease 12 deep custard cups or popover tin with butter. With hand held mixer, beat eggs slightly; add milk, flour and salt. Add Oil. Beat for another minute.

Fill custard cups  $\frac{1}{2}$  full. Popover tin  $\frac{3}{4}$  full. Bake 15 minutes, lower oven temp to 350 degrees and bake 15-20 minutes longer. Serve immediately. Enjoy!

*David Eklof, Chair*  
Membership Committee

## Q & A Regarding The CCFA Certification



### WHAT IS THE CCFA EXAM AND WHY WOULD I WANT TO TAKE IT?

The CCFA exam will be offered on April 25, 2020, the Saturday following the AAMAS Conference in Louisville Kentucky. If you are not currently a certified auditor, you should strongly consider taking the exam! Being certified is a plus for your employer or if you are an independent contractor, and especially if you are looking at new jobs. Health care companies want experts. Certification demonstrates your commitment to be an expert in the healthcare finance arena. Visit [aamas.org](https://aamas.org) or click [here](#) to download the application.



### HOW DO I QUALIFY TO TAKE THE EXAM?

- Applicant must be a current member of AAMAS.
- NEW applicants for CCFA must have:
  - A minimum of 60 college semester units or a licensed health care professional degree.
  - Degree in a healthcare field including RN, LPN, PT, OT, ST, RT, Dietician, MD, Public Health, Health Information Management, Health Care Administration.
  - Degree in Accounting or other Financial Management.
  - Background in healthcare finance or revenue cycle, such as CDM, UR, QA or Coding with 60 college credits.
  - Law, compliance or ethics degree.
- NEW applicants for CCFA must have one year of authenticated audit experience or similar healthcare finance or revenue cycle experience.

### WHAT IS THE EXAM FEE?

The fee is \$300.00 but AAMAS is offering a package of the preconference workshop, Clinical Financial Audit Essentials Workshop and the Exam for \$350, a discount of \$100, and the exam can be taken anytime in the next year, including at the next conference.

### WILL THE WORKSHOP PROVIDE ENOUGH INFORMATION FOR ONE TO BE PREPARED TO IMMEDIATELY TAKE THE CCFA EXAM?

If you are experienced in healthcare finance or auditing, and attend the workshop, you should be able to pass the exam on Saturday. If you want to wait and take the exam later, it will be offered online and at the next conference. You can also retake the section of the exam you don't pass without taking the entire exam again. You have three (3) opportunities to pass the exam before you pay a new fee.

### WHAT IS ON THE EXAM?

The core curriculum includes four categories. Visit [aamas.org](https://aamas.org) or click [here](#) to download an extended description of the Core Curriculum. All questions are matching, true/false or multiple choice.

- I. Medical Audit Proficiency 20%
- II. Medical Audit Professional Values 5%
- III. Medical Audit Environment 15%
- IV. Medical Audit Process and Procedure 60%

**Sample question:** *Which type of healthcare insurance plan uses primary care clinician gatekeepers to coordinate the care of plan participants?*

- a. a capitation plan
- b. health maintenance organization
- c. preferred provider plan
- d. fee-for-service plan

*If you have questions about taking the exam, please send an email to: [certification@aamas.org](mailto:certification@aamas.org)*

*Katie Stanford*

President Elect and Co-Chairpersons of the Certification

*Karen Cooper*

Vice President and Co-Chairpersons of the Certification

## Bylaw Changes

We encourage all AAMAS members to [click here](#) to review the proposed changes prior to the General Membership Meeting in Louisville at the April 2020 Conference when they will be voted on.

## Your Conference Trifecta: Clinical, Coding, Compliance!



Welcome to a new year and a new decade! There has been so much change over the last decade in the healthcare reimbursement arena, and so much more to come. I am pleased that AAMAS has been keeping pace with the changes, and that is reflected in the [agenda](#) for the 2020 conference. Held in Louisville, AAMAS's 2020 conference will be a Sure Bet!

### Here's why:

Our Keynote speaker is [Emily Parento](#). Ms. Parento will be addressing the issues of national and global health law and healthcare equity.

We are excited to have Lou Saccoccio, President of the National Healthcare Anti Fraud Association speak on trends in FWA investigations, followed by Diane Paturalski from HMS speaking on the role of audit in FWA.

The preconference Clinical Financial Essentials Workshop will be a great review of current audit standards. This workshop will benefit those who would like a review of audit standards and those who are planning to take the CCFA exam. **For those taking the workshop and exam, there is a combined price with the online or at-conference exam included for one year from the course date.** Look for pricing details on the conference registration form.

We have a great lineup of breakout speakers and topics, including E&M coding, The Art of Self Audit, The Value of a Complete Auditing Program, the PEPPER, Auditing Basics in the Post Acute Care Setting, Appeals Management, Introduction to Risk Adjustment, and Medical Oncology.

In addition, please note that all ANCC approved CEU's may be used for your CMAS renewal.

There will also be time for fun! We have reserved space on the river boat [Mary M Miller](#) for Thursday evening. This is optional and not part of the conference price. The cost of the event will include dinner and a tour of Louisville via the Ohio River. You are welcome register a guest(s).

**As a bonus, the first 75 conference registrants will be eligible for a drawing to receive one of 25 surprise gifts that will be given at the conference.**

I look forward to seeing you all in Louisville for a great conference, networking, and fun!

*Theresa Crothers*  
Program Chair

## Treasurer's Report



We have wrapped up our expenses for 2019. The 2018–19 AAMAS board made some significant changes to spending and it has helped significantly. Some highlights include:

- Creating a new certification, CCFA. This will allow us to create content, stimulate membership and provide more relevant education.
- We have increased our membership by 78 members since January 2019. Since we are love numbers—that is over a 46% increase!
- Conference costs were tightly budgeted and planning for 2020 is following the same path. The conference costs for 2019 were \$5,000 less than 2018.
- Pursuing methods to cut our credit card processing fees.

We have moved closer to our goal of a positive net income. The board is working hard to support this goal.

Best wishes for a Happy 2020,

*Amy Armstrong*  
Secretary/Treasurer

## Run for Office: AAMAS Board of Directors

Open slates for the upcoming year will be open for the following AAMAS Board of Director positions; Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and Certification. Nominations can be sent to Dave Eklof, Nominations Chair, at [deklof7012@gmail.com](mailto:deklof7012@gmail.com)



**If you haven't done so already, please like us on Facebook.**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Mary Jane LaBelle**, *President*  
**Katie Stanford**, *President Elect*  
**Karen Cooper**, *Vice President*  
**Amy Armstrong**, *Secretary/Treasurer*

**David Eklof**, *Nomination Chair*  
**Theresa Crothers**, *Program Chair*  
**Barbara Huewitt**, *Social Media*  
**Janet Wilhelms**, *Executive Director*

## YOUR ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT TEAM

### **Janet Wilhelms**

Executive Director  
ext. 103

### **Courtney Harris**

Customer Care &  
Association Specialist  
ext. 125

### **Liz Kutz**

Chief Financial Officer &  
Membership Manager at  
Association Executives Group  
ext. 102

### **Roy Smith**

Vice President of IT at  
Association Executives Group

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.

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