



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
MEDICAL AUDIT SPECIALISTS

Fall 2020

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The Monitor

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



Hello All,

I hope everyone is well and enjoying the fall weather. I am sure we are all doing our best to stay quarantined. None of us could have foreseen that the virus would be such a problem for this long, but we are learning ways to move AAMAS forward in spite of it.

During quarantine, the AAMAS board has continued to meet and work for our members. Following are some of the activities you will learn more about as you read through this issue of the Monitor:

- **Katie Stanford, President** - In addition to assisting with the program for the virtual conference PROGRAM to be held April 21-23, I am working with Pam Price to plan smaller group discussions each quarter using Zoom so members can have some much-needed contact. We will be seeking members to participate in a planning session. Please let me know if you would like to attend by emailing president@aamas.org. In addition, "The Pulse" is sent the third Wednesday of each month and includes some of the latest educational offerings.
- **Mary Jane LaBelle, Past President** - Relationships with state chapters and with other organizations such as NAMAS and NAIC. Mary Jane also provides us with so much great advice after all of her years of involvement in AAMAS.
- **Mary Stites, Vice President** - An annual calendar of all events and due dates to be published soon.
- **David Eklof, Nominations Chair**- Announcing two upcoming openings.
- **Karen Cooper, Certification Chair**- CCFA renewals and reviewing applications for the exam are increasing!
- **Theresa Crothers and Jayne (nickname Rudy) Kalbfleisch, Program Committee**- Finalizing the speaker sessions for the Annual AAMAS Conference.
- **Pat Hodney-Gould, Membership Chair**- AAMAS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IS 10% OFF FROM NOVEMBER 1-DECEMBER 15TH! YOU WILL RECEIVE A RENEWAL REMINDER SOON. We are now back to over 200 members. We are growing! Please reach out to audit/coder/revenue cycle friends and coworkers to become members. Our goal is to double our current membership.
- **Evonne Schiappacasse, Social Media Chair**- Working to increase communication to members and prospective members. Also, let us know any ideas you have for replacing the former Listserv.
- **Amy Armstrong, Treasurer**- Presents great news regarding AAMAS's financials.
- **Pam Price, Board Mentee**- Continues to mentor with the Board. We all appreciate her suggestions and opinions.

The Board is hard-working and committed to growing AAMAS. We can always use your help and suggestions. Please email me any time at president@aamas.org or text to set up a call, 618-322-6191.

Respectfully,
Katie Stanford, RN, MSN, CCFA
AAMAS President

State Association News



We believe there are two active Medical Auditor state associations: TMAA (Texas Medical Auditors Association) and MAHA (Michigan Association of Healthcare Auditors). I attended the Annual Conference of TMAA entitled “From Infinity and Beyond: TMAA went Virtual” early in October 2020 and can report that the speakers were great and the conference was very well organized. Congratulations to the TMAA Board of Directors for a great conference.

It was a two day conference conducted on ZOOM.

The Michigan Association of Healthcare Auditors Fall 2020 Virtual Conference was Friday, October 23, 2020. As with AAMAS and TMAA, due to the current national pandemic, the MAHA board voted to convert the 2020 conference to a virtual format.

Once upon a time there were more than ten state organizations. Sadly, most have shut down, but we are grateful to Texas and Michigan for continuing to educate and provide local networking opportunities to their members.

The AAMAS Board of Directors hopes to provide more networking and job opportunity bulletins to the membership. There is much exciting going on under the new leadership.

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

AAMAS' Vice President



Hello Members,
I have thoroughly enjoyed getting back into the inner workings of AAMAS and trying to make it better than ever for us all! I would like for us all to remember back when we had conferences with members filling up the ballrooms. I would like for us to envision that for 2022. How much fun would it be, after the pandemic is under control and all feel comfortable socializing, talking and sitting beside each other to

be able to celebrate this at a conference? I am anxiously awaiting the day. I want you to help me make that a reality again for 2022.

To make this happen, we need your help by reaching out to fellow auditors or organizations that may have auditors and encourage them to check out the website and consider membership. Let them know how fun and enriching our conferences are and how invaluable the certification is to our professional growth and marketability. If they have any questions, please feel free to give them my email address for any questions they may have—mmarystites@gmail.com.

I would also like to ask you all to reach out to me (or any board member) with any questions, concerns or suggestions you might have in general, about anything you need to know. We welcome all input.

In the next year, AAMAS will be putting out a calendar for everyone to remember important dates and also reminders for Board meetings that anyone can attend via Zoom at this time. In closing, I would like to offer my email address again—mmarystites@gmail.com—so that if you have any topics you would like to have discussed, any education/webinar/conference ideas, please email me and share the ideas! Thank you all and I hope to hear from you!

Thank you,
Mary Stites, RN, CRCA, CCFA, CMAS
AAMAS Vice President

Job Posting

We want to make sure you are all aware of the Career Opportunities page on the AAMAS website: aamas.org/resources/career-opportunities/

There is a recently posted opportunity at **Advize Health for a contract employee for a CDI project.**

There is also a link to “featured jobs” that is updated regularly. The jobs posted are heavily geared to coding, but there are many other jobs listed in the medical audit realm.

Check it out!

Board of Director Nominations



Greetings fellow members of AAMAS! As October comes to an end, fall remains in the air and unfortunately so is Covid-19. Riverside County, where I live, has been a hotspot for Covid with numbers higher than in other places in California. As my public service announcement, please wear a mask, wash your hands and practice social distancing. Your compliance may mean my self-sheltering might be

shorter (it's been since February) and you may be fortunate enough to not be exposed.

Also, please exercise your right to vote! In our national and local elections your voice is important and needed to help invoke changes. If you haven't voted, please do so. If you have already voted, thank you for voting.

The above is an unpaid service announcement by me, Dave Eklof!

Speaking of voting and elections, as your Nominations Chair for this year I'm announcing that we will be having two openings on the Board of Directors. 1) President Elect and 2) Nominations Chair. I'm planting the seeds of consideration with all of you to consider nominating someone or yourself for one of these positions. Just like our national and local elections, participating helps to create change within this organization. You also benefit from learning how an organization like ours functions. Speaking for myself, I've held several offices on this board and am grateful for the learning experiences I've gained through my participation. We will be reaching out to people soliciting nominations in the upcoming months. If you would like to consider nominating someone or yourself, please contact me @ deklof70012@gmail.com.

Enjoy!

David Eklof, BSN, CMAS, CCFA
Nominations Chair

Virtual II



I hope you have all had a great summer, and are staying healthy. Fall is arriving here in Michigan with all its splendor. If you can, go out for a hike in the woods to enjoy the sounds and colors of falling leaves. It will do wonders for your mental health in this uncertain time we live in, especially if you are working from home.

As you know, the Board has decided to have the 2021 conference be virtual again. We are concerned about the uncertainty of COVID-19, and the financial strain of traveling. I will miss seeing you all in person, but we feel this is our best option. **The dates are April 21-23, 2021 with the pre-conference on April 21.** We are hoping to set up a "virtual happy hour" so we can all "see" each other. I just had a virtual class reunion and it was a great way to connect.

We are in the process of lining up speakers and will update the website as speakers are confirmed. Check in for updates on the speaker lineup at <https://conference2021.aamas.org/agenda/>.

We are pleased that Laurie Laxton is willing to present an extended pre-conference session on Auditing in Post-Acute Care. This will be an interactive workshop and provide in-depth information.

Jayne Kalbfleisch is the Program Chair Mentee this year and has been a huge asset in planning, along with Katie Stanford. We are meeting every two weeks and hope to have a complete lineup by the first of November, with registration opening before the end of the year. Again, if you know of anyone you work for or with that would be a good speaker, or have a topic you are interested in, please let either me or Jayne know.

Again, any questions or suggestions can be sent to me or Jayne at crothers@charter.net and jayric@comcast.net

Thank you all again,
Theresa Crothers, RN, CMAS, CCFA
Program Consultant

Meet AAMAS' Social Media Chair



Hello,
My name is Evonne Schiappacasse and I am the new Social Media Chair. I am excited to help AAMAS in this role. I have been an AAMAS member for many years and received my certification not too long after I joined. I have been a Nurse Auditor since 2003.

My responsibilities will include posting to Facebook and LinkedIn.

I am looking forward to working with those platforms and communicating with all. Thank you Mary Jane for the nomination and Katie, Janet and Courtney for your guidance. Please follow us on our social media. See you on Facebook :) here is the link <https://www.facebook.com/AAMASauditors/>

Respectfully,
Evonne Schiappacasse RN, BSN, MBA, CMAS, CCFA
Social Media Chair



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

Treasurer's Report



I am happy to report that our financial situation is the best it has been for several years. We presently have a little over \$45,000 in our combined savings and checking account. In analyzing our income, it has increased over last year in the areas of membership and CCFA revenue. For expenses, we have maintained our budget for our management company and administrative expenses. Our

conference fees were reduced due to the conference being held virtually. This eliminated the venue and food costs, so we were finally able to have a year when we did not take a big loss from the conference. Going virtual this year definitely helped to strengthen our bank account and keep everyone safe!

A lot of hard work on our budget was done by your Board members and I am thankful to them for leading the way to a more secure financial future for our membership.

Take Care Everyone!
Amy Armstrong, RN, BSN, CPC, CCFA
Secretary/Treasurer

SAVE THE DATES: APRIL 21-23, 2021



Our 2020 virtual conference offered the education opportunities AAMAS prides itself on, while providing health and financial considerations during the onset of these unprecedented times. Because it is uncertain how soon our lives will return to a “new normal”, we are excited to announce AAMAS's 2021 Conference will be Virtual!

As we prepare the details for the 2021 Virtual Conference, we continue to sincerely thank those who attended this year. Here are a few of the responses they shared:

- **This was my first AAMAS conference and I really enjoyed it and all the speakers!**
- **Excellent organization every step of the way. Excellent speakers!**
- **Another great day of some very impressive speakers. I found myself wishing it wasn't over... THAT is a good sign, trust me! This was super organized, with noticeable attention to detail. I am sure I will attend an AAMAS conference in the future.**

We hope to “see” you at our 2021 Virtual Conference!

The AAMAS Board of Directors

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Katie Stanford, *President*
Mary Jane LaBelle, *Past President*
Mary Stites, *Vice President*
Amy Armstrong, *Secretary/Treasurer*
Theresa Crothers, *Program Consultant*

Karen Cooper, *Certification Chair*
David Eklof, *Nomination Chair*
Pat Hodney-Gould, *Membership Chair*
Evonne Schiappacasse, *Social Media Chair*
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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