



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
MEDICAL AUDIT SPECIALISTS

Winter 2021

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## Haven't renewed your AAMAS Membership?

### There's still time!

Thank you for being a member of AAMAS. If you haven't already renewed your membership for 2021, you are in a grace period that will end soon. [Renew your membership](#) today and receive one of its benefits – a discount to the April Virtual Conference!

AAMAS's mission remains steadfast; to provide resources and support to advance the practice of medical audit! We look forward to a great year as we continue to grow together!

# The Monitor

## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



### Hello Everyone!

I hope you are staying, or returning, to being well. We are all hoping for an end to COVID and a return to being with friends and family.

Speaking of COVID, as you probably know, our annual conference will be virtual again (sigh). We have a great line-up of speakers for the conference plus an Audit 101 class and a Long-Term Care class at Pre-Conference. Though it went very well last year, according to attendee

comments, I know we are all looking forward to getting together next year. Jayne Kalbfleisch has been mentoring with Theresa to prepare for Chairing the conference next year. We really need a co-chair too, so let me know if you are interested. Theresa has everything planned out and it has gone smoothly this year. Thank you, Theresa!! And we so appreciate Jayne taking this on, but she needs a sidekick.

Since we can't be together in person this year for conference, we are excited to announce...

### AAMAS NETWORKING FORUM

FEBRUARY 17 6:00PM-7:00PM CENTRAL TIME

Since we can't get together in person, we are offering an opportunity to attend a networking forum on ZOOM. For this first forum, we don't have an agenda, but we can discuss audit/revenue cycle issues, the next conference, coping with COVID... I would like to spend a few minutes at the end of the hour to talk about your interest in continuing the open dialogue meetings and the format we should use.

Please email me at [ksj1053@aol.com](mailto:ksj1053@aol.com) by February 15th if you would like to attend. You will receive an emailed ZOOM invitation prior to the meeting.

Feel free to bring a friend or coworker, just give us the name and email address. We would love to have new audit/revenue cycle attendees as long as a member 'brings them'.

We also have another important announcement for CCFA certified members which may cause a little confusion, but we will be guiding you through it.

*Continues on next page...*

# Virtual '21 Conference

Clinical • Coding • Compliance

Multiple professional CEUs at one conference!

**APRIL 21-23, 2021**  
**REGISTER TODAY**

**For all CCFA members:**

AAMAS is working to make your life easier!

As of 2021, in order to simplify the renewal process, AAMAS dues and CCFA dues will be payable together for all CCFA certified AAMAS members at the end of each year.

- Currently CCFA dues is \$100 due every 3 years.
- Paying every year, CCFA dues will add just \$35.00 to your annual AAMAS dues.
- No more tracking of your CCFA renewal payment date!
- Everyone due in 2021 will be changed to one end-of-year payment of \$35.00 plus your AAMAS dues by December 31, 2021.
- Everyone due in 2022 will be changed to one end-of-year payment of \$35.00 plus your AAMAS dues by December 31, 2022.
- Everyone due in 2023 will be changed to one end-of-year payment of \$35.00 plus AAMAS dues by December 31, 2023.
- In 2024 all renewals will be routinely combined.
- CEUs will be checked at random as has been done in the past.
- Should you not be CCFA certified, nothing has changed. You will simply select the “AAMAS membership only” renewal.

You will receive an email reminder with details when your CCFA is due. Do not worry about your CCFA renewal until you get the email from AAMAS to tell you how to pay the combined CCFA/AAMAS renewal. Please be sure we have your work and personal emails in case your work-place changes. Questions? Email Katie Stanford at [ksj1053@aol.com](mailto:ksj1053@aol.com). Thanks!!

The Board continues to work hard to offer members education, networking and professional certification in our field. We hope to grow and expand our activities. Please refer your friends and coworkers to become members and take the certification exam to enhance their professional development. We appreciate all of you!

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

**State Association News**

Fellow AAMAS Members and Certified Clinical Financial Auditors,

I thought it was time to write a perspective on what AAMAS has meant and still means to me as a professional auditor. Today (January 27, 2021) is my 76th birthday and I'm feeling nostalgic!

For me, it all began in 1986, when a group of payer auditors gathered together in California to form a state association: MAAC, the Medical Auditors Association of California. There was precedent here because Texas already had an active association: TMAA, the Texas Medical Auditors Association. Carolyn Rich and others from Texas helped us set up MAAC and then Arizona, Georgia and Florida set up their organizations. Many of us were independent contractors with little networking opportunities. It wasn't long before hospital auditors joined our ranks, but it was originally meant to be networking and education for professional development.

In 1994, these state organizations came together in San Antonio to take a look at the viability of binding together in a National Association. The State Associations would be members of the National. In 1995 in Atlanta, Georgia, we established the National Medical Cost Containment Association (NMCCA) which changed its name to the American Association of Medical Audit Specialists (AAMAS) five years later in 2000, and that year was the first CMAS Certification Exam.

So many medical auditors have donated their time and energy to making this organization fruitful. In the beginning, the Board had twelve members and we all paid our own expenses and gave our time. Then were the more recent darker times when we didn't know if we would survive. I've probably spent over 16 years total on the Board of Directors and will acknowledge the dedication of Theresa Crothers, Sharon Houlihan, Susan Palmer (deceased), Janet Hazlett, Barbara Thompson, Ruth Gahan, MJ Stratman, Allen Shane, David Eklof and more recently Katie Stanford, Amy Armstrong and Karen Cooper. The list goes on and the current new board members are focused, strong and committed.

AAMAS has been my professional journey for over thirty five years. It is a child I share with many and I am so grateful to our management company, AEG, and our Executive Director Janet Wilhelms, who have been instrumental in reviving AAMAS and setting up our new Certification Program: CCFA, Certified Clinical Financial Auditor.

Theresa Crothers and I will be bowing out in April. It's time to retire, but I bet we'll see you all again at the conferences.

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

## AAMAS' Vice President



Greeting AAMAS members!  
 I hope you all are doing well, staying healthy and getting ready for this NEW year! I would like to help you get ready for the AAMAS new year by providing you with a calendar to help you remember important dates for our organization. This will be in the quarterly Monitor for you to reference. So here is your first quarter calendar:

### JANUARY

- January 5- Membership renewal is past due. Renew today!
- January 12- Board Meeting – met at 5pm CST
- January 14- Conference registration opened
- January 20- The Pulse

### FEBRUARY

- February 2 - Winter Monitor
- February 9- Board Meeting 5pm CST
- February 17- AAMAS ONE-HOUR NETWORKING FORUM- 6:00pm-7:00pm CENTRAL TIME
- February 17- The Pulse
- February 28 - Grace period for membership renewal ended. Renew – we don't want to miss you!

### MARCH

- March 9- Board Meeting 5pm CST
- March 17- The Pulse

### APRIL

- April 6- Spring Monitor
- April 12- \*\*\*Conference Registration closes\*\*\*
- April 13- Board Meeting 5pm CST
- April 21- No Pulse this month- replaced with Annual Conference
- April 21- Pre-Conference
- April 22-23- Annual Conference

AAMAS has also developed a flyer to market our Association. We would like to provide this to all members. Please print to distribute to your coworkers and other contacts. Let's grow our membership! It describes who we are, what we do and the awesome benefits this organization provides to your professional career. [Click here](#) to download the flyer.

As always, please contact me for any questions you might have about AAMAS. It is my pleasure to help you.  
[mmarystites@gmail.com](mailto:mmarystites@gmail.com)

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

## Call for Nominations!



Please consider offering a colleague or yourself to serve on the board of Directors of AAMAS.

There are three positions open for our next election this spring. Ask not what AAMAS can do for you but what you can do for AAMAS!

- President Elect
- Nominations Chair
- Certifications Chair

Become a mover and shaker within our organization! Deadline for nominations is March 15, 2021.

For more information on these positions or other areas where you could serve, please contact David Eklof @ [deklof70012@gmail.com](mailto:deklof70012@gmail.com).

Enjoy!  
 David Eklof, BSN, CMAS, CCFA  
 Nominations Chair



**WE WANT YOU!**

## Social Media Chair Message



Hello,  
 I am looking forward to the new year ahead. I have enjoyed getting oriented to our Facebook page and am looking forward to LinkedIn (watch for our updates). There are exciting events coming up this year as AAMAS will be offering Zoom discussion groups and our Virtual Conference is April 21-23, 2021.

Register on our website early [https://www.aamas.org/!](https://www.aamas.org/) The information is posted on our Facebook page and our website. 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.**

## Conference Update



We are very pleased that the conference agenda is set and registration is open! We are excited about the agenda and think the topics are very relevant.

<https://conference2021.aamas.org/agenda/>

Here is the link for conference registration for your convenience

<https://conference2021.aamas.org/registration/>

Make sure you sign in to your membership when registering in order to activate the member discount.

As you know, we are doing the virtual conference again due to the ongoing restrictions and safety for the COVID virus. We really missed seeing all of you in person last year, and put our heads together to come up with a way we can meet virtually, keeping in mind that we have members in all time zones. We did not want to add time to the agenda making an already long day longer. **With that in mind, we will be having a “virtual lunch hour” during the lunch break on Friday, April 23rd. We will give you a little break to get your lunch and come back to your computer to “see and chat” with the attendees.** It is a poor second to seeing each other in person, but I know we will make the best of it.

We are already making plans for an “onsite” conference for 2022 and will let you know as soon as we have confirmation.

As always, if you are interested in being a presenter at a future conference, or have sources for speakers/topics, please contact either Jayne or me.

Program Committee volunteers are also welcome!

See you in April!

Theresa Crothers, RN, CMAS, CCFA  
[crothers@charter.net](mailto:crothers@charter.net)

Jayne Kalbfleisch, MHA, RHIT, CCS, CPHM, CMAS, CCFA  
[jayric@comcast.net](mailto:jayric@comcast.net)

## Job Posting

We want to make sure you're aware of the Career Opportunities page on the website: [aamas.org/resources/career-opportunities/](https://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!

## Treasurer's Report



I was so happy to see 2021 arrive! I will finally sleep well when all of my family and friends get vaccinated. Continue to stay safe and vigilant.

The AAMAS BOD has finalized our 2021 budget. With a virtual conference again this year, we are hopeful for continued good news that our income will outweigh our expenses. On my to-do list is an audit of our finances from 2020. If anyone is interested in

helping please send me an email: [amyarm@comcast.net](mailto:amyarm@comcast.net)

As we are trying to remain positive as we continue to conquer this pandemic, I encourage you to find something special each day. One fun way is to celebrate monthly holidays and special days. The website [holidayinsights.com](https://holidayinsights.com) lists a variety for each month of the year. According to the site “Some are steeped in tradition, while others may be wacky, bizarre, unique, special or otherwise different holidays.”

### SOME FOR FEBRUARY:

- American Heart Month
  - An Affair to Remember Month
  - Black History Month
  - Canned Food Month
  - Creative Romance Month
  - Great American Pie Month
  - National Bird Feeding Month
  - National Cherry Month
  - National Children's Dental Health Month
  - National Grapefruit Month
  - National Weddings Month
  - Spunky Old Broads Month
- (some of us can relate to this!)*

Who knew February 3rd - feed the birds day, 5th- bubble gum day, 6th- eat ice cream for breakfast day and international frozen yogurt day, 17th- random act of kindness day, 20th- cherry pie day, 23rd- national margarita day, just to name a few.

Take Care Everyone!

Amy Armstrong, RN, BSN, CPC, CCFA  
Secretary/Treasurer

## 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.

## AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL AUDIT SPECIALISTS

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