



The Monitor

From Your President

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As summer comes to a close we prepare for the change in seasons by changing our daily routine either by sending our children off to school or adjusting to those cooler temperatures wondering where those sweaters you packed away are.

The same is true for organizations with the end of summer, we think about different things and what we as your board can do to move our organization along in a forward motion to accomplish goals we're setting for ourselves.

The board has held telephone meetings during the summer months and we will be meeting in Chicago in October face to face to work on our conference next year, preview the hotel, budget, and probably most importantly the strategic planning necessary in ensure the future of AAMAS.

One of the projects that we have worked for and soon will debut is the list-serve. Yes it's coming back. It will be moderated with rules and conduct expectations. If you're interested in participating in the list serve, you'll need to sign up in the member's only section of our website. We would like this to be audit focused and as factual as possible by citing sources when you post. You all know, rules and regulations change along with their interpretations. Everyone has an opinion and you certainly can express it, but it gives your opinion more substance when sighting a source.

Our intent is to bring back this communication tool which is limited to members only. Anne Haider, your Vice President will be one of the moderators. I'm looking for a second. Are any of you interested?

We have reviewed and discussed our last conference. Sadly but not surprisingly the conference did not profit or break even. There were several factors that contributed to the loss, all of which this current board has taken to heart and will avoid at all costs. We're committed to communicate better and timelier with our conference information.

Our goal is to get back on track, by knowing in advance at least a year or two where our conferences will be held. We'll be in Chicago next year.

The hotel is being secured this week. We already have an impressive lineup of speakers and presenters, thanks to our Educational Chair and her executive assistants!

We have our dates for 2018 and we know it's going to be on the western section of the country. Any ideas of where we should have our 2018 conference?

We do not have theme for our next conference. Are any of you openly or secretively creative writers that can come up with the theme?

From Your President *(continued)*

You should have received an e-blast recently encouraging you all to participate in our organization and with the invitation to submit articles of interest to all of us for publication in the Monitor. We're a diverse and multi-faceted group with more than auditing on our plates. Do you care to share with us? I also would like to see more newsy bits about our members, including weddings, births, deaths, special birthdays, retirements or events. I strongly believe that we gather as professionals because we're auditors but we connect with members because of common interests. Let's find out more about each other. Sharing some pieces often times brings larger returns in networking and learning opportunities. Did you know that I'm a Sci Fi geek? I love the old 1950's Japanese dubbed into English Godzilla movies!

We're working to update and improve our website. It's become attractive enough now though to attract international interest. We know there have been issues with our website and we're working to improve your experience by making it easier to use.

This summer, we held an electronic vote. I'm happy to report that our motion(s) passed to change the by-laws to reflect where we really are as an organization. Voting was simple, convenient and we had a pretty good turnout, over 20% of the membership voted. We've learned that we do not have to wait for annual meetings to move things along. We can progress though out the year by voting on issues and or elections electronically. Even if you cannot attend a conference for whatever the reason you can still participate by voting. We'll be having more of these electronic votes in the future.

Our membership is growing and that is a testament to your commitment to our organization and our board to you to make AAMAS better and stronger. I hope you all had an enjoyable summer, now get back to work!

David Eklof
AAMAS President

A Message From Your Vice President

My life with AAMAS

I have been an auditor for about five years, 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 learn as you go and dive in and research 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 auditor 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

Chicago

Our 2017 conference will be in Chicago, Illinois. If you have never been to The Windy City, you are in for a treat!

There are numerous web sites that have plenty of information about tourism in Chicago. Check some of them out before you plan your trip. There is so much to see and do you may want to come early or stay for the weekend. A favorite activity of many tourists and Chicagoans is the Architectural Boat Tour which travels along the Chicago River. You don't want to miss it, weather permitting.

www.chicagotraveler.com

www.choosechicago.com

www.enjoyillinois.com

Chicago is also a major nucleus for the healthcare industry. The city's history includes many contributions to health and social works. During the 1870s and 1880s, Chicago attained national stature as the leader in the movement to improve public health. City, and later state laws, that upgraded standards for the medical profession and fought urban epidemics of cholera, smallpox, and yellow fever were both passed and enforced. These laws became templates for public health reform in other cities and states. Concern for social problems among Chicago's immigrant poor led Jane Addams to co-found Hull House in 1889. Programs developed there became a model for the new field of social work. The chief advocate for improving public health in Chicago was Dr. John H. Rauch. Rauch established a plan for Chicago's park system in 1866. He created Lincoln Park by closing a cemetery filled with shallow graves, and in 1867, in response to an outbreak of cholera, he helped establish a new Chicago Board of Health. Ten years later, he became the secretary and then the president of the first Illinois State Board of Health, which carried out most of its activities in Chicago.

Today Chicago boasts many top medical centers. The Illinois Medical District is on the Near West Side. It includes Rush University Medical Center, ranked as the second best hospital in the Chicago metropolitan area by U.S. News & World Report for 2014–15, the University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago, Jesse Brown VA Hospital, and John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County, one of the busiest trauma centers in the nation.

Two of the country's premier academic medical centers reside in Chicago, including Northwestern Memorial Hospital and the University of Chicago Medical Center. The Chicago campus of Northwestern University includes the Feinberg School of Medicine; Northwestern Memorial Hospital, which is ranked as the best hospital in the Chicago metropolitan area by U.S. News & World Report for 2010–11; the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, which is ranked the best U.S. rehabilitation hospital by U.S. News & World Report; the new Prentice Women's Hospital; and Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago.

The University of Illinois College of Medicine at UIC is the largest medical school in the United States (2,600 students including those at campuses in Peoria, Rockford and Urbana–Champaign).

In addition, the Chicago Medical School and Loyola University Chicago's Stritch School of Medicine are located in the suburbs of North Chicago and Maywood, respectively. The Midwestern University Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine is in Downers Grove.

The American Medical Association, Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, American Osteopathic Association, American Dental Association, Academy of General Dentistry, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, American College of Surgeons, American Society for Clinical Pathology, American College of Healthcare Executives, the American Hospital Association and Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association are all based in Chicago.

With this wealth of healthcare contributors, we should have a wonderful group of speakers for you at our Chicago conference, May 2017!

References: wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago

Amy Armstrong, RN, BSN, CMAS
AAMAS Secretary / Treasurer

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.

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!

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Nominating Committee

I can hardly believe that summer has come and gone and the schools are all back in session. Time to think about organizing for a new year and the holidays will soon be upon us. This was not my best of summers, but I'm ready to look forward to Chicago and the 2017 conference. Please be thinking about the open positions for next year, President Elect and Nomination Committee.

Topic of interest -- Here in San Diego, one of our hospitals is working on giving external auditors access to specific medical records from our home computers. It seems too good to be true, but I'm excited to be able to work from home. I've always been told by IT folks that this would not be possible for security reasons. I would be interested to know if anyone has this type of access elsewhere in the country. I would love to speak with you.

Joan Alexander
AAMAS Nomination Chair

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.

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.

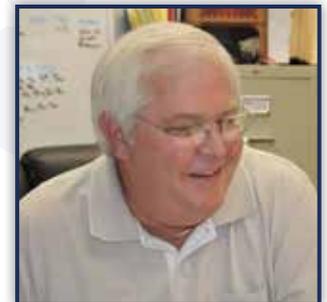


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