

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I had the opportunity to attend the 65<sup>th</sup> Annual AAMA Conference in Houston Texas serving as your 1<sup>st</sup> delegate to the House of Delegates. I must admit I was somewhat concerned about traveling due to the still present Covid situation.

I was pleasantly surprised by the cooperation of everyone at the airport, on the plane and at the hotel. Masks were seen everywhere and precautions were in place. No one complained.

A few states did not send a delegation this year but had the opportunity to participate in the House of Delegates via Zoom which was a new undertaking. We were short some voting machines and a few delegates actually used their cell phones to vote in the House.

Anyone who has attended a House of Delegates with me as a delegate will attest to the fact that I have no fear of stepping up to a microphone to speak my mind or ask for clarification of a point. Our delegation was a good distance from a microphone this year and I told myself I was going to avoid speaking out this year. Well, that did not last long. I am proud to say I took my usual active role and was even approached afterwards and thanked for some of my input. I must say that felt good. There were 20 proposed bylaw changes this year. Some were pretty clear cut regarding changes to comply with the Illinois state laws regarding non-profit organizations, some to allow for meetings and voting during emergency situations.

One interesting and important piece of information came from Don Balasa, our CEO and Legal Counsel. The Medicaid Promoting Interoperability Program, formerly the Medicaid Electronic Health Record Incentive Program, is set to expire at the end of the year. This is the program that allows CMAs to enter medications, laboratory and diagnostic imaging orders into the CPOE system. In July 2021 AAMA launched its national Order Entry Competency Initiative (OEC). It's purpose is to persuade third party payers to incorporate into their agreements with licensed providers the requirement that orders be entered into the CPOE system by either credentialed MAs or healthcare professionals who are competent in order entry. Mr Balasa will be reaching out to third party payers to get support for this initiative so that we can continue to perform this important task. He has asked that MA practitioner, managers, educators provide contact information for any executives and board members of health insurance carriers. This information can be emailed to him at [DBalasa@aama-ntl.org](mailto:DBalasa@aama-ntl.org).

Many CEU opportunities were available throughout the conference including a good number of administrative which are somewhat difficult to get locally. There were even a few presentations done virtually for a variety of reasons. The sessions I attended were quite good and I learned a lot.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you all to think about attending the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference next year being held in Myrtle Beach South Carolina, October 21 – 24, 2022. These conferences are a great way to get to know just how our organization works, obtain CEUs, meet some really wonderful people and have a good time. The 2023 conference will be in Orlando Florida. I thank the members of NYSSMA for the opportunity to serve again as delegate and I hope to do so again sometime soon. I would be remiss if I didn't mention that our own Jan Caplan served as the Parliamentary Advisor during the House of Delegates.

As always, please stay safe and be well. Consider getting a Covid vaccine booster if you are able. Flu season is approaching soon, get your flu shot. Watch the AAMA website for free CEUs and NYSSMA board will be meeting soon to discuss the possibility of a convention next year.

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President, NYSSMA