

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Cheers to New Year!!! I look looking forward to a new decade filled with good health, happiness and prosperity for all my NYSSMA family of friends and colleagues.

As we close out the ending of the year and the passing of another decade, I optimistically open the door to new challenges and possibilities in the year and decade ahead filled with opportunities for growth and improvement in 2020.

The highlight of the NYSSMA Spring calendar will be our **61st Annual NYSSMA Convention, 2020 Vision: A Look at our Future by Way of the Past**, to be held April 23–26 at the **Embassy Suites by Hilton Syracuse–Destiny USA** and **2019-2020 AAMA Vice President, Patty Licurs, CMA (AAMA), CPC-A** will be in attendance as our **AAMA representative**. Patty is from South Carolina and we are excited to host her. This is a great opportunity to reconnect with old friends, make new acquaintances, earn CEUs, learn more about your organization's business, and have a great time.

2020 Vision will provide opportunities to earn up to **fourteen (14) CEUs** and network with colleagues, educators, students and potential employers throughout New York State. The event begins with **three (3) education sessions** on **Thursday** beginning at 1pm, followed by a **Manager Reception** at 5:30pm. On **Friday**, after a complimentary breakfast for hotel guests, there will be a **Pre-Convention Executive Board meeting** at 9am, **three (3) more education sessions**, our annual **General Assembly** meeting and **Welcome Party** dinner. There are **seven (7) education sessions** scheduled for **Saturday**, as well as an **Educator Roundtable**, **vendors**, and an **Awards & Installation Luncheon**, where we present awards, welcome our **new President** and swear in our **2019-20 Officers**. I also invite everyone to join our next NYSSMA President, **Carrie Gravelle** (Erie Chapter) for a **Post-Convention Executive Board** meeting on **Sunday** morning.

The NYSSMA continuously provides opportunities to welcome new leadership and is currently seeking nominations for officers. If you are interested in information regarding the qualifications and duties of these officers, and/or considering running for one of these positions, please contact our **Nominations Chair, Kimberly Battaglini** at kmb2125@gmail.com. We also need members to serve on **committees** and take on leadership roles as **Committee Chairs**. Please contact any of the sitting officers and/or Committee Chairs for further information about NYSSMA volunteerism.

I look forward to seeing all of you at Convention. The **hotel rates** will be \$119 + 13% tax on Thursday night and \$129 + 13% Friday and Saturday nights. For those interested, the \$119 rate will also be extended to Wednesday & Sunday nights. The **registration fees** will not be increased—they are **exactly the same as 2016**; an excellent value. The complete **Registration Form** and additional information can be found in this issue of **NYSSMA Today** and on our newly redeveloped **NYSSMA website**, (www.nysmedassist.org). Please secure **hotel reservations** as soon as possible as our discounted rates are based on the guarantee of rooms.

Until then, I wish you all the best of health and happiness; meanwhile, continue to monitor the website for updated information.

Best regards,

B. David Sylvia, BBA, CMA (AAMA)
NYSSMA President