

## PRESIDENT MESSAGE

*June 2020*

Greetings!!!

I hope everyone is doing as well as they can be under current circumstances and challenges.

In response to the physical distancing directives issued by the CDC and the continuing and evolving Executive Orders issued by Governor Cuomo in association with New York Pause, many of the things to which we look forward have been canceled or postponed indefinitely to protect community health during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the annual **NYSSMA Convention** and **General Assembly**. Additionally, many NYSSMA (and AAMA) processes have moved to remote formats where possible.

In light of this unprecedented disruptive time in our lives and in the interest of public health, the **NYSSMA Executive Board** met on May 23 via WebEx and has decided to hold an electronic vote to select its officers and **Third NYSSMA Delegate** to the **AAMA House of Delegates** for 2020-21 in time to submit an updated roster of Officers and Delegates to AAMA by the extended deadline of **July 1**.

For transparency and to avoid any perception of conflict of interest, **NYSSMA Website Committee Chair, Lisa McKeen** will use the current NYSSMA roster to create a list serve to coordinate this effort and will receive your selection from the **Slate of Candidates** whose credentials were reviewed by the **Nominating Committee**.

Per NYSSMA bylaws, **Vice-President Carrie Gravelle** will serve as **NYSSMA President** for 2020-21. The remaining **Slate of Candidates** running for positions as NYSSMA officers include:

- **Kimberly Battaglini** for the office of **Vice President**
- **Susan Schilling** for the office of **Treasurer**

Candidates nominated for **Third NYSSMA Delegate** to the 64<sup>th</sup> AAMA House of Delegates in Lake Buena Vista September 11 – 14, 2020 include:

- Todd Lasher
- Valerie Richards
- Cindy Ryder
- David Sylvia

Once the form is received, open the MS Word document and make selections by choosing them from the drop down boxes. After completing the form, save it as a .pdf file and email it to [nysma@nysmedassist.com](mailto:nysma@nysmedassist.com). All voting must be completed by **June 15**.

Due to the extraordinary circumstances surrounding everything in our world, we are unable to reschedule the convention or alternate face-to-face meetings until the phased reopening of the New York State economy is complete and we can secure a venue that can accommodate our needs. The New York State Society cannot move forward before New York State does.

I realize there is a lot of uncertainty in these trying times, but the NYSSMA continuously provides opportunities to welcome new leadership and I invite anyone interested in an appointment to the Board or any of its committees to reach out to our next NYSSMA President, **Carrie Gravelle** (Erie Chapter) for information regarding openings and qualifications for these positions.

I look forward to serving as Immediate Past President and wish President Gravelle a year filled with exciting new challenges and possibilities as we learn and grow from recent experiences. Until then, I extend hope for good health, happiness and prosperity to all my NYSSMA family of friends and colleagues. Please continue to monitor the **NYSSMA website** ([www.nysmedassist.org](http://www.nysmedassist.org)) and the **NYSSMA Today** newsletter for updated information.

Take time to breathe—we are all living day by day and moment to moment, managing one day at a time. Be patient, be not discouraged and stay safe.

In solidarity,

B. David Sylvia, BBA, CMA (AAMA)  
NYSSMA President 2018-2020