

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope this missive finds you safe and warm. I know most of us are recovering from the Polar Vortex cold snap and, in some parts of the state, blizzards or blizzard like conditions. As we look to Spring, we ready ourselves for our **60th Annual NYSSMA Convention** to be held April 11–14 at the **Hyatt Place in Amherst** (near the 290 Expressway and close to the **Buffalo Airport**).

This diamond anniversary event provides opportunities to earn up to **fifteen (15) CEUs** and network with colleagues, educators, students and potential employers throughout New York State. **Registration** for this event begins at **2:30pm on Thursday**, followed by **two (2) education sessions**.

In between the **four (4) education sessions** on **Friday**, please join us for our **Pre-Convention Executive Board** meeting and our **General Assembly**, followed by a **Welcome Tailgate Party “Buffalo Style!”** (Don your favorite team apparel, enjoy a taste of Buffalo and witness some of the things Buffalonians do best).

There are **five (5) education sessions** scheduled for **Saturday** before and after our **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 President for a **Post-Convention Executive Board** meeting on **Sunday**.

The NYSSMA continuously provides opportunities to welcome new leadership and is currently seeking nominations for **Vice-President, Treasurer** and **Secretary**. 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. Please secure **hotel reservations** prior to **March 4th**; the availability of rooms at the reduced NYSSMA Convention rate is limited and the reservation block closes on that date. **Reservations** may be made online at BuffaloAmherst.place.hyatt.com, or by phoning **Hyatt Place** directly at 716-839-4040. Our **Block Name is: CMABUF19; Book Code is: g-nyss**. Once you have secured your hotel reservation, don't forget to submit your completed **Registration Form** and **payment** to **Sue Mayer** by **April 6th**, or be an **Early Bird** and **save \$25** by mailing it before **March 1st**. The complete **Registration Form** and additional information can be found in the February issue of **NYSSMA Today** and here on our newly redeveloped **NYSSMA website**. Until then, I wish you all the best of health and happiness; meanwhile, continue to monitor the website for updated information.

Kind regards,

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