

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – JANUARY 2021

Welcome to 2021 everyone. I hope that the new year has found each of you healthy, doing well and that you had a good holiday season.

The past year seems to have flown by despite the restrictions and limitations we have had to live with since the onset of the Corona virus. Many of us have had to adjust and change our work habits and routines which has made our jobs a bit more difficult. Wearing masks, face shields or goggles has made communication with our patients more cumbersome. We have been unable to visit family and friends. Many of us have not been able to go out for a meal or refreshment. We need to continue to educate and encourage our patients and loved ones to wear their masks, social distance and consider getting the Covid vaccine if and when it is available.

The 2021 AAMA Conference is scheduled to be held in Houston, Texas in September. Hopefully, we will be able to meet in person. I just received an email asking if I would attend if it is held in person. Honestly, I don't know. It would depend on our state travel restrictions and the status of Covid when it gets closer. That seems to be the general feeling of other states as well. Some are concerned about having to quarantine when they return and the additional time off from work. We will keep watching and see what happens.

We will be having a Board meeting later this month and one of the topics will be our convention and General Assembly. Please watch for more information coming after this meeting. We were unable to meet in person last year and had little time to make arrangements to do anything virtually. As you recall, election of officers was held electronically. Unfortunately, there was not a very good response. If we have to do the General Assembly and voting virtually this year I hope more members will take part.

Because very few areas can meet in person, most states or chapters are hold virtual meetings and offering CEUs for presentations. Everyone can access approved CEU presentations on the AAMA website. With only a few exceptions, most are available to members and nonmembers alike. Some are charging a fee but most are free. Please check the website and take advantage of these CEU opportunities. In our state, Erie Chapter has been offering virtual presentations and we have had people from all across the country join in. We even had a speaker from out of state. AAMA has offered several free CEU presentations and there are always the articles in CMA Today as was as home study courses. Please don't let your certification slip away. There are plenty of ways to get your CEUs.

Stay safe and healthy and I hope we can see each other in person very soon. Virtual meetings are fine but it doesn't take the place of an in person smile, handshake or hug. Take care of yourself and each other.

Carrie Gravelle, CMA (AAMA)  
President