



## New York State Society of Medical Assistants, Inc.

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B. David Sylvia, BBA, CMA (AAMA)  
President 2018-2019

Dear Leaders and Members of MSSNY:

On behalf of the American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMA) and the New York State Society of Medical Assistants (NYSSMA), I extend warm greetings to the Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) on the occasion of the April 2019 annual meeting of your House of Delegates.

The American Association of Medical Assistants is the national membership organization representing the medical assisting profession. Established in 1956 and located in Chicago, Illinois, the AAMA has over 35,000 members and is an Official Observer of the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association.

The Certifying Board of the AAMA bestows the CMA (AAMA) credential on those medical assistants who pass the CMA (AAMA) Certification Examination, the only medical assisting examination that utilizes the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) as test consultant. Only graduates of postsecondary medical assisting programs accredited by either the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) or the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) are eligible for the CMA (AAMA) Certification Examination. The CMAs (AAMA) must keep their credential current by recertifying every five years by continuing education or retesting. We must earn 60 CEUs every 5 years. Those individuals whose CMA (AAMA) is not current are not permitted to use the CMA (AAMA) credential for any purpose. The CMA (AAMA) credential is considered the gold standard of medical assisting professionalism. The AAMA also keeps us informed with the national publication of CMA Today and regular e-blasts via e-mail.

Our members have the benefit of tri-level membership—AAMA, NYSSMA, and local chapters. In addition to the AAMA Conference each fall and the NYSSMA Convention each spring, many of our members are fortunate to have chapters that offer regular educational events such as seminars and speakers at monthly meetings offering CEU credits required for recertification.

The purpose of the New York State Society of Medical Assistants (NYSSMA) is to enable medical assisting professionals to enhance and demonstrate the knowledge, skills and professionalism required by employers and patients; protect medical assistants' right to practice; and promote effective and efficient healthcare delivery.

CMAs (AAMA) work under the direct supervision of physicians in ambulatory care settings, and are especially valuable to physicians because of their clinical and administrative knowledge and competency. The demand for CMAs (AAMA) throughout the United States is increasing significantly because more health care is being provided on an outpatient basis.

Due to recent changes in CMS guidelines, a greater number of employers are requiring that their medical assistants be credentialed. The CMA (AAMA) credential is the most versatile, requiring that these medical assistants have demonstrated competency in both clinical and administrative skills in ambulatory care settings—chiefly, physician offices. Additionally, according to the Department of Labor, the occupational outlook for the demand of hiring medical assistants is projected to increase 29% between 2016 and 2026.

NYSSMA is holding our 60th annual Convention April 11-14 in Buffalo NY where we host our General Assembly meeting and offer a potential 14 CEUs. We are in the process of finishing our newly developed website and plan to “go live” this year; meanwhile, our primary vehicle of communication is our newsletter, NYSSMA Today, for which we have received AAMA Awards of Excellence several times. The NYSSMA also maintains the Dorothy Ross Scholarship fund, named for one of our founding members and past President and awards a scholarship each year to a qualifying student enrolled in an accredited medical assisting program. The recipient also receives one year of paid AAMA membership dues.

The 62nd annual AAMA Conference was attended by over 600 people in St. Lake City, Utah September 14–17, 2018 with guests attending from as far away as Alaska and Hawaii. The delegation from New York State consisted of myself as First Delegate and President, Second Delegate and Vice-President Lisa McKeen, and Third Delegate and Immediate Past President Kimberly Battaglini, CMA (AAMA), as well as other members from our State Society.

A variety of educational topics were available consisting of a total of 22 potential CEUs as well as a MAERB seminar for educators, the House of Delegates, Parade of Presidents and the President Luncheon where new AAMA President Susan Hawes, CMA (AAMA), MBA, RHIT, FACMPE was installed. Next year, the 63rd Annual AAMA Conference will be held September 13-16 in Greensboro North Carolina.

Our entire Scope of Practice can be found on the AAMA website ([www.aama-ntl.org](http://www.aama-ntl.org)); however, practicing medical assistants in New York State cannot enjoy this full scope due to current legislation and could use the support of MSSNY to continue our efforts to support legislation that is favorable to the CMA (AAMA) credential and recognizes our full scope of practice. This would not only benefit our members, but our physicians and their practices as they seek more efficient means to comply with the increasing demands of the CMS guidelines.

Please contact me if the NYSSMA can be of any assistance to the Medical Society of the State of New York. Once again, on behalf of the NYSSMA, we wish you a fruitful and productive 2019 meeting.

Kind regards,

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