



**THE FORUM** newsletter of the:  
KENTUCKY SOCIETY OF MEDICAL ASSISTANTS  
by **Sharon Runyon** Forum Editor 2022-23

## 2022 annual conference highlights

Our conference was quite successful this year after a 2 year in-person hiatus. Everyone seemed to enjoy the speakers as well as getting to see old friends and make new ones.

FRIDAY began at 9 a.m. with our 59th Annual Meeting. 2022-2023 officers were elected as follows:

Joni Magness, CMA (AAMA) President-Elect; Regina Anderson, CMA (AAMA) Vice-President; Jessica Moore, CMA (AAMA) Secretary; Mary LaFond, CMA (AAMA), Treasurer. Tracy Phillips, CMA (AAMA) was installed as 2022-2023 President along with the newly elected officers at the Installation Banquet that evening.



Other elected positions included delegates for the AAMA Conference in October 2022 in Myrtle Beach. As per KSMA bylaws, the elected President and President are automatic delegates. Due to increases in membership in KSMA, Kentucky is allowed 4 delegates for

that meeting. Usually only 1 delegate is elected from the membership at the annual meeting but this year there were 2 elected. Kathy Hume, CMA (AAMA) and Antonette Barrett, CMA (AAMA) were elected. Nominating committee members were elected as follows: Rena Jo Hammer, Purchase; Tina Courtney, Purchase, and Beth Richardson, Madison. Two other members were selected from the Board of Trustees at the Post-Conference board meeting with Tammy Yates being appointed as Chair of the committee.

Education sessions began after the annual meeting and concluded at 5:30 on Friday. Sessions began again at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday and concluded at 5:00. A post-conference meeting began immediately following the conclusion of the education sessions. Some of the topics covered during sessions were Paramedicine, Diabetes and the Insulin pump, Aesthetics, Compassion Fatigue, Medical Assisting Practicum Guide, COVID effects on Youth, Heart Failure, HIV in Kentucky, and Adrenal Incidentalomas.

Recipients of the Cindy Comley Scholarship were honored at the banquet with awards being presented by Cindy's sister Cathy. Cindy was a longtime KSMA member who was an active and dedicated member who lost her battle with breast cancer several years ago. Cindy's family has sponsored a financial scholarship (pays conference registration all or in part) in Cindy's memory since her death. This year's recipients were Diana Carter, CMA (AAMA), Jessica Moore, CMA (AAMA), Rina Jo Hamer, CMA (AAMA), and Joni Magness, CMA (AAMA).



The following reports were presented by Cindy Comley Scholarship award recipients:

“My name is Diana C. Carter, CMA (AAMA). I attended the Kentucky State Society 59th Conference as a Full Cindy Comley Scholarship Recipient. The Kentucky State Conference was held in Berea, KY at the Boone Tavern in Berea, KY. I got to see some of my fellow

CMAs whom I had not seen since 2019. I also earned 12 CEUs, attended the Annual Meeting, the Banquet on Friday night, and the Friday and Saturday luncheons. The Annual Meeting gave me a chance to see the nomination of members and voting first-hand. At the Banquet on Friday night the new officers were installed and I was given an award for being a recipient of the Cindy Comley Scholarship.

We need more members to come to our Annual Meetings. You have the opportunity to network with other CMAs and to earn CEUs. When we network with each other, we can see where the job openings are, pay ranges in different areas of Kentucky, and go into other areas that can advance our knowledge as CMAs (AAMA). Our next Annual Meeting will be in Paducah, KY. We have over a year to plan and I encourage all CMAs to take that plunge and come to see what the Kentucky State Society 60th Conference is all about. You won't be disappointed. Come and see for yourself." **Diana C. Carter, CMA (AAMA)**

"It was an honor to receive the Cindy Comley Scholarship and was greatly appreciated. This was my first Kentucky State Medical Assistants Conference. The conference was enjoyable and I learned many things. Several speakers come to mind when I think about my career and how I can interject their thoughts and teachings. I was so grateful to be part of the learning and sharing among colleagues." **Rina Hammer, CMA (AAMA)**

" I have been a Medical Assistant since 1984 and became a member of the AAMA in 1992. I got involved more after I became Certified in 1994 but was just a member and only went to the monthly meeting, sometimes. I finally got more involved when I had a mentor, her name is Roxanna Langston. She showed me what the KSMA was and I started going to the conferences. I then became more involved and got on a committee then became an officer. I became friends with all the ladies of the KSMA and wanted to stay involved. I have enjoyed being involved with the KSMA and furthering my education with the continued education sessions the conference had to offer.

This year I was chosen to be one of the Cindy Comley scholarship winners, which is an honor to me because I knew Cindy and became friends with her through the KSMA. She was very knowledgeable and a go to person. She loved the KSMA and we all loved her. It was my pleasure to be one of the scholarship winners because her family has kept the scholarship going in her name. This year's theme was CMA's are HEROES. Cindy was a hero to many of us in the KSMA. I enjoyed being a part of this year's conference and able to help with the decorations for this theme. The speakers were all GREAT! and it was so nice to see everyone again in person after a long 2 years of the pandemic. I will definitely stay involved with KSMA because they are like family. Thank you to the Cindy Comley family for providing this special gift from Cindy to us, we appreciate it." **Joni Magness, CMA (AAMA)**

I want to thank you for the opportunity to attend the Annual KSMA conference 2022. I am very thankful that I was able to receive the Cindy Comley Scholarship this year. The past few years have been very difficult for me personally as well as difficult for everyone with the pandemic going on. I am so glad we were able to get together in person and have a great conference. We had great speakers; I was able to learn lots of great information. All the speakers had great information. The entire conference was great. I am also excited to be able to take on a new role within KSMA as the secretary. Again, thank you for picking

me as one of the recipients of the scholarship. Can't wait till next year for KSMA 2023 in Paducah. **Jessica L Moore, CMA, AAMA**

## **2023 Kentucky Society of Medical Assistants Annual Conference**

At the Post-convention BOT meeting, a decision was made to have next year's conference in Paducah April 22-23, 2023. The Purchase Area chapter is excited to welcome members back to their city and is already formulating ideas to make the 60th KSMA conference memorable.

### **Why Physician Employers Should Hire Certified Medical Assistants**



## **Certification**

Hiring a Certified Medical Assistant helps to assure the physician has a competent employee. CMAs are required to obtain continuing education in order to maintain the credential which aids in expansion of the CMA's knowledge base. In order to become a Certified Medical Assistant, a medical assistant must have completed a program through an accredited program which requires standardized competencies and weeks of practicum experience in a medical practice. After completion of educational program and practicum, the student must take the certification exam to show retention of knowledge. Even though there are other credentials available for medical assistants, becoming a Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) is only available through the American Association of Medical Assistants. The CMA (AAMA) Certification Program is accredited by the NCCA (National Commission for Certifying Agencies) and is the only medical assisting certification body that is accredited through the IAS (International Accreditation Service).

**Nurse Journal** article **published in January 2022** has a list of top 10 benefits for becoming a CMA which also speaks to why employers should hire Certified Medical Assistants (CMA).

1. Having a nationally certified medical assistant helps to protect the provider against malpractice lawsuits by having credentialed personnel.
2. Certification indicates knowledge and skill to perform the job
3. The requirement of the AAMA for candidates for exam to have graduated from an accredited program reflects quality training.
4. Certified Medical Assistants can get better pay than non-certified medical assistants.
5. Certification to prove competency is not now required by all states but is on the horizon with changes and accountability in the healthcare area.
6. Certification demonstrates seriousness in providing quality patient care and makes the medical assistant more employable.
7. Hospitals in some states hire CMAs to perform clinical and clerical duties. This helps to lower the risk of malpractice and improves Joint Commission' evaluations.
8. Certification aids in confirming mastery of knowledge and skill needed to perform duties and aids in demonstrating competency.
9. Certified Medical Assistants (CMA) are required to obtain 60 continuing education units (CEU) in a 5 year period with 10 in General, 10 in Administrative, 10 in Clinical and the other 30 in any of the 3 categories. This is necessary to keep the CMA credential active. This requirement allows the CMA to broaden their knowledge base through further education.
10. Being a CMA helps to gain respect from other healthcare professionals with the CMA's demonstration of clinical and administrative knowledge.

### [AAMA CONFERENCE 2022](#)

The 66th AAMA Annual Conference will be held October 21-24, 2022 at the Marriott Myrtle Beach Resort and Spa @ Grande Dune on the beach in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Complete information and registration can be found on the AAMA website at [aama-ntl.org](http://aama-ntl.org)

### [Kentucky Society of Medical Assistants \(KSMA\) BOT Meeting](#)

The next scheduled KSMA Board of Trustee meeting is scheduled for July 23, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. through the Zoom platform. Watch the [kentuckymedicalassistants.com](http://kentuckymedicalassistants.com) website and facebook for the link to the meeting closer to the meeting date.



Published May 2022