

70th AAMA Annual Conference

SEPTEMBER 14–17, 2026 | RENO, NEVADA

GRAND SIERRA RESORT AND CASINO

70 AAMA 70TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE | RENO, NEVADA

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANTS®

AGENDA OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

	12–4 PM	Educator Preconference Workshop	Cyrstal 3 & 4
	3–7 PM	Registration Open	CRD 1 & 2

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

	7–8:30 AM	Networking Breakfast	Tahoe
	7 AM–5:30 PM	Registration Open	CRD 1 & 2
	8 AM–5 PM	Medical Assisting Education Review Board Workshop	Crystal 3 & 4
	8–9:30 AM	**The Importance of Colorectal Cancer Screening** (1.5 CG)	Carson 1 & 2
	8–9:30 AM	**What Works Best: Translating Visible Learning Research into Student Engagement Success** (1.5 G)	Carson 3 & 4
	9–11 AM	Exhibitors Hall	Grand Salon
	9 AM–12 PM	Open Session of the Board of Trustees	Crystal 1 & 2
	10–11:30 AM	**Artificial Intelligence** (1.5 AG)	Crystal 5
	10–11:30 AM	**Sun Safety and Skin Cancer Prevention** (1.5 CG)	Carson 1 & 2
	10–11:30 AM	**LEAP Forum** (1.5 G)	Carson 3 & 4
	1:30–5:30 PM	Exhibitors Hall	Grand Salon
	1:30–3 PM	**Knowledge Bowl** (1.5 ACG)	Reno Ballroom
	3:30–5 PM	**Improving Care for Individuals with an FASD: Guidance for Medical Assistants in Health Care Settings** (1.5 ACG)	Carson 1 & 2
	3:30–5 PM	**Naloxone** (1.5 CG)	Carson 3 & 4
	5:45–6:30 PM	Mix and Mingle Reception	Tahoe
	6:30–10 PM	Welcome and 70th Anniversary Celebration	Reno Ballroom

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

	7–8:30 AM	Networking Breakfast	Tahoe
	7 AM–5:30 PM	Registration Open	CRD 1 & 2
	7:15–8:15 AM	Credentials Desk Open	Grand Salon
	8–9:30 AM	**TBA**	Crystal 1 & 2
	8:30–10 AM	House of Delegates	Reno Ballroom
	9–11 AM	Exhibitors Hall	Grand Salon

CEU Category Codes: A = Administrative • C = Clinical • G = General

Room assignments may be subject to change on-site. Check the daily newsletter for changes.

	10–11:30 AM	**Effective Team Communication** (1.5 AG)	Crystal 3 & 4
	10:15–11:30 AM	Meet the Candidates	Reno Ballroom
	12:45–2:15 PM	**Motivational Interviewing in Health Care** (1.5 G)	Crystal 1 & 2
	1:15–2:15 PM	Reference Committee Hearings	Tahoe
	1:30–5:30 PM	Exhibitors Hall	Grand Salon
	2:45–4:15 PM	**Avoiding Burnout** (1.5 G)	Crystal 3 & 4
	5:30–6:15 PM	Credentials Desk Open	Grand Salon
	6:30–10 PM	House of Delegates Reconvenes	Reno Ballroom

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

	7–8:30 AM	Networking Breakfast	Tahoe
	8–9:30 AM	**Human Trafficking** (1.5 ACG)	Carson 1 & 2
	8–9:30 AM	**Exploring Augmented and Virtual Reality in Health Education: Opportunities and Challenges** (1.5 G)	Carson 3 & 4
	10–11:30 AM	**Therapy Dogs** (1.5 CG)	Carson 1 & 2
	10–11:30 AM	**Trauma-Informed Care** (1.5 CG)	Carson 3 & 4
	12:45–2:15 PM	**Strong Enough for the Job: Building Healthier Habits for You and the Patients You Serve** (1.5 CG)	Carson 1 & 2
	12:45–2:15 PM	State Leaders *(Open to all state and chapter officers)*	Reno Ballroom
	2:30–4 PM	**Medical Assisting Review Board Forum** (1.5 G)	Crystal 1 & 2
	2:30–4 PM	**Tribal Liaisons** (1.5 AG)	Carson 3 & 4
	5:45–6:30 PM	Mix and Mingle	Tahoe
	6:30–10 PM	Presidents Banquet *(Cocktail attire is the dress code for this event.)*	Reno Ballroom

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

	8–9:30 AM	**The Many Faces of Dementia** (1.5 CG)	Carson 1 & 2
	8–9:30 AM	**The Importance of Employee Retention** (1.5 A)	Carson 3 & 4
	9:45–11:15 AM	**Designing Curricula That Address Environmental and Ethical Obstacles** (1.5 G)	Carson 1 & 2
	9:45–11:15 AM	**Suicide Risk Assessment** (1.5 CG)	Carson 3 & 4
	11:30 AM–12 PM	Final Act: Celebrate, Connect, Continue	Reno Ballroom

HOUSE OF DELEGATES AGENDA

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

8:30–10 AM

Call to Order
Jane Seelig, CMA-A (AAMA), Speaker of the House

Opening Ceremonies

Credentials Chair Report

Adoption of House Rules
Aimee Quinn, CMA (AAMA), Vice Speaker of the House

Supplemental Report
Virginia Thomas, CMA (AAMA), President
Annie Storey, MS, CAE, Executive Director

Nominating Committee Report
Monica Case, CMA (AAMA), Nominating Committee Chair

Nominations from Floor
Jane Seelig, CMA-A (AAMA), Speaker of the House

6:30–10 PM

Call to Order
Jane Seelig, CMA-A (AAMA), Speaker of the House

Credentials Chair Report

Voting
Officers, Trustees, Nominating Committee

Reference Committee Reports
- Reports
- Bylaws
- Resolutions

Good and Welfare Statements
(Note: Only 10 minutes allowed.)

INFO TO KNOW

Recordings Prohibited
Audio and video recordings of the House of Delegates, Meet the Candidates, and Reference Committees are strictly prohibited.

Program Content
The continuing education programs at this conference have been approved by the Continuing Education Board for continuing education units (CEUs). Granting approval in no way constitutes endorsement by the AAMA of either the program's content or facilitator.

Join, Renew, and Recertify
Attendees can pay their annual membership dues and recertify their CMA (AAMA) credential—if all CEU requirements have been met—at the AAMA Registration Desk.

Vegetarian Meals
Vegetarian meals are available upon request from your server at all conference meals.

Allergy Alert
As part of our reasonable efforts to accommodate the needs of all conference attendees, we respectfully request that you do not bring any peanut products into the conference. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Photos
Photos of attendees will be taken throughout the conference and may be used by the AAMA for promotional purposes in printed and/or electronic format.



Tag us! #AAMA2026
#AAMA2026Conference

CE SESSIONS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

The Importance of Colorectal Cancer Screening

Exact Sciences (now Abbott)–Featured Session

8–9:30 AM | CARSON 1 & 2

Review the importance of colorectal cancer screening and tools and resources that medical assistants can use in clinical care and community health settings. Build skills and knowledge to be better equipped to support patients through the colorectal cancer screening continuum. **(1.5 CG)**

What Works Best: Translating Visible Learning Research into Student Engagement Success

8–9:30 AM | CARSON 3 & 4

Explore how medical assisting educators can use John Hattie's Visible Learning research to intentionally design learning experiences that maximize student engagement and achievement. Examine high-impact practices such as teacher clarity, feedback, metacognitive strategies, and structured discussion to help students take greater ownership of their learning. Discover practical, ready-to-implement techniques tailored to the hands-on, fast-paced environment of medical assisting education. **(1.5 G)**

Artificial Intelligence

Cengage–Featured Session

10–11:30 AM | CRYSTAL 5

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming health care and education. While AI may raise concerns, it also provides powerful tools to enhance learning, improve efficiency, and better prepare medical assistants for modern clinical environments. Explore practical ways AI can support medical assistants and their practices. Gain insight into responsible AI integration, ethical considerations, and how medical assistants can leverage technology while preserving the compassion, critical thinking, and human connection essential to patient care. **(1.5 AG)**

Sun Safety and Skin Cancer Prevention

The Sun Bus–Featured Session

10–11:30 AM | CARSON 1 & 2

Learn about sun safety and skin cancer prevention. Discover the Sun Bus's mission, activities, and outcomes. Also, gain an introduction to ODD SPOT, the Sun Bus's new educational mnemonic designed to improve skin cancer awareness and early detection. **(1.5 CG)**

LEAP Forum

10–11:30 AM | CARSON 3 & 4

LEAP (Leaders in Education and Practice) is a task force that focuses on educators and topics related to the education of medical assisting students.

This seminar will include one or two topics that have been selected by the task force members from what is happening in the classroom currently, suggestions from attendees, and committee members. Our goal is participation from those in attendance, discussion, and networking with educators from other states. **(1.5 G)**

Attend the Welcome and 70th Anniversary Celebration!

Monday at 6:30 PM in the Reno Ballroom

Knowledge Bowl

1:30–3 PM | RENO BALLROOM

This popular session is infotainment for medical assistants, as you will have fun and learn at the same time. Compete with your colleagues to see how much you know about and what you do every day, or just come and cheer the teams on! **(1.5 ACG)**

Improving Care for Individuals with an FASD: Guidance for Medical Assistants in Health Care Settings

Center for the Application of Substance Abuse Technologies–Featured Session

3:30–5 PM | CARSON 1 & 2

Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASDs) are lifelong conditions that may involve physical, behavioral, and cognitive challenges. Learn about the lived experiences of individuals with FASDs and the important role medical assistants play in supporting those affected by prenatal alcohol exposure. Discover how an FASD can influence education, employment, housing stability, social relationships, and involvement with the justice system. Gain practical, person-centered, and strength-based strategies for improving care for individuals with FASDs, including effective communication, appropriate accommodations, tailored referrals, and support for daily living needs. **(1.5 ACG)**

Naloxone

3:30–5 PM | CARSON 3 & 4

Acquire essential skills to prevent opioid overdose deaths and become empowered to act confidently and effectively in life-saving situations.

Receive step-by-step instruction on how to recognize and respond to an overdose, including the administration of naloxone (Narcan), rescue breathing, and aftercare until emergency services arrive. And learn the basics of the legal protections available for individuals who assist during an overdose emergency. **(1.5 CG)**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

TBA

8–9:30 AM | CRYSTAL 1 & 2

Check the app for CE session information.

Effective Team Communication

10–11:30 AM | CRYSTAL 3 & 4

Effective communication is essential for teams, but people do not always feel comfortable sharing their ideas, concerns, or expertise at work. Why do people sometimes choose silence over speaking up? Explore communication barriers—including incivility, relationship conflict, and interpersonal risk—and discuss practical strategies teams can use to reduce silence and harmful conflict. **(1.5 AG)**

Motivational Interviewing in Health Care

12:45–2:15 PM | CRYSTAL 1 & 2

Motivational interviewing is a clinical approach to engaging patients in a wide range of behavioral changes and a powerful tool for gathering information from patients and encouraging engagement. Examine an overview of motivational interviewing, its four processes, and steps to effective motivational interviewing in the clinical setting. Learn how to integrate motivational interviewing into your practice. **(1.5 G)**

Avoiding Burnout

2:45–4:15 PM | CRYSTAL 3 & 4

Burnout can be a significant issue in the health care field. Learn how and why burnout occurs, as well as tips for prevention. Recognize when individuals are starting to feel burned out. Learn how to reach out and know when and how to turn to an employer for help. **(1.5 G)**

CE SESSIONS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Human Trafficking

8–9:30 AM | CARSON 1 & 2

Traffickers disproportionately target at-risk populations, including individuals who have experienced or been exposed to other forms of violence and individuals disconnected from stable support networks. Notably, victims of human trafficking can be anyone. Gain an overview of human trafficking, including its many types. Review medical assistants' role when human trafficking is suspected. Learn signs to look for that may be indicative of involvement in trafficking. **(1.5 ACG)**

Exploring Augmented and Virtual Reality in Health Education: Opportunities and Challenges

8–9:30 AM | CARSON 3 & 4

Learn about the latest technological advancements and how these immersive tools can enhance teaching and learning experiences in medical assisting and other health-related fields. Discuss the positive uses of augmented reality and virtual reality in the classroom, such as interactive simulations, enhanced visualization, and safe practice environments. Identify potential challenges and limitations, including accessibility, cost, and technical issues. Receive valuable insights into integrating augmented reality and virtual reality into curricula to improve student engagement, comprehension, and skill development. **(1.5 G)**

Therapy Dogs

10–11:30 AM | CARSON 1 & 2

Learn the distinctions between therapy dogs, service dogs, and emotional support animals. Explore their training requirements and the legal rights associated with utilizing these animals. **(1.5 CG)**

Presidents Banquet

Usher in the new association year at this inaugural event.

Wednesday at 6:30 PM in the Reno Ballroom

Trauma-Informed Care

10–11:30 AM | CARSON 3 & 4

Trauma-informed care is a strengths-based approach that recognizes the widespread impact of trauma and prioritizes physical, emotional, and psychological safety for those receiving support. By understanding trauma's effects and avoiding re-traumatization, this approach fosters healing, resilience, and a greater sense of control for individuals. Identify how trauma affects the brain, body, behavior, and relationships, and explain the difference between trauma-specific services and trauma-informed approaches. Examine the key principles of trauma-informed care, recognize common trauma responses, and demonstrate communication and environmental strategies that reduce re-traumatization and strengthen a sense of safety and connection. **(1.5 CG)**

Strong Enough for the Job: Building Healthier Habits for You and the Patients You Serve

12:45–2:15 PM | CARSON 1 & 2

Explore the role of nutrition, strength training, and recovery in supporting long-term wellness. Develop an individualized, sustainable action plan incorporating nutrition, strength training, and daily movement habits that can be maintained within a busy health care professional's lifestyle. And identify opportunities to reinforce healthy behaviors with patients by using supportive, behavior-focused conversations around nutrition, physical activity, strength, and sustainable weight management. **(1.5 CG)**

MAERB Forum

2:30–4 PM | CRYSTAL 1 & 2

The Medical Assisting Education Review Board (MAERB) Forum is designed for program directors and instructional staff of Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP)–accredited medical assisting programs, as well as administrators overseeing such programs. Other educators may find the discussion useful.

The MAERB Forum focuses on educators and their role in educating entry-level medical assistants within the framework of CAAHEP programmatic accreditation. MAERB will continue its networking initiatives to build connections among the program directors of CAAHEP-accredited programs. Learn about the response to educators' suggestions for improvement in the accreditation process, the Annual Report Form, and CAAHEP's required outcomes. Look at quality improvement and its role in educational programs. **(1.5 G)**

Chair: *Rebecca Dail, AAS, CMA (AAMA)*

Vice Chair: *Marianne Van Deursen, EdD, CMA (AAMA)*

Sarah Chojnacki, MS, CMA (AAMA)

Christine Dzoga, BS, CMA (AAMA)

Bobbi Fields, EdD, CMA (AAMA)

Jo Penning, BS, CMA (AAMA)

Micheal Randolph, EdD, RMA (AMT), RDCS

Firdous Remita, MD, CPT, RMA (AMT)

Amber Schappaugh, DM-HCML, CMA (AAMA), AHI, MA, RMA

Nancy Szwydek, MPH, RN, RHIA, RMA (AMT), CRAT, CMAC

The Gathering

Attend this support event for attendees who have experienced cancer.

This group will meet Wednesday, September 16, at 10 AM in Crystal 5.

Tribal Liaisons

2:30–4 PM | CARSON 3 & 4

The Nevada Department of Human Services is committed to partnering with the state's 28 federally recognized tribes through a Tribal Consultation Process Agreement. This coordination establishes and strengthens ties with tribal governments and provides education and outreach. Liaisons will be joined by a colleague from the Nevada Health Department who works with these same tribes related to state and federal health care programs. Learn the names and locations of some of the unique tribes in Nevada and the geographical challenges covering the entire state. See how liaisons assist tribes in navigating state and federal regulations while respecting tribal traditions. Review partnership challenges and successes, as well as specific state and federal tribal health care programs. **(1.5 AG)**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

The Many Faces of Dementia

8–9:30 AM | CARSON 1 & 2

Dementia is a term for several conditions involving cognitive impairment, with symptoms that include memory loss, personality changes, and issues with language, communication, and thinking. Dementia causes serious impairment and can hugely impact the quality of life. Understand the basics of dementia and how it is different from normal age-related decline. Identify the most common types of dementia and recognize their symptoms and stages. Learn about risk factors, steps to prevent dementia, the diagnostic process, and treatment options. Discover useful resources. **(1.5 CG)**

The Importance of Employee Retention

8–9:30 AM | CARSON 3 & 4

Discuss the financial implications of employee turnover. Evaluate the onboarding process and how it sets the tone for the employment experience. Explore how

consistent training and educational opportunities can help retain employees. Discuss how market adjustments for salary and company culture may contribute to employee retention. Learn how to use employee satisfaction surveys, exit interviews, and feedback from interviewees who have declined job offers to increase retention and recruitment. **(1.5 A)**

Designing Curricula That Address Environmental and Ethical Obstacles

9:45–11:15 AM | CARSON 1 & 2

Discover the importance of integrating sustainability and social responsibility into medical assisting education, and understand their relevance to health care. Learn how to design curriculum elements that incorporate sustainability principles, and develop instructional strategies to teach social responsibility, including modules on patient advocacy, cultural competence, and ethical considerations in health care delivery. Use case studies and real-world examples to illustrate the impact of sustainable and socially responsible practices in health care, facilitating classroom discussions and critical thinking exercises. Finally, explore methods for engaging students in sustainability and social responsibility initiatives. **(1.5 G)**

Suicide Risk Assessment

9:45–11:15 AM | CARSON 3 & 4

Suicide is a serious public health problem, with suicide rates increasing 36% between 2000 and 2022, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It affects people of all ages and cultural groups and has a far-reaching impact. It is crucial for practitioners to assess a patient's risk of suicide. Define suicidality terminology and differentiate passive versus active ideations. Develop communication strategies that convey compassion and support. Learn to assess an individual's risk of suicide using the Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale and use a multifactorial assessment process that identifies risk and protective factors. Recognize the key indicators of low, moderate, and high risk for suicide and determine interventions based on the level of risk. Improve confidence for interventions in a suicidal crisis. **(1.5 CG)**

Enjoy Continental Breakfasts

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday

Beginning at 7 AM in Tahoe

Join Us for The Final Act: Celebrate, Connect, Continue

Starting at 11:30 AM in the Reno Ballroom

You don't want to miss this farewell!

Visit the AAMA Conference Store

Grab a sweatshirt, t-shirt, tumbler, and more from our on-site store featuring all brand-new official AAMA merchandise!

Be courteous to guest speakers and fellow attendees.

Conduct conversations in the hallways or lobbies.