

## Archive of 2020–2021 State Leader Spotlights

*Presented in alphabetical order by state*

### Kentucky



**Sharon Runyon, AAS, CMA (AAMA), CPC**

*2020–2021 Kentucky Society of Medical Assistants President*

**What is one characteristic you believe all leaders should possess?**

All leaders should be a team member and be willing to work side by side with the individuals they lead. A good leader is approachable.

**What advice would you give to a new leader?**

Be confident. If you allow yourself to be insecure it will show to others. Accept the challenge and dedicate yourself to performing to the best of your ability.

**How did someone, such as a mentor, influence you to take a leadership role?**

Kathleen Moore, BSN, RN, CMA-ACP (AAMA), of Georgia influenced me to take a leadership role on the national level when I was asked to chair the Certifying Board. She encouraged and inspired me to be my best self and always offered support and advice at just the right times.

### Minnesota



**Lisa Sailor, MS, CMA (AAMA)**

*2020–2021 Minnesota Society of Medical Assistants (MSMA) President and  
2019–2021 Central Lakes Chapter President*

**What is one characteristic you believe all leaders should possess?**

I believe a good leader should have the ability to be self-motivating. As leaders, [some of] our many goals are to keep the team motivated and focused ... [and motivate] members to take active roles within the organization. As a leader, we need to be able to motivate ourselves in order to encourage others to take on a leadership role within the state.

**What has been the most rewarding aspect of your AAMA volunteer leadership experience?**

Great question! So many to pick from, but I believe that the most rewarding aspect is [that] I was given the opportunity to meet and network with medical assistants [with different certifications and education backgrounds] ... from Minnesota and from all over the United States. Meeting so many people has assisted me in educating others about being a great Certified Medical Assistant® (AAMA).

**What advice would you give to a new leader?**

[My] No. 1 advice is to be honest. My goal is to always have good communication within the leadership and with the state [society]. Keep your meetings short and straight to the point. Listen to what your state members want in their state society and investigate it. Don't be afraid to ask questions.

**What is one thing you've done as a leader that you would do differently?**

2020 [for me] has been [about] ... patience and learning new things. Learning how to conduct a CEU [event] on Zoom for the first time, I wish I would of practice tested it before we conducted our first CEU [event]. But we did it—with many bumps ... but we *did it!*

**What have you done to make yourself approachable to new members of your state society?**

As president-elect, I would go around the conference room, introducing myself to members. As president, I created a state president email account where members can email me, and I will respond within 24–48 hours of them emailing. And MSMA purchased name tags to wear when we go back to in-person events.

**How have the people in your life helped you become the leader you are today?**

I must give the credit to my medical assistant program director/instructor. My instructor is the person who made me the person I am today. I only want to give back what she gave to me. She gave me the knowledge and the passion to be a great medical assistant. I had the determination and drive, and I was willing to go that extra mile to become a great medical assistant.

## Nebraska



**Angela Eytcheson, CMA (AAMA)**

*2020–2021 Nebraska Society of Medical Assistants (NSMA) President*

**What is the one characteristic you believe all leaders should possess?**

To be a good leader, you need to have good communication and listening skills. If you are unable to successfully communicate with your peers, it would be very difficult to be an effective leader.

**What advice would you give to a new leader?**

The best advice to give to new leaders is to learn as much as you can from your fellow medical assistants and those in the leadership [positions] of your chapter, state [society], and national [association(s)].

**What has been the most rewarding aspect of your AAMA volunteer leadership experience?**

The most rewarding aspect of my AAMA volunteer leadership experience has been the knowledge I have acquired from working with my fellow medical assistants. I have enjoyed meeting new people and learning the business side of the AAMA at the chapter, state, and national levels.

## New Hampshire



**Brian Stimpson Sr., CMA (AAMA)**

*2020–2021 New Hampshire State Society of Medical Assistants (NHSMA) President*

**How did someone, such as a mentor, influence you to take a leadership role?**

Our board members have all been encouraging and supportive since my very first board meeting. They have challenged me to take on increasing responsibilities each year. They lift me up when I doubt myself, give me the encouragement and drive to succeed, and rein me in when necessary.

**What have you done to make yourself approachable to new members of your state society?**

I love speaking to medical assisting students at local colleges, highlighting professionalism and AAMA membership. My first position on the board was ambassador. In this role, I formed partnerships with local hospitals for CEU [continuing education unit] events, invited every medical assistant I could find, then greeted attendees at the door on arrival, inviting all to join the AAMA.

**How have the people in your life helped you become the leader you are today?**

There have been many great leaders in the nearly 40 years I have been in the workforce. NHSMA Vice President Todd Magee, CMA (AAMA), is my mentor at work. His leadership style has made a big impact in my life, making me a much better person and leader. I often joke that I want to be like him when I grow up, though I am older.

## Ohio



**Julie Fogt, CMA (AAMA)**

*2020–2021 Ohio State Society of Medical Assistants (OSSMA) President*

**What has been the best advice given to you by a mentor or another AAMA leader?**

Step up and outside your comfort box. Don't let the fear of failure keep you in that box. Each and every member's voice is important. When in doubt, always look it up.

**How did someone, such as a mentor, influence you to take a leadership role?**

By encouraging me to take those first steps from the moment I walked into my first chapter meeting as a student (might I add this was extra points for my class). From that moment on, as I got comfortable in my roles, there was a small but well-placed nudge to move on to the next step—all the way to where I am at today: OSSMA president.

**What advice would you give to a new leader?**

Put your personal feeling aside. You're not going to make everyone happy. And, always be respectful.

## Utah



**Angela Belnap, CMA (AAMA), DHPE**

*2020–2021 Utah State Society of Medical Assistants (USSMA) President*

**What has been the most rewarding aspect of your AAMA volunteer leadership experience?**

By far the most rewarding thing is connecting with others. I love the opportunities I get as a leader to help other medical assistants. Be it providing job options, helping with recertification, or answering a question regarding scope of practice: I love being able to help!

**How do you encourage and inspire others to take active roles?**

The leader is not the person who does everything. People want to be helpful, to be involved, to be responsible. Let them. Often the best inspiration is support in their actions and recognition for a job well done.

**What is one thing you've done as a leader that you would do differently?**

Provide praise and recognition more! There cannot be enough said on the wonders praise and recognition can do for [others'] motivation and willingness to step in and do more. Do not get caught up in what needs to be done and forget to recognize what people have accomplished.

## Virginia



**Karen Nichols-Skoff, CMA (AAMA)**

*2020–2021 Virginia Society of Medical Assistants (VSMA) President*

**What is one characteristic you believe all leaders should possess?**

A positive helping attitude.

**How do you encourage and inspire others to take active roles?**

I like to encourage others by providing them with information about the roles and aiding their confidence that they can do it—that they have the ability.

**What advice would you give to a new leader?**

Ask for assistance from those who have been there and done this before. They are more than happy to help you.