



THE OBSERVER

Volume 139
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President's Message

As I reflect on our 30th annual conference and my two years as President, all I can say is OH MY GOODNESS! Many years ago, Nancy Kaiserman and I met with Carolyn Rich to discuss her ambitious plan for our association. I'm proud to say we've never waivered in our commitment to TMAA. Now, look at how far we've come.

But this is not my journey alone. Mary Barrientos and Cathy Mezmar stepped up to make the TMAA 2016 conference happen. Nancy Odom took on the role of Secretary, with absolutely no heads-up notice. President-Elect Gaye McClellan assumed Newsletter Chair at a moment's notice. I extend a VERY sincere THANK YOU!! ALL of our active board members contributed to our association's success. I am SO proud of everyone's service.

A special THANK YOU to our Past President Shonna Macaulay for her guidance and dedication. More than a strong shoulder to cry on, you continue to be a lifesaver!!!

To TMAA members, thank you, thank you, THANK YOU for all the hugs and positive comments at the conference. You TRULY made this term even more special! I KNOW you will extend that same, great TMAA spirit and support to our incoming president, Gaye McClellan.

TMAA is in great hands with Gaye. I'm excited to hear the new ideas she will bring to the table.

This association is a tight-knit group and as Debbie Hewitt stated, that fellowship, those hugs, and support are what get many of us through both TMAA trials but life, as well. At its core TMAA is about professional development and growth, both inside and outside of our association. Our relationships and our support for one-another is the key to TMAA success.

I am honored to continue to serve on the TMAA Board, my phone still rings and my door is always open. Again, THANK YOU, for the privilege of serving as your TMAA President!

Onward and Upward and GOD BLESS!



Linda Hutchinson, RN

Gratitude and Challenges

Happy New Year! It is with some trepidation that I introduce myself as your 2017 TMAA President. I would be remiss if I failed to thank Linda Hutchison and Shonna Macaulay for their encouragement and support, Debbie Braddock for her patience as I taught myself the nuances of newsletter formatting, and all the TMAA board members who took the time from all their other obligations and pursuits to contribute to the TMAA newsletter. I would've been lost without you all.

Now I have a big *ask* for TMAA members.

Like many of you, I have gained so much from my membership in TMAA, from professional development to social enrichment and I am committed to TMAA's continued growth and development. I need your help. Will you help me to help TMAA?

We face many challenges, from retiring members to decreasing employer participation. Your TMAA board continues to work at providing the greatest service to members while striving to keep costs low. But we cannot do it alone.

TMAA needs you. We need new voices on the board. As great as our annual conference is, we endeavor to exceed ourselves and we need your participation. We need your stories and concerns and interests in the TMAA newsletter. Please consider putting your hat in the ring for TMAA board positions.

Do you have ideas for the conference or newsletter? Do you see areas for improvement? Please, let me know. I can be reached at the email address in the TMAA directory and I am listening for ways to grow membership and make our association stronger for all members.

Do you like our newsletter, our CEUs, and our annual conference? Please, take a moment to reach out to your coworkers and auditing fellows, tell them about TMAA. Give them an application. If you've asked them before, please, ask them to join again. Your friends and fellows may not join if you ask but I can guarantee that they won't join if you don't ask.

As we embrace 2017, I look forward to serving you as your president.

Excelsior!



Gaye McClellan, RN
President Elect

Highlights From the TMAA 30th Anniversary Celebration

Thursday evening following our opening-day seminar was a fun and festive celebration. Current and past members of TMAA were treated to drinks and dinner as we celebrated 30 years as a professional organization.



Dinner included chips and queso, beef and chicken fajitas with all the trimmings, and cheesecake for dessert. Beer, wine, and tea selections complimented the dinner.

We were so pleased to see so many of our retired members return to celebrate with us. Laughter, reminiscing, and conversations filled the hotel bar and dining room.

Everywhere you looked TMAA members were enjoying fellowship and celebrating our organization! Some members even stayed to top off the evening with table games.

But don't take my word for it. You can see all the fun in photos from the event. Take a look to see the fun we had and see who you might recognize by visiting the TMAA website.

Thank you TMAA for a fun evening and cheers to many more years to come. Long live TMAA!!



Debbie Braddock
Website Coordinator

Election Results for 2017 Board:

President:	Gaye McClellan
Vice President:	Neta Morse
Past President:	Linda Hutchinson
Secretary:	Sharia Stabler
Treasurer:	Barb Thompson
Bylaws:	Shonna Macaulay
Event Planner:	Deb Moore
Historian:	Nancy Odom
Membership:	Debbie Braddock
Newsletter:	Katrina Fleming
Nominations:	Lupita Flores and Leticia Roth
Nurse Planner:	Connie Vaughan
Programs:	Shirley Combs
Website:	Debbie Braddock



Kindness: The Cure for Concerns

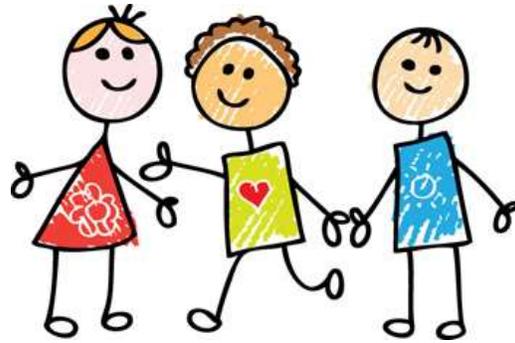
September 2016 Annual Board Report

In the past year I have heard the following:

- Both internal and external frustrations remain the same.
- Internal and external express concern with “skyrocketing” healthcare costs.
- Financial limits—as well as state implementation of the ACA—continue to determine access to healthcare.
- Mismanagement and neglect of employee healthcare and pension plans continue to imperil retirement security.
- Technical advances, while improving outcomes, continue to diminish if not entirely remove the “human side,” of patient care.

These are just a few of the concerns I’ve sounded out in TMAA conversations from the facilities we work in.

None of us have a crystal ball to glean the challenges the New Year and new administration will bring. We do have an association that can help separate the fact from perceptions and misinformation. We can further support each other with a “strong shoulder” and basic kindness.



Make a phone call instead of sending a text to offer a human voice and an ear. Offer a hug in addition to “thoughts,” and you’ll make someone’s day. Actively listening to someone can lighten their burden.

This may not seem very “Vice Presidential,” but we are in a field of service, both to the facilities and organizations that pay us as well as to the very real people behind those charges, accounts, and bills. We are the humanity in healthcare.

Friends, family, and coworkers have extended these kindnesses to us every day. Pass it on to others. It will do them and you a world of good.

My successor, Neta Morse, is more than qualified to take on the tasks of service to the TMAA board and members. I know she will extend an ear, a shoulder, and a spirit of service—exactly what TMAA is all about.

In closing, I want to thank each and every one of you for your support. It has been my honor to be a part of the TMAA Board.



Debbie Hewitt, RN, BSN, CMAS
Vice President



The TMAA, 2017 Conference

We are pleased to announce the 2017 TMAA conference will be in Austin, Texas. The board is still evaluating accommodations and reviewing the Austin events calendar to insure the best value for your dollar. We welcome—indeed, we ASK—for any suggestions from any TMAA members with the “inside” scoop on Austin.



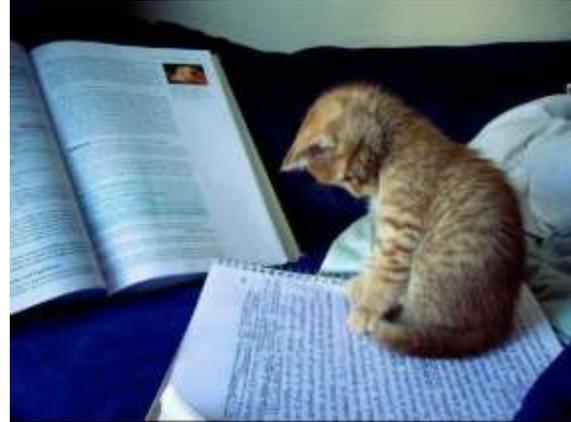
**Debra Moore, RN, CMAS
Event Coordinator**



Editor's Notes

As I close out my final newsletter as editor, I want to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for your patience,

guidance, and participation. Like many of you, I felt more than a little trepidation at the prospects of contributing to a newsletter read by all my peers.



Deadlines were blown. There were typos. Participles did dangle. Yes, I had a little too much fun with the clipart and photos. More importantly, I learned a lot from all of you.

I know, Katrina Fleming, our next newsletter editor will have as much fun as I did. I also know she will enjoy the support of the TMAA Board and membership. So, if you have an idea for an article, please, submit to it to her at:

ktfleming@baptisthealthsystem.com

Katrina will be glad you did.

Thank you, again, for all of your support and two fun years as newsletter editor. See you all in the funny papers.



**Gaye McClellan, RN
Newsletter Chair**

President Elect



Membership Memo

At the end of 2016, there are 54 members in our organization. Our profession and our association are evolving. Retirements and a lack of employer-funded education has resulted in decreased membership.

However, TMAA stays strong and we are dedicated to our organization, and member success. New members motivate us to work even harder.



Please welcome the newest members of 2016:

- Janice Brewer, Illinois
- Chris Bryant, Illinois
- Susan Geske, California
- Sarah Gill, Illinois
- Mary B. Ingram, Texas

Several of our new fellows joined us at our 2016 TMAA Conference. I know I speak for many of our members and the TMAA Board when I say it was great getting to know you. We welcome each and every one of you and hope you continue your auditing career with TMAA.

Each of you should have received your 2016 photo directory. Those at the seminar were handed it personally, and all others were mailed shortly thereafter. I hope you use it as much as I do, and enjoy seeing the highlights from TMAA in the last 5 years. This was our third such book to store member's faces and capture eventful memories.

There is one last page of member information to add to your directory, enclosed inside this newsletter. Please print and include it in your directory to make it complete. The information is from one of our charter members, Mary Ingram, who rejoined TMAA while attending the celebration party. So happy to see her back with us!

This wraps up our 2016 Membership Memo. I will continue to be the Membership Chair under the new TMAA President, Gaye McClellan and I look forward to working with all of you in the future.



**Debbie Braddock,
Membership Chair**

Presidential Election Brings Changes



SO.... we have a NEW PRESIDENT.... NOW WHAT?? WHAT will happen to our JOBS? What will happen to Auditing?

Well, we don't know everything yet (or details on ANYTHING really), but I can tell you what I suspect as a corporate owner in this awesome arena for over 25 years .

There will be CHANGES... and then some of those CHANGES will CHANGE! Had we gone to Socialized Medicine with Bernie, it would have likely been way different.... but with businesses coming back (Tim and I still own our medical cost containment corporation, so we stay in the loop), and employees needing healthcare that the employers can afford due to their decrease in taxes, I see auditing as doing a big time resurgence! WHO better to help and monitor the charges and changes that Nurse Auditors????

I'm excited! No matter how we felt months ago, now we hold our heads high, we focus on the positive, and we MOVE FORWARD!

Linda Hutchinson, RN
President

Website News



Last look of the 2016 happenings posted on the TMAA Website. We now have a current picture of the Board that served you this past year on the Home Page. Since fewer on-site board meetings are conducted (to conserve costs), the board only met in person once last year which was in February. Since then some positions had changed hands and an updated picture was never taken. Now you can see who it was that helped make TMAA thrive and produce such a wonderful seminar. You will also find pictures of our guest speakers from the recent seminar under the “Events Tab”. And lastly, take a few minutes to view the pictures that were taken during the two day event. We all had good time learning, laughing and enjoying each other’s company. The 30th year evening celebration was also very fun and lighthearted, and so good seeing some TMAA veteran faces that joined us for the evening. So, sit back, relax and enjoy the “Rotating Gallery” as it reminds you of the moments we shared this year. Thanks, TMAA and its supporters for a great year!!!

Debbie Braddock
Website Coordinator

TMAA 2016 Board of Directors



President: Linda Hutchinson

President Elect: Gaye McClellan

Vice President: Debbie Hewitt

Secretary: Nancy Odom

Treasurer: Linda Hempfling

Bylaws and Standards: Shonna Macaulay

Event Coordinator: Debbie Hewitt

Historian: Terri Harding

Membership: Debbie Braddock

Newsletter: Gaye McClellan

Nominations: Lupita Flores & Leticia Roth

Nurse Planner: Cathy Mezmar

Programs: Mary Barrientos

Website: Debbie Braddock

Parliamentarian: Dr. Martha Hahn

Highlights of the 2016 TMAA Seminar:



Additional Member for 2016

Mary B. Ingram

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