



Texas Medical Auditors Association

President's Message

Greetings everyone!

It will not be long until the summer season is upon us. With the arrival of summer, that brings us one step closer to TMAA's annual fall conference. I for one am looking forward to it as it provides not only the necessary nursing and CMAS CEU's to keep up our licenses and certifications, but it is also a time for networking and fellowship with old and new colleagues and friends formed in this organization.

Your board met in April and May via teleconferencing and we are getting close to completing the speaker line-up. Cindy and Cathy have been working hard and Connie is already reaching out to get speaker information and outlines. I want to thank those members who have reached out and provided speaker leads as well. The board will be meeting in June via teleconference to wrap up the speakers and begin the next phase of planning for the conference.

Membership is not quite where we would like to see it at this time of the year so if you have not sent in your membership form and dues, we are patiently waiting! Debbie Braddock has sent out letters with the form included or you can download it from the website at www.tmaa.info. If you know somebody who may benefit from the organization, please drop Debbie B a line and provide their information and she will be happy to reach out to them and tell them all about us!

There will be a few suggested changes to the bylaws this year. Shonna Macaulay has gone through them and made some good suggestions to the board. Please read up on them and provide your input as this is your organization. They can be found in your TMAA directories.

I would also like to extend a personal invitation to run for one of the positions that will be open this fall, which is President-Elect and Nominating Committee. Take a leap of faith and join us. It requires just a fraction of your time. TMAA has been giving for many years and I applaud those before me that have led this organization. We need your support and commitment. So, when Julie calls or emails, please take the time to say "YES".

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!



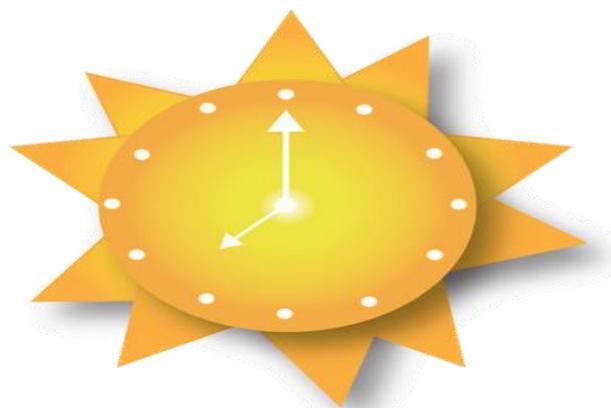
Debra Moore, RN
President

Summertime is Upon

Summertime is upon us and your board is in full swing putting together the yearly TMAA conference. Cindy Strait and Cathy Mezmar, our co-chairs of the Program Committee, are very close to filling up every time slot. We are working on securing 10 speakers on some of the topics you requested this past year as well as submitting our application to receive the necessary continuing education credits we all need to keep up our licensure/or certification renewals.

Beginning next month, I will be in full swing working on the application that must be submitted to the credentialing board of the Arizona Nurses Association. Arizona is one of the members of the newly formed Continuing Nursing Education Group (CNE Group, formerly called Western Multistate Division) that reviews and approves our seminar for CEUs. The application must be post marked no later than 5 weeks before the conference. At the same time, we must also complete an application to CCMA for our CMAS CEUs. Fingers crossed; we will have both of their determinations two weeks before our conference. Yes, a busy time for the Programs/Education Committees but it feels great when we receive the email that states we are approved.

I want to say thank you to all my fellow board members for your dedication to the organization and expending your precious time to help keep TMAA moving forward. I know I speak for all of us on the board when I say thank you as well to the members for your continued support. We truly appreciate it. We all want to keep our state chapter going for as long as we can in the ever-changing climate of healthcare.



Connie Vaughan, RN, BSN, CMAS, COC –
Nurse Planner, Chair of The Education Committee For TMAA

Hooray It's That Time Again!

Greetings TMAA! It's that time again. We are just three months away from our annual TMAA conference, September 19th, 2019. This year we are at:

Hyatt Place Sugar Land

16730 Creek Bend Dr.

Sugar Land, TX 77478

Telephone: (281) 491-0300

<https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/texas/hyatt-place-houston-sugar-land/houzs>

If you haven't already, make your reservations today. You can reserve your room by calling **TELEPHONE** or on the web at: **WEBSITE**. We have both single King and double queen rooms available. You can buddy-up or enjoy a room to yourself.

We've toured the Hyatt Place and I can't overstate how nice this hotel is. There is a grab-and-go counter and there are restaurants all around the hotel. Additionally, the hotel shuttle is your passage to countless other options.

Remember, if you need any special accommodations in rooms or should you have food allergies, please email me at gamezgay@yahoo.com with "TMAA" in the subject line or text me at 832-248-5144. Special diets and accommodations (e.g. if you need a ground floor room or vegan meal) must be requested in advance. Please contact me as noted above and I will coordinate with the hotel staff to make your stay comfortable and relaxing.

Additionally, if you want tips on places to eat or shops to visit, please don't hesitate to contact Debbie Moore and/or myself. We know restaurants serving all manner of cuisines. Both of us have frequented shops in the area and we would love to share our favorites with you.

I look forward to seeing you all in Sugar Land!



Gaye McClellan, RN
Past President, Events Coordinator



Website Wonders

Have you ever wondered if you could have been a movie star? Well, in TMAA eyes you are! We love taking pictures of you and posting them on our photo gallery inside our website. Have you checked that out...you could be there, and maybe more than once? We have so much seriousness happening in our lives every day between job stresses, family issues, and home chores, that we could use a laugh now and then. So TMAA hopes to provide that moment of joy by seeing our smiles, laughter and funny faces on the pictures posted to the rotating gallery. I hope I captured you at least once. Who knows, you may even see that new friend you met last year and recall some special moments you shared together. I must admit, we all do have lots of fun with each other while learning at each of our fall seminars. I hope you can plan on attending and see what I mean. Watch for updates during the year, we will post it so you will be in the know.

Thanks for viewing!



Debbie Braddock
Website Coordinator



Membership Memo's

Well I can tell we are all strapped for time these days due to our jobs requiring more hours than we'd like to give, but need to give, and then there is still all the home chores that must be done. The reason I say that is because our membership applications are coming in very slowly. I am still missing applications from our most senior members, so I need everyone's help to get reminders out to our fellow auditors. I too will be sending out my third membership reminder this year, but it always helps to have a verbal reminder, so please check with your co-workers to see if they already sent theirs in. We sure don't want to lose anyone, and our year is half-way over which is hard to believe. I would like to recognize some new members that are joining us this year:

Paris Branch from Dallas
Gloria Nolen from San Antonio
Robbin Pavlock from Round Rock
India Summers from Houston

Welcome to each of you to TMAA and hope to meet you later in the year at our annual fall seminar. But meanwhile if you or any member needs anything, or has suggestions for our organization, please reach out to any board member. Their contact info is all listed on the website at: www.tmaa.info.

I hope life slows down a little so you can enjoy every moment and make the most of your life filled with happy memories. Remember to take time for yourself...you deserve it.



Debbie Braddock
Membership Chair

Be on the Lookout...

Be on the Lookout for Proposed Bylaw Changes!

According to TMAA's Article 10 Bylaws Section, our bylaws shall not be altered, amended or repealed, nor shall any new bylaws be adopted except by a vote of 2/3 of the members attending a regular or special meeting of members, and then only if notice of a proposed change or addition shall have been included in the notice of the meeting.

Why are changes to the bylaws being considered? Some of our bylaws are decades old and may benefit from changes that better meet the current needs of our membership. So, in the next newsletter, I will provide a summary of proposed changes for your review. Those attending the fall conference will vote on whether to approve the proposed changes. Please take a few minutes to read through the proposed changes in the next newsletter and reach out with questions or concerns.

Submitted By: Shonna Macaulay



Shonna Macaulay
TMAA Vice President and Bylaws Committee



Email Etiquette

At one time or another, most of us have been the victim of reply-all syndrome. This happens when an email is sent to a large, poorly maintained distribution list and reply-all responses fill your inbox.

A recent BBC article shared how this syndrome at the National Health Service resulted in 140 million unnecessary emails, slowing down their network and ultimately delaying responses to their incoming inquiries. This story serves as a good reminder for how to avoid “reply-all syndrome” and other common email blunders.

Use reply-all sparingly. Only use it when it’s necessary and appropriate. And if you mistakenly receive an email as part of a large distribution list, do nothing. Don’t reply to let the sender know about the mistake or to tell others to stop replying all. Do nothing!

You can also move future messages in the conversation directly to your deleted folder by using the ignore button – simply open the email and click “ignore” under the messages tab. Be thoughtful when selecting recipients. Consider the purpose of your email and only include recipients who truly need to receive it. Use the “To,” “Cc” and “Bcc” lines appropriately.

Limit attachments. Instead, link to SharePoint sites and shared drives when possible. Email attachments take up valuable space in mailboxes and on servers. The larger the attachment, the more space it takes to store it.

Proofread your message carefully before sending. Make sure the message is clear, concise and error-free; your signature is included; and the subject line is appropriate. If needed, ask a co-worker to read your email as a fresh pair of eyes. Take a diligent, thoughtful approach when sending email – it’s a win-win scenario for the sender, recipients and your employer.



Shonna Macaulay, RN, BSN, CC

TMAA Vice President and Bylaws Chair

PROGRAMS

We are deep in the weeds of program planning. Cindy has developed the schedule and we are working hard to get speakers. So far, the topics are: Oncology (from MD Anderson), Forensic Nursing, Coding, EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing) Therapy, and fraud in billing and coding from the OIG. Novitas has been contacted and we are waiting for speaker and topic confirmation.

Please, we need your help. If you know of someone in the Houston/Sugar Land area who would be willing to speak to our group about a medical auditing topic, let us know. Members have suggested the following:

- Interventional Radiology Procedure Coding
- Modifiers – explain the different types and how to use them correctly
- STARS Rating System and Reimbursement
- ED Charges
- Thyroid Disease
- Discuss age groups currently in the workforce today (HR person)
- Women's Health
- Legal Issues in Auditing
- Bundled Labs
- CMS and Novitas – reimbursement, covered vs. non-covered, fraud, how to navigate their websites for information
- Telemedicine
- Dialysis – billing and coding
- Elder Law
- Estate planning as we head towards retirement
- Audit process



Cindy Strait, PA, CPC, COC, CMAS
Programs

Cathy Mezmar
Programs

ARCTIC SUN – TEMPERATURE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



There is a new precise and targeted way to maintain your patient's body temperature, and it is called the Arctic Sun – Temperature Management System.

Nurses are trained and checked off on how to use this system and the improved touch screen guides clinicians with a few steps.

This system is designed for fast initiation of treatment, simple programming capabilities, easy access to treatment data, and comprehensive built-in training module.

Indication for use:

Intended to monitor and control patient temperature.
Normothermia/Hypothermia cases

Performance:

Enhanced treatment algorithm from the original 2000 Arctic Sun system.
Instant status graph – patient trend indicator



Implementation:

Built-in education tutorial
Stores and will operate hospital specific protocols

Quality control:

Upgraded clinician alerts and safeguards
Noninvasive automated treatment for patient safety
Ability to access up to 10 “last” cases via USB port
Safe for: MRI, CT scan, X-Ray, and the Cath Lab

Cost Effectiveness:

Simple intuitive system helps to reduce the need to reeducate the staff
Easy to clean air filter, six-month service cycle, USB-delivered software upgrades
Avoids risk of nosocomial infections since it is non-invasive

The key component that sets the Arctic Sun system apart is the **ArcticGel Pads**. The pads feature a thin hydrogel coating that ensures contact with the patient’s skin throughout the treatment.

The conductive quality of the pads resembles water immersion. It consists of a patented three-layered construction.



The charging process for this system should be discussed with your Revenue and Materials Management department regarding reimbursement.



Julie Diggins, LVN
Nominations

Staying in Touch

Please don't forget to reach out to two of our TMAA family members, Linda Hempfling and Neta Morse. Both ladies have given so much of their time to TMAA in the past and now are retired with health issues and mostly home bound. They would love to hear from all of us, so please find a minute and send them a note. I know they would love the correspondence. Here are their addresses:

Linda Hempfling

c/o Madisonville Care Center
411 E. Collard
Madisonville, TX 77864

Neta Morse

1512 Tulip Drive
Arlington, TX 76013

Thanks,

Debbie Braddock



please keep in touch

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