

spring SDSMA MESSENGER

May 2026, Vol. 25 Issue 1



STATE CONFERENCE

Thank you to everyone who attended our annual state conference hosted at Southeast Technical College! We had a great turn out, all together virtual and in-person we had 117 attendees!

***Please verify that your CEUs have been uploaded**



- 2026 National Conference in RENO Nevada September 14th-17th

WE VALUE YOUR FEEDBACK!

1. What did you think of the venue at Southeast Tech?
2. Suggestions for future conferences
3. Speaker Suggestions

CONFERENCES AND NETWORKING

- 2026 Mid-Regional Conference in Madison, Wisconsin June 26th - 27th
- 2026 National Conference in RENO Nevada September 14th-17th
- 2027 SD State Conference - location TBD - April 2nd - 3rd
- 2027 National Conference in Kansas City, Missouri September 13th-16th

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

GIVING BACK

Delivering Hope,
Thank you to all
who participated in
gathering supplies
and monetary
donations. We
were able to raise
\$516 and help
provide numerous
filled bags



"Midwest Street Medicine is on a mission to bring healthcare directly to the people who need it most. We envision communities where all people have a chance at health and dignity where no lives are cut short by stigma."
<https://www.midweststreetmedicine.org/>

Due to the weather and cancellation of our Southeast Tech Symposium, we were also able to donate food items to Midwest Street medicine

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients! Regan Campbell from Lake Area Tech and Amanda Sadler from Southeast Tech. Your dedication, professionalism and passion for patient care continue to inspire the future of Medical Assisting!



Congratulations Graduates!

- Lake Area Technical College
- Southeast Technical College
- Mitchell Technical College

We are proud of your accomplishments and are excited to see the impact you will make in healthcare!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations, Erica Arends! Thank you for your leadership and service on the following National Boards:

- Editorial Advisory Board
- Leadership Development Board
- Practice Managers Board



2027 STATE CONFERENCE

The 2027 Annual State Conference will be held April 2nd and April 3rd 2027. More conference details to follow.

WHY CHOOSE THE AAMA?

Professional Benefits

- Access to professional networking opportunities with medical assistants across the country
- Leadership and volunteer opportunities at local, state, and national levels
- Opportunities to serve on committees, boards, and task forces
- Professional recognition and credibility within healthcare

Certification Support

- Helps support and maintain the Certified Medical Assistant (AAMA) credential
- Access to continuing education resources needed to maintain certification
- Updates on certification requirements and healthcare regulations

Continuing Education

- CEU opportunities through conferences, webinars, workshops, and publications
- State and national conference discounts
- Educational resources to stay current with healthcare trends and best practices

Career Development

- Resume-building leadership experiences
- Job boards and career resources
- Professional development training
- Access to industry news and legislative updates affecting medical assistants

Student Benefits

- Scholarships and awards opportunities
- Networking with experienced professionals
- Mentorship opportunities

Member Resources

- Access to newsletters, journals, and member publications
- Advocacy for the medical assisting profession
- National representation in healthcare discussions and policy efforts

AAMA UPDATES

- New membership plan **COMING**
 - The AAMA will soon offer a payment plan option for membership dues to help make memberships more affordable and accessible.





Be sure to check out the AAMA Podcast!

"Welcome to the American Association of Medical Assistants' Podcast! In each episode, we will explore the various aspects of medical assisting, from essential skills and qualities that make a great medical assistant to the latest advancements and legal victories for the profession. We will interview subject matter experts, discuss real-life scenarios, and share practical tips to help you navigate the challenges and triumphs of the medical assisting profession."

Link: <https://feeds.buzzsprout.com/2314257.rss>

BYLAWS UPDATE

Leadership continues to review and update bylaws to better support medical assistants.

In Fall 2025, The following bylaws were adopted:

1. AAMA proposed bylaw amendment 25-01
 - a. A national AAMA bylaws update proposed by the organization to revise or clarify governance procedures within the association.
2. AAMA proposed bylaw amendment 25-02
 - a. Another national governance amendment related to AAMA election or leadership procedures.
3. Texas state society proposed bylaw amendment Texas 25-01
 - a. This amendment changed qualifications for candidates running for an AAMA Trustee position.

Resolutions: 25-01 was adopted



We are looking for
Ways and Means
committee members
and suggestions

State Officers
2025-2027

President: Susan Hookie, CMA (AAMA)

Vice President: Christina Anderson, CMA (AAMA)

Secretary: Alexius Plooster, CMA (AAMA)

Treasurer: Chelsea Unzicker, CMA (AAMA)

Immediate Past President: Erica Arends, CMA (AAMA)

Website: www.sdsma.us

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Like us on Facebook: South Dakota Society of Medical Assistants

