



Mississippi Association Medical Staff Services

**June 2021**

# We have News for YOU...

## **MAMSS Facebook Page**

MAMSS has a new Facebook page! Either search for Mississippi Association of Medical Staff Services or go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/267364004943641>.

## **Upcoming MAMSS Events:**

### **Peer Review: How, When and Why**

Please join us July 13, 2021 for an educational presentation on peer review. Topics will include why we do peer review, strategies for effective peer review, and pitfalls related to peer review. This event will be free to MAMSS members. There will be a \$25 fee for non-members. This 1-hour event has been approved for 1-hour MAMSS CEU. To register go to <https://mamss.wildapricot.org/event-4350263>.

### **2021 Annual MAMSS Conference:**

Save the Date! Registration will open soon for 2021 Annual MAMSS Conference. This year's conference will be held at South Central Regional Medical Center in Laurel, MS on September 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>. The theme of the conference will be "Better Together"

### **MACM**

We will have a 1-hour educational presentation from MACM on November 4, 2021. This event will be free to MAMSS members. There will be a \$25 fee for non-members.

## **MAMSS...**

### **Annual Dues:**

Annual Dues: \$40 membership renewals were due by April 1, 2021. You still have time to pay to avoid the non-membership price for the upcoming events and annual conference. Membership dues can be paid online at [www.mamss.org](http://www.mamss.org).

### **To Certify or Not Certify – Is That a Question?**

Raise your hand if you remember thinking as a child, "I want to grow up and be a Medical Staff Professional." I am not visualizing many hands

raised, and that was not my experience either. I do have memories from when I was 3 years old of playing "meeting" with my stuffed animals. I distributed agendas, food and expected each one in attendance to contribute to the best of their ability. Perhaps this was all foreshadowing of my future career. At sixteen, I announced that I wanted to be an attorney, to which my father replied, "That's ridiculous you need to get a woman's job." I begrudgingly entered into secretarial training, never imagining that it would be the springboard for an amazing career as a Certified Medical Staff Professional. Fast forward to today, I am still distributing agendas. I get to dabble in legal issues. I care for my real committee members, just as I did the stuffed ones of my childhood.

As our recent speaker, Yvette Scott, CPMSM, CPCS, outlined, this profession has evolved since the early-70's and our opportunities within the profession have grown. Being goal oriented, once I learned that there was a certification opportunity, whether to attain it was not a question for me. However, the decision may not come as easily to some for a variety of reasons.

Currently there are 31 Certified Medical Staff Professionals, 4 of whom are dual certified, within our state association. This is just over half of our MAMSS membership. Congratulations to all who have already chosen certification or are in the process of preparing for the examination. For those that are still on the fence, let's review the barriers and possible ways to address them:

- **Test Anxiety/Fear of Failure** – Keep in mind that there is no shame in attempting this examination more than one time. One tip is to go in with the mindset that your first exam is for the experience, for practice. This can eliminate a lot of the pressure you may be putting on yourself. Deep breathing, visualization techniques and good preparation may also help to resolve some of the anxiety.
- **Financial** - The cost of the examination is not inexpensive. However, if you plan for it a year in advance, and set aside \$8 a week, you will have saved enough to take the examination and maybe enough to pay for the gas

to get to and from the examination site.

Alternatively, do not hesitate to ask your employer or your Medical Staff to support your career growth in this way. Some may not realize that the opportunity exists and may be more than happy to help you further your career.

- **Lack of Self-Motivation** – Don't feel that you are alone in this effort. Start a study group or share studying tips. Reach out to a colleague to keep each other motivated!

Now, let's look at the benefits:

- **Personal Satisfaction – You did it!**
- **Elevation for the profession - Doing your part to raise the bar for all MSPs**
- **Promotions or new opportunities**
- **Potential for increased compensation**
- **Recognition among your peers and colleagues**
- **Being a positive example for those who report to you or work with you**

This article was intended to encourage you to consider sitting for one, or both, examinations. Yvette's recent presentation shared the details about registering for the exam, exam contents and requirements.

It would be so exciting to report next year that all of 54 MAMSS members are Certified or Dual Certified. I am happy to answer any questions that anyone may have about the process. The information can be found on the [NAMSS website](#) linked here.

Teri Mersereau, MBA, CPMSM  
Director, Medical Staff  
Services, Memorial Hospital at  
Gulfport  
Treasurer, MAMSS

## NAMSS...

### **NAMSS 45th Educational Virtual Conference & Exhibition**

The NAMSS Board of Directors has decided that it is in the best interest of the organization to move the in-person annual conference to a fully virtual experience. Join NAMSS for the 45th Educational Conference & Exhibition, October 18-21, 2021! Be on the lookout for

more information on the NAMSS website (<https://www.namss.org/>) as we get closer to registration opening this summer!

### **2021 CPMSM/CPCS Exam Dates:**

Fall Testing Period:

*Application Deadline – Friday,  
August 27, 2021*

Testing Period – Saturday,  
October 23 through Saturday,  
November 13, 2021

**THE MAMSS Board  
is here for you.  
Please let us know  
how we can assist  
you.**

**Kristin Karrh, CPMSM,  
CPCS  
President**

[kkarrh@andersonregional.org](mailto:kkarrh@andersonregional.org)  
601.553.6311

**Mechelle Smith, CPCS  
Past - President**

[mesmith@scrmc.com](mailto:mesmith@scrmc.com)  
601.426.4503

**Monica Martin, CPCS  
Vice-President**

[Monica.Martin@BHMHCC.org](mailto:Monica.Martin@BHMHCC.org)  
601.968.6142

**Christy Campbell, CPCS  
Secretary**

[CCampbell@stdom.com](mailto:CCampbell@stdom.com)  
601.200.5191

**Teri Mersereau, MBA,  
CPMSM  
Treasurer**

[tmersereau@mhg.com](mailto:tmersereau@mhg.com)  
228-865-3158