Hello from Sioux City! As I write this, we’re getting yet another snow storm. In April. My husband very eloquently told me the other day that we’ve had about six months of winter. I love him a little less now.

As a state organization, we’ve celebrated the success of yet another outstanding annual conference. This year, we were recognized for 25 years as an organization. Think how far we’ve come in 25 years. The Internet only started around 1990, so there wasn’t much 25 years ago that was available to verify online. Instead, there were paper letters and postage stamps and days (sometimes weeks) of waiting for verifications to come back. There were phone calls made to the Iowa Board of Medicine to verify a license. The paperwork!! Nobody had even considered yet the idea of software programs to help with credentialing.

After 25 years, we updated our IAMSS logo. The new logo shows the state of Iowa with a big blue heart in the middle. We are the heart of our organization. We are responsible to ensure that doctors and other providers are safely caring for patients. Once that care has been given, we ensure that our facilities can collect the proper dollars for that care. Without the work that we do, how would our hospitals and clinics run?

One of my goals for this year was to see our membership grow by 25 people – “25 New Members in our 25th Year”. We blew that goal out of the water with 39 new members (to date) having joined this year. I’d like to continue our growth. We have lots of opportunities. I challenge each of you to reach out to your colleagues in your home towns and surrounding areas. Let them know about IAMSS. Invite them to join us. I’ve been talking with Debbie Kesselring, our NAMSS representative, about other ways we can grow our membership. We have opportunities with surrounding states where we can shine. Nebraska’s state association is struggling, and we have welcomed a few Nebraskans to IAMSS. I plan to work with the NeAMSS to help build their state organization back up. We can serve as an example of success in that capacity. South Dakota’s state associate is non-operational. We do have a few members on IAMSS who are from South Dakota, but we can extend invitations to others in South Dakota to join us!

Don’t forget to network. Use the resources we all bring to IAMSS to help you make your job easier. We have a forum on the IAMSS website where you can ask questions, and you’ll get answers from members all over the state. You’re not in this alone. We are a network of individuals who all understand each other. I think it’s safe to say that most of us typically feel very alone in our roles. This field is not well understood, so having comrades who “get it” is like gold.

I welcome your emails and phone calls to help me continue to grow our organization as I serve as your president. With your support and input, and with the help of the rest of our amazing board members, I know we can continue to be better than ever!

Rhonda Meyers, Manager, Medical Staff Office
UnityPoint Health—St. Lukes
President, Iowa Association Medical Staff Services
LEFT: IAMSS president Rhonda Meyers reads off one of the door prize winners, with Melinda Wheeler ready to pass the prize to the winner.

BELOW: Wednesday’s Pre-Conference Advanced Credentialing course was very well attended, with nearly 50 members present. The Thursday/Friday conference had over 100 attendees!

25 years with IAMSS

Special recognition was given to Rose Mary Hunt, CPMSM, CPCS, RHIT, Medical Services Director at Regional Medical Center in Manchester, IA who was one of the founding members of IAMSS 25 years ago. Rose Mary writes: “I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the recognition at last week’s IAMSS conference. I truly appreciate the gift and the time to speak to the group. IAMSS is a wonderful organization and you are all doing a great job leading it! The conference was stellar, as usual, and I came home with new things to add to my “To Do” list.”
**NEW IAMSS LOGO**

The board unveiled a new IAMSS logo at the Spring Conference. President Rhonda Meyers explained that Medical Staff Service Professionals represent the heart of a facility and ensure that doctors and other healthcare providers are safely caring for patients.

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**25th Anniversary**

Debbie Kesselring, CPCS, NAMSS Director at Large, traveled all the way from Alaska to help us celebrate our 25th anniversary. Debbie is the NAMSS State Liaison for Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Alaska.

ABOVE: A plaque honoring IAMSS 25th year was accepted by the IAMSS board members. Left to right: Becky Peitz, Connie McLaughlin, Donna Ford, Rhonda Meyers, Debbie Kesselring, Brenda Becker, Brandi Zevenbergen, and Melinda Wheeler. Absent: Rachel Barta.

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**Scholarship Program**

The IAMSS board is working on a new scholarship program for a full conference registration for 2019. More details will be forwarded to IAMSS members as the program unfolds. Members wishing to apply for the scholarship will need to submit an application.
NEW MEMBERS

1. Carrie Arens, Horn Memorial Hospital
2. Lisa Barrett, Davis County Hospital
3. Heather Blair, Acute Care
4. Tammy Borwig, Clarinda Regional Health Center
5. Linda Coudron, Genesis Health Systems
6. Daryl Davis, Iowa Specialty Hospital
7. Michelle Dusch, Genesis Medical Center
8. Leigh Elwood, Midlands Choice
9. Kaitlyn Flynn, Henry County Health Center
10. Wendy Frank, Crawford County Memorial Hospital
11. Veronica Fuhs, Monroe County Hospital & Clinics
12. Pamette Grable, George C. Grape Community Hospital
13. Travis Hansen, UnityPoint Health
14. Jessica Heath, Clarke County Hospital
15. Christi Hempey, Prairie Pediatrics & Adolescent Clinic
16. Gale Herrera, Monroe County Hospital & Clinics
17. Peggy Hill, St. Luke’s Hospital
18. Sally Houser, Mary Greeley Medical Center
19. Debra Jones, Mercy Medical Center
20. Jody Keifer, Weaton Franciscan Healthcare
21. Gloria Kellum, Midlands Choice
22. Tina Lindquist, Shenandoah Medical Center
23. Michael Martinez, Mercy Medical Center
24. Joyce Maulsby, Stewart Memorial Community Hospital
25. Sue Meade, Mercy Medical Center
26. Trisda Nielsen, Dallas County Hospital
27. Diana Patterson, Montgomery County Memorial Hospital
28. Cindy Peeler, Dallas County Hospital
29. Jennifer Petersen, Manning Regional Healthcare Center
30. Heidi Reeder, Central Community Hospital
31. Carrie Roskens, Health Partners of Southwest Iowa
32. Christi Rush, Siouxland Regional Cancer Center
33. Kathleen Ryan, Genesis Health Systems
34. Cheri Spanjer, Midwest Surgical Hospital
35. Amy Stephenson, Regional Health Services of Howard County
36. Angie Thilges, Kossuth Regional Health Center
37. Melissa Turner, Genesis Health System
38. Brenda Willis, UnityPoint Health
39. Emily Young, Health Partners of Southwest Iowa
CPCS Examination Eligibility Requirements

At the time of application, the candidate must be currently employed in the medical services profession for at least the past 12 consecutive months AND have a total of three years’ experience in the medical services profession within the past five years.

CPMSM Examination Eligibility Requirements

At the time of application, the candidate must be currently employed in the medical service profession for at least the past 12 consecutive months AND have a total of five years’ experience in the medical services profession within the past eight years.
Congratulations to . . .

ARMNP/PA (responses from five Iowa facilities)
- $1500 - 2000
- $2000
- $1500
- $2000

Physician
- $2500 - 3000
- $3000
- $3000
- $3500 (then increases every 5 years of employment)

These are average—amounts varied by specialty and facilities. Required licenses and certifications also reimbursed.

News from the Iowa Board of Medicine...

Thursday, January 11, 2018

Board staff has been diligently working on processing the applications it’s received during the current renewal period. All applications received prior to December 31, 2017 have been processed. If your application was sent prior to December 31, but has not been renewed nor have you been contacted by Board staff, please contact the office for assistance, 515-281-5944.

The Board would like to thank its licensees and registrants for their patience as it transitions to an online licensing database.

As a reminder, renewals for 2019 will be able to be done online! Look for more communications from the Board throughout 2018.

Congratulations to . . .

. . . Melinda Wheeler on her new job position!

In an effort to mesh the medical staff world with the strategic plans of the organization, the Executive Assistant to the CEO and the Medical Staff Coordinator position at Mahaska Health Partnership have been combined. Beginning April 9th, Melinda Wheeler, CPCS was promoted to this position which came with a new SMALLER office. How does that work? But the change has been a great new challenge and she is looking forward to putting these two pieces together seamlessly.

Good Luck to . . .

. . . Sylvia Crook on her retirement from the Iowa Board of Medicine!

Sylvia is retiring at the end of April. She wants to thank the members of IAMSS for the great working relationships and friendships that have developed over the years.

ABOVE: Some of the amazing door prizes given away at our conference!
Save the Date . . .

IAMSS Annual Educational Conference
Tentatively April 4-5, 2019

Reach out to your colleagues who may not be IAMSS members to attend these valuable conferences!

ABOVE: IAMSS Conference 2018