

# NORTH CAROLINA SOCIETY MEDICAL ASSISTANTS

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<http://www.ncsma.org>

May 4, 2020

Hello NCSMA Members,

I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy during this difficult time.

As you know the decision was made earlier to postpone the NCSMA Convention from April until June of this year. Recently Governor Roy Cooper extended the stay at home restrictions, due to the COVID19 pandemic and detailed a 3 Phase plan once restrictions are relaxed. This means that in June gatherings will be restricted to no more than 50 people. Our annual convention typically has an attendance of 200-300 members so we would not be allowed to have our meeting.

I contacted Don Balasa, JD, MBA, CEO and Legal Counsel for AAMA and we had several good discussions about options for our society. I also consulted with our Parliamentarian, Paula Cooke, CMA (AAMA) for her advice regarding how to proceed. During this crisis we recognize that many of our members continue to work on the front lines, while some have had reduced hours, may be furloughed and many will face travel restrictions from their employers, even when our Governor reduces the stay at home requirement. The safety and well-being of our members is our priority and so a proposal was submitted to the Executive Council that the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting be postponed from June 2020 to March/April 2021. The Executive Council agreed with the proposal and that it should be referred to the delegates and alternates that were seated in the 2019 House of Delegates, as they continue to serve until the opening of the next house, for the final determination.

In addition to postponing the convention, the proposal the Executive Council agreed should be submitted to the House of Delegates included a recommendation that all those elected as officers, committee members, delegates and alternates to the AAMA House of Delegates and all appointed officers and committee members for the 2019-20 NCSMA year, remain in place until the next House of Delegates in 2021. The 2019 House of Delegates voted to adopt this proposal by more than the required 2/3 majority vote.

On a personal note, it would not be fair to the incoming president, the officers and committee members to not serve their full term. That means if you were elected or appointed as an officer, committee member, or AAMA delegate/alternate at the 2019 House of Delegates or Post-Convention Board Meeting, you will remain in that same position until the next call to order of House of Delegates in 2021. This is just a continuation of the current term and is not a new term. This recommendation does not affect local chapters.

If you have already sent in your registration for the 2020 convention, you have two options. The first option is to allow the convention committee to hold your registration fee. You would only need to complete a new registration form when it becomes available for the next convention. The second option is to request a refund by emailing Shirley Sawyer, CMA (AAMA), CPC at [saks641@att.net](mailto:saks641@att.net). The deadline to request a refund is **June 1, 2020**. If no refund request is received, all monies will be held and will go towards your registration for next year.



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Lastly, please contact the hotel to cancel your room reservations. They will not cancel them for you.

As healthcare professionals, we realize the need to take these precautionary measures. Thank you all so much for everything you have done and are doing to help keep us all safe and healthy! You are all greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [summertime0126@aol.com](mailto:summertime0126@aol.com).

Sincerely,



Summer O'Neal, CMA (AAMA), CDT  
NCSMA President



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