

OREGON SOCIETY OF MEDICAL ASSISTANTS

Public Affairs Liaison

Annual Report

Period Ending April 2026

Committee Responsibility

The primary responsibility of the Public Affairs Committee is to field and respond to inquiries from the general public and the medical community, including managers, physicians, medical assistants, and various public entities. Questions of a legal nature are promptly referred to the CEO and Legal Counsel of the American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMA) for further assessment.

The Public Affairs Team was established in 2009 and formally adopted by the OSMA House of Delegates in 2010. The vision behind this team is to designate a single point of contact to manage the range of inquiries, questions, and concerns related to the medical assisting profession and the Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) (AAMA) credential.

Committee Duties

The specific duties of the Public Affairs Committee are outlined as follows:

1. **Serve as the Public Voice of OSMA:** Acts as the primary representative for OSMA in matters of public relations.
2. **Respond to Inquiries:** Handles written and verbal inquiries on topics such as Scope of Practice,
3. **Right to Practice,** and exam eligibility, among others.
4. **Modes of Communication:** Engages with inquirers via mail, email, or in person, depending on the inquiry type.
5. **Referral Process:** Forwards questions requiring further explanation or involving legal considerations to the AAMAs CEO and Legal Counsel.
6. **Quarterly Reporting:** Submits a quarterly report of committee activities to the OSMA Board.

Summary of Activity

The Chair has received 23 inquiries overall regarding issues specific to Medical Assistants. Chair works with Don Balasa, CEO and Legal Counsel of AAMA on many of the topics that come across the website. The primary topic of interest has been Scope of Practice for Medical Assistants in Oregon. Other topics include:

1. Advertising Policy

The committee responds to advertising inquiries by providing guidance based on OSMA's advertising policy. We charge \$300 for a 30 day posting. Organizations that support OSMA or accredited schools are eligible for complimentary advertising.

2. **Scope of practice** issues include injections including an MA administering BOTOX with no provider around.
3. **Other topics:** MA education, training opportunities for MAs, recruiting and more.

Acknowledgments

The Chair expresses gratitude to President Oldenstadt and the OSMA Board for their ongoing support of the Public Affairs Committees mission.

Submitted by

Paula Purdy, CMA (AAMA)

Chair