## OSMA BYLAWS

## 2024-2025

Accepted 1989, Revised May 10, 2024

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Oregon Society of Medical Assistants is to provide the professional Medical Assistant with continuing education, credential recognition, mentoring and networking opportunities and to advocate for patient-centered quality health care.

## Vision Statement

OSMA supports credentialed medical assistants who hold status through a National Commission of Certifying Agencies accredited certification program whose credential is current, and who collaborate with all medical care professionals to provide excellent health care in every setting.

## Oregon Society of Medical Assistants Affiliate of the American Association of Medical Assistants

## Article I- Name

The name of this organization shall be Oregon Society of Medical Assistants, hereinafter known as OSMA. It is a constituent society, affiliated with the American Association of Medical Assistants, hereinafter known as AAMA.

## Article II - Purpose

The purpose of OSMA is to enable medical assisting professionals to enhance and demonstrate the knowledge, skills and professionalism required by employers and patients; protect medical assistants' right to practice; and promote effective, efficient health care delivery through optimal use of multi-skilled National Commission of Certifying Agencies (NCCA) credentialed medical assistants.

## Article III - Organizational Policy

Section 1. OSMA is hereby declared to be a mutual benefit organization. It is not, nor shall it ever become, a trade union or collective bargaining agency. No person otherwise qualified for membership in OSMA shall be denied membership. No person who participates in the activities of organizations whose purpose is to overthrow the government of the United States shall be a member of OSMA. As of July 1, 2023, OSMA became a Bi-Level organization. This decision was reached by the OSMA General Assembly on April 21, 2023.

Section 2. The fiscal year of OSMA shall be from May $1^{\text {st }}$ through April $30^{\text {th }}$.
Section 3. The OSMA annual budget will be based on the average of the actual income from the previous four years.

## Article IV - Dissolution

Section 1. In the event of dissolution of OSMA, the Executive Board shall, after payment of all liabilities, distribute any remaining assets to nonprofit medical or charitable institutions, or projects designated by a majority of voting members at the next OSMA General Assembly meeting.

Section 2. The President shall notify the AAMA Executive Office of its dissolution within ten (10) days of the meeting at which dissolution is approved by the members of OSMA.

Section 3. It shall be the responsibility of the President and Treasurer to complete all necessary federal and state forms upon dissolution. Copies of those forms will be sent to the AAMA Executive Office.

## Article V - Membership

## Section 1. Classes

There shall be seven (7) classes of membership: Active, Life, Sustaining, Associate, Affiliate, Student, and Honorary.
A. Membership in OSMA and AAMA shall be required for all classes, except honorary.
B. No other membership or quasi-membership classes shall be permitted by OSMA.

Section 2. Qualifications
A. Active - An Active member shall be one of the following:

1. A credentialed medical assistant holding status through a National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) accredited certification program and whose credential has not been revoked as provided by the respective credentialing body.
2. Anyone who was an Active member on December 31, 1987, who has never been a CMA (AAMA), and who has maintained continuous active membership. Continuous active membership shall be defined as having dues postmarked or submitted electronically to the AAMA Executive Office by December 31 (the controlling time is that of sending, not that of receiving).
B. Life - A Life member shall be an Active member who has provided outstanding service to OSMA. Life membership is conferred by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds $(2 / 3)$ of the voting members of the General Assembly. Only one (1) Life membership may be conferred in any one year. Nominations, with supporting documentation, submitted no later than the Winter Quarterly Board meeting may be made by any member of the OSMA Board. The Executive Board may make exceptions for OSMA member qualifications.
C. Sustaining - A Sustaining member shall be anyone who has been an active or associate member for at least two (2) years, and who has retired from medical assisting. This membership shall be forfeited if not renewed annually.
D. Associate - an Associate member shall be a medical assistant who is not yet a credentialed medical assistant through a NCCA accrediting program.
E. Student member - A Student member shall be enrolled in a Medical Assisting program and may choose a two-year student membership term or a one-year student membership term.
3. After a one-year Student membership term, the member is eligible for a secondyear of Student membership if the member renews during the member's one-year Student membership term.
4. After the second year of Student membership, the member is then eligible for either Associate membership or Active membership (if the member meets the Active membership requirements).
5. No member is eligible for more than a total of two consecutive years of Student membership.
F. Affiliate An Affiliate member shall be one who is not eligible for another class of membership but who is interested in the profession of medical assisting.
G. Honorary An Honorary member shall be one who is not eligible for active membership but who has made outstanding contributions to the advancement of medical assisting and/or OSMA. Honorary membership is conferred by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members of a General Assembly. No more than two (2) Honorary memberships may be conferred in any one year. Nominations, with supporting documentation, submitted to the OSMA Board at least sixty (60) days prior to the annual conference, may be made by any member of the OSMA Board. Honorary membership in OSMA does not transfer to AAMA.
Section 3. Privileges
A. Active and Life members who are CMAs (AAMA) holding current credential status and whose dues have been paid by December $31^{\text {st }}$ are eligible to serve as President, President Elect, and Oregon Delegate to the AAMA House of Delegates.
B. All classes of membership except Honorary whose dues are current are eligible to serve as Secretary, Treasurer, Chairs of Committees, and all other appointed positions.
Section 4. Revocation
A. Any member who has had their credential revoked by the NCCA accrediting body for their credential will immediately lose their membership and all privileges attached thereto and shall not be allowed reinstatement unless the revocation of the credential is rescinded by the NCCA accrediting body per that credential. No refund of any dues amount will be made.
B. Any member attempting to promote unionization of OSMA or its membership automatically forfeits membership.

## Article VI - Dues

Section 1. Annual state dues for all classes of members shall be fixed by the General Assembly upon recommendation of the OSMA Board. Dues shall become due and payable November $1^{\text {st }}$ and shall be delinquent if not postmarked or submitted electronically to the AAMA Executive Office by December $31^{\text {st }}$ (the controlled time is that of sending, not that of receiving). Dues shall be billed by and payable to the AAMA Executive Office. State reimbursement shall come from AAMA.
A. Full dues will be assessed for Active, Associate and Affiliate members.
B. One-half dues shall be assessed for Sustaining members.
C. Dues will be assessed for Student members.
D. OSMA will reimburse AAMA annual dues to OSMA officers.
E. OSMA shall pay AAMA dues for OSMA Life members.
F. Honorary members are not required to pay dues.

Section 2. Dues for a new member joining on or after September 1 shall be credited to the following year.

Section 3. To serve and continue to serve as a delegate or alternate to the AAMA House of Delegates, an AAMA officer or trustee, or as an OSMA officer, a member's dues shall be postmarked or submitted electronically to the AAMA Executive Office by December 31 for each year of office (the controlling time is that of sending, not that of receiving).
Section 4. OSMA shall offer reciprocity to members transferring membership from a constituent society. The transferring member shall present proof of current AAMA membership status.

Section 5. Membership belongs to the individual and shall be nontransferable and nonrefundable.

## Article VII - Officers and Their Qualifications

Section 1. - The officers of OSMA shall be President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Immediate Past President.

Section 2. - All candidates for OSMA President or President-Elect must have paid membership dues by December $31^{\text {st }}$ of the previous year and maintained membership throughout their term of office, including the length of their AAMA term as a delegate to the AAMA HOD.
Section 3. - A candidate for President or President Elect shall be a CMA (AAMA) holding current status and shall be an Active or Life member whose credential has not been revoked as delineated in Article V.

Section 4. - A candidate for Secretary or Treasurer shall be a member of any class except Honorary. Section 5. Additional qualifications for specific officers shall be as follows:
A. The President Elect shall:

1. hold the CMA (AAMA) credential;
2. have been an active member of OSMA for no less than the last two (2) years;
3. have previously served as an OSMA Board Member; and
4. have attended the OSMA General Assembly no less than two (2) times as a voting member.
B. The Secretary shall:
5. have been a member of OSMA for no less than two (2) years;
6. have served previously on the OSMA Board.; and
7. have attended the OSMA General Assembly no less than one (1) time as a voting member within the last three years.
C. The Treasurer shall:
8. have been a member of OSMA for no less than two (2) years;
9. have attended the OSMA General Assembly no less than two (2) times as a voting member;
10. have served on the OSMA Board; and
11. have adequate experience in bookkeeping and accounting procedures.

## Article VIII - Nominations and Elections

## Section 1. Nominations

A. The OSMA Board is responsible for nominations.
B. The Immediate Past President is the Chair of this committee.
C. Nominations for officers and Oregon Delegates to the AAMA House of Delegates may be made from the floor during the General Assembly. No later than 24 hours prior to the Pre-Conference Board Meeting, the Board will examine the qualifications, determine the eligibility, review the resume, and receive consent from each member to be nominated.

## Section 2. Elections

A. The election of officers and Oregon Delegates to the AAMA House of Delegates shall be held during the OSMA General Assembly.
B. Positions to be considered for election are as follows:

1. President Elect
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Oregon National Delegates to the AAMA House of Delegates \& Alternates (minimum of 2 each)
C. Officers shall be elected by majority vote of the eligible members present at the OSMA General Assembly.
D. Oregon Delegates to the AAMA House of Delegates shall be elected by plurality vote of the eligible members of the OSMA General Assembly. Alternate Oregon Delegates shall be listed in order by the greatest number of votes received.
E. Voting shall be accomplished by written ballot.
F. The Tellers Committee report and tally sheet shall become a permanent record attached to the minutes of the General Assembly.
G. The OSMA President will appoint a General Assembly Coordinator to manage the OSMA General Assembly and be responsible for both the Minutes of said General Assembly, and the distribution of those Minutes to necessary members.
H. Newly elected officers assume duties of their elected position at the end of each Annual Conference.

## Article IX - Officers' Terms of Office, Vacancy in Office, and Removal from Office

Section 1. Term of Office
A. The term of office for President and President Elect shall be one (1) year or until their successor is elected.
B. The term of office for the Secretary shall be two (2) years.
C. The term of office for the Treasurer shall be two (2) years.

## Section 2. Vacancy in Office

A. In the event of a vacancy in the office of President Elect, the office shall remain vacant until the next meeting of the OSMA General Assembly, when a President shall be elected.
B. In the event of a vacancy in any office not provided for elsewhere in these Bylaws, the Executive Board shall appoint a member to serve until the next meeting of the OSMA General Assembly, at which time a new officer can be elected to begin a new term. This appointee shall meet the qualifications prescribed in these Bylaws and the OSMA Resource Manual.

Section 3. Removal from Office: An officer who fails to perform the required duties or gives just cause for removal from office shall be removed from the office by the Executive Board. An officer whose credential has been revoked as delineated in Article VI, Section 4 shall be removed from office.

## Article X - Duties of Officers

Section 1. In addition to the duties set forth in these Bylaws, officers shall perform such duties as are implied by their respective offices and are consistent with standard Parliamentary Procedure and/or as required by law.
Section 2. Specific duties are listed in the OSMA Resource Manual.
Section 3. The President shall:
A. Preside at all OSMA meetings;
B. Serve as ex-officio member on all committees;
C. In the event of a Committee Chair vacancy, appoint a new Chair from among the members of the Committee, when possible;
D. Appoint the Parliamentarian for the upcoming year; and
E. Appoint the General Assembly Coordinator for the upcoming year.

Section 4. The President Elect shall:
A. Assume the duties of President in the President's absence;
B. Succeed to the office of President in the event of vacancy; and
C. Automatically succeed to the office of President at the end of the term as President Elect.

Section 5. The Secretary shall:
A. Record the minutes of all regular and special meetings of the Board, Executive Board; and
B. Maintain the permanent records of all regular and special meetings of the OSMA Board, Executive Board, distribute minutes to Board Members.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall:
A. Be responsible for the collection and distribution of funds for OSMA;
B. Present a proposed budget set by the Board and approved by the General Assembly; and
C. Automatically serve as a member of the Conference Committee.
D.

## Article XI - Boards

Section 1. Board
A. The Board shall consist of the Officers identified in Article VII and the Standing Committee Chairs identified in Article XIII. Each position shall carry one (1) vote. The Parliamentarian shall serve as ex-officio member without a vote.
B. The Board shall meet quarterly to conduct the business of OSMA. It shall meet prior to the General Assembly and following the close of the annual Conference.
C. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President or one-quarter (1/4) of its members.
D. A majority of the members of the Board that are present shall constitute a quorum.
E. The Board is Responsible for the Nominations for the next year.
F. The Board is responsible for the Strategic Planning for the future of OSMA.

## Section 2. Executive Board

A. The Executive Board shall consist of the officers identified in Article VIII with one (1) vote each. The Parliamentarian shall be an ex-officio member without a vote.
B. The Executive Board shall be empowered to act, by a majority vote of its members, for OSMA between quarterly Board meetings.
C. Meetings may be called by the President or by any two (2) Officers. A documented attempt to notify all Executive Board members of such a meeting must be made.
D. A majority of the members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum.

## Section 3. Past Presidents Council

A. The Past Presidents Council shall consist of the three (3) most recent Past OSMA Presidents.
B. The Immediate Past President shall serve as chair.
C. This Council shall be responsible for the selection and submission of OSMA and its members for the various AAMA Excel Awards.
D. This Council shall participate in the Bylaws Committee.
E. In the event of a vacancy, this Council shall solicit other Past OSMA Presidents to fill the position. Appointment shall be made by the Executive Board.
F. This Council shall maintain an up-to-date mailing list of Past OSMA Presidents.
G.

## Article XII - Committees

Section 1. The committees of OSMA shall be Standing, Special and Committees of the General Assembly.

Section 2. Appointed Chairs and committee members must be current AAMA members. In addition to the duties set forth in these Bylaws, Committee Chairs shall perform such duties as are listed in the OSMA Resource Manual.
A. All standing Committee Chairs for the forthcoming year, except Nominations and Strategic Planning, shall be appointed by the President Elect and presented to the Board at the next pre-conference Board meeting. Duties commence after the close of the Annual Conference.
B. All committee materials and records are the property of OSMA and shall be kept in good order. These shall be passed to the succeeding committee chairs at the transitional Board meeting.
C. All Committee Chairs are to submit a Quarterly Report to the President and the Communications Chair for distribution prior to the next scheduled Board Meeting.
D. Committee Chairs shall summarize the year's progress and committees’ recommendations in a written year-end report. Reports shall be submitted 14 days prior to the General Assembly Coordinator for inclusion in the electronic distribution to the membership via the OSMA webpage.
E. In the event of a vacancy in a Committee Chair position, the President shall appoint a new Chair from the existing committee members whenever possible.
F. A majority of the members of any committee shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. The Standing Committees:
A. Bylaws and OSMA Resource Manual
B. Communications
C. Membership and Marketing/Speaker's Bureau/ Leadership and Mentoring
D. Public Affairs Liaison
E. Strategic Planning
F. Conference Committee/ Education Committee

Section 4. Duties of Committees (See OSMA Resource Manual)
A. Bylaws and OSMA Resource Manual: This committee shall:

1. Review the Bylaws of the OSMA annually, recommending amendments for potential additions or removal.
2. Incorporate AAMA mandated changes into the Bylaws. Return two (2) copies to AAMA within thirty (30) days of their notification. Any action taken by OSMA that is inconsistent with such mandated language shall immediately be null and void.
3. Request that the current OSMA Board members participate on this committee.
4. Review the OSMA Resource Manual yearly to update and make any changes.
5. Include the Parliamentarian as ex-officio member without a vote.
B. Communications: This committee shall:
6. Manage the OSMA website: www.onlineosma.org, the OSMA Facebook pages, and any other social media (Facebook, LinkedIn, X/Twitter).
7. Respond to any inquiries via email or website by forwarding messages to the OSMA President and Public Affairs Liaison.
C. Membership \& Marketing:
8. This committee shall be responsible for the recruitment of OSMA members.
9. This committee's subcommittees shall include Speakers Bureau, Certification, and Leadership and Mentoring.
a. The Speakers Bureau shall maintain an outreach program promoting the CMA (AAMA) credential and NCCA credentialed medical assistants.
b. Certification shall aid members in recertification of the CMA (AAMA) credential and any NCCA credential recertification.
c. Leadership and Mentoring shall provide Leadership training skills and pair newer members with an OSMA Mentor if requested.
D. Nominations: Board Responsibility (see OSMA Resource Manual for process)
E. The Public Affairs Liaison shall:
10. Be the public voice of OSMA;
11. Respond to all inquiries regarding Scope of Practice, Right to Practice, and other issues; and
12. Refer to the Executive Director of AAMA all inquiries of a legal nature or those that require further explanation.
F. Strategic Planning: Board Responsibility
13. Evaluate the needs of OSMA and incorporate them into the Strategic Plan;
14. Oversee compliance with current Strategic Plan; and
15. Provide support to other committees and positions striving to achieve set goals.
G. Conference Committee: Responsible for producing Quarterly Board Meetings and the OSMA Annual Conference, and the Conference Protocol Document.
H. Education Committee: will work with the Conference Committee to arrange speakers and topics and will secure AAMA approval for continuing education sessions where necessary.

## Article XIII - General Assembly

Section 1. The governing body of the OSMA shall be the General Assembly. It shall determine the policies of OSMA, amend the Bylaws, act upon such other business as may come before it and conduct the elections of officers, delegates, and alternate delegates to the AAMA House of Delegates.

Section 2. Committees of the General Assembly are:
A. Nominations Committee
B. Tellers
C. Conference Committee
D. General Assembly Coordinator (appointed by the Chair)

Section 3. Voting Members
A. The voting members of the General Assembly include all current members of the Oregon Society of Medical Assistants (except Honorary), with everyone being entitled to 1 (one) vote.
B. The Conference Committee will identify the attending OSMA members eligible to vote during the General Assembly and provide each member with a voting card.
C. A quorum shall be one (1) percent of the OSMA membership, based on the membership numbers provided by AAMA as of March 1 of the current year.
D. The Parliamentarian shall be present and will determine if the quorum is met following the count of members in attendance.

## Article XIV - Meetings

Section 1. The OSMA shall hold an annual conference, with the exact date, time, and place determined by the Conference Committee with Board Approval. During the annual conference, a General Assembly will be conducted.

Section 2. All current OSMA members may attend the General Assembly and participate in the proceedings, discussions, and voting.

Section 3. The OSMA Board shall meet no fewer than five (5) times per year.
A. The Board meetings shall be held prior to the General Assembly, following the General Assembly, and once each during the summer, fall and winter quarters.
B. All current OSMA members may attend and participate in the proceedings and discussions of the Board.
C. Only eligible voting members of the Board may cast votes.

Section 4. The Board may call a special meeting of the General Assembly by attempting to notify every current member of OSMA.

Section 5. Education may be scheduled by the Education Committee in conjunction with the Board meetings held in winter and fall. The President selects the date and location of the summer Board meeting. Education in conjunction with the summer Board meeting is optional.

## Article XV: AAMA Delegate Representation

Section 1. The OSMA shall be entitled to two (2) delegates for the first one hundred (100) active and associate members or fraction thereof, plus one (1) delegate for each additional four hundred (400) active and associate members or fraction thereof.

Section 2. Delegates and alternates:
A. are to be Active or AAMA National Life members whose membership has not been revoked as delineated in Article VI, Section 4;
B. are to be elected to serve from the opening of the AAMA House of Delegates for the year elected until the next convening of the House of Delegates; and
C. are to have been a member of OSMA for no fewer than one (1) year.
D. A delegate must be a current Board member. The Delegate must have attended at least one (1) OSMA General Assembly.

Section 3. The number of delegates determined to attend the national conference shall be based upon the total number of active and associate members of OSMA for the previous membership year. Alternates shall be those who ran for the position of Oregon Delegate but did not receive a majority of the votes from the voting members at the previous annual General Assembly meeting.

Section 4. The OSMA President will provide the names and addresses of the Oregon Delegates and alternates to the AAMA House of Delegates. Names shall be submitted to the AAMA Executive Office at least ninety (90) days prior to the AAMA House of Delegates meeting?

Section 5. In the event OSMA is unable to be represented by a full complement of delegates to which it is entitled, it may assign proxy votes to another elected delegate. Suggestions for such proxies shall be submitted in writing by one of the attending members and signed by any officer of OSMA to be verified by the AAMA Credentials Chair.

Section 6. The OSMA President and President Elect shall attend the AAMA House of Delegates as the first two (2) Delegates from Oregon. In the event the President or President Elect is unable to attend, the order of substitution shall be as follows: 1) Secretary, 2) Treasurer. If one or more of these officers is unable to attend, an elected alternate delegate shall attend in the officer's/delegate's place.

Section 7. All other Oregon Delegates shall be elected by plurality vote of the OSMA. An equal number of delegates and alternate delegates may be elected. If an elected delegate is unable to attend the AAMA House of Delegates, the candidate receiving the next plurality vote may become the delegate.

Section 8. Delegate expenses for the next AAMA Conference shall be approved in the annual budget by a majority vote of the OSMA General Assembly.

Section 9: Any Delegate's unused funds for the AAMA Annual conference shall be returned to the OSMA Treasurer within 15 days of the end of the AAMA Annual Conference.

## Article XVI - Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the OSMA in cases for which they are applicable and in instances in which they are not inconsistent with the Bylaws or Standing Rules of OSMA.

## Article XVII - Amendments

Section 1. These Bylaws may be amended at any annual meeting of all the eligible voting members in attendance at the OSMA General Assembly with a two-thirds ( $2 / 3$ ) vote, provided the proposed amendment(s) have been posted to the OSMA website or delivered electronically to the members of OSMA no fewer than fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting at which they are to be considered.

Section 2. The OSMA Resource Manual may be changed without prior notification by a twothirds $(2 / 3)$ vote of the eligible voting members of the OSMA Board.

## Article XVIII - Conformity

No provisions of the OSMA Bylaws shall be in conflict with those stipulated by the AAMA.

## Appendix A

## Definition of the Profession

Medical Assisting is an allied health profession whose practitioners function as members of the health care delivery team and perform administrative and clinical procedures.

## Code of Ethics

The code of ethics of the Oregon Society of Medical Assistants, hereinafter referred to as OSMA, shall set forth principles and moral conduct as they relate to the medical profession and the particular practice of medical assisting.

Members of OSMA, dedicated to the conscientious pursuit of their profession, and thus desiring to merit the high regard of the entire profession and the respect of the general public which they serve, do pledge themselves to strive always to:
A. Render service with full respect for the dignity of humanity;
B. Respect confidential information obtained through employment unless legally authorized or required by responsible performance of duty to divulge such information;
C. Uphold the honor and high principles of the profession and accept its disciplines;
D. Seek to continually improve the knowledge and skills of medical assistants for the benefit of patients and professional colleagues; and
E. Participate in additional service activities aimed toward improving the health and wellbeing of the community.

## Creed

I believe in the principles and purposes of the profession of medical assisting.

I endeavor to be more effective.
I aspire to render greater service.
I protect the confidence entrusted to me.
I am dedicated to the care and well-being of all people.
I am loyal to my employer.
I am true to the ethics of my profession.
I am strengthened by compassion, courage and faith.

## Standing Rules

Section 1. Changes in the Standing Rules do not require advance notice to be presented for consideration and may be changed with a majority vote of the Board.

Section 2. Annual Conference
A. The OSMA annual conference shall be held between March 15 and May 15.
B. The OSMA Treasurer is automatically a member of the Conference Committee.
C. The OSMA shall be responsible for paying the AAMA Speakers Bureau Representatives' lodging, registration, meals, and transportation, if not covered by the AAMA.

Section 3. A Memorial Fund request may be made to the President or President Elect who will present it to the full Board for their consideration. A majority vote shall rule.

Section 4. Year-end reports from all officers and all committees shall be posted on the OSMA website 14 days prior to the General Assembly.

Section 5. The Executive Board shall review the minutes of all Board, Executive Board and General Assembly meetings. The minutes shall be presented to the respective Board or General Assembly for approval.

Section 6. There will be two registrations extended to WSSMA for the OSMA Annual Conference.

Section 7. The NCCA (National Commission for Certifying Agencies) recognizes five (5) Certifying Agencies for medical assistant credentialling. They are:

AAMA American Association of Medical Assistants, CMA(AAMA)
AMT American Medical Technologists, RMA
NHA National Health Careers Association, CCMA

NCCT National Center for Competency Testing, NCMA AMCA American Medical Certified Association, CMAC

