



# THE LIGHTHOUSE

**The official publication of the Maine Association Medical Staff Services, published by and for the MeAMSS membership**

## President's Message

*By Ron Lambert, CPCS*

**November/December 2006  
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### Winter Prose

This time of year, it is good to look back upon the vibrant tones of summary or full spectrum, as the dull specter of winter has bled radiance from red and warmth from yellow.

Some days, when the sky is clear and blue, the scenery is bare and white, it gives us all reassurance that spring will come with its palette of earth and green, to dress the lands with shoots of life, and drain the cold into streams and lakes.

The cycle of seasons gives comfort in the telling that our own lives will face their own times of vibrance, as much as they may see times that drain.

-- by Joe Solinsky. December, 2003

Last week we celebrated MSSP week at the last educational session of the year held in Bangor. We extend our sincere thanks to Sister Norberta for offering MeAMSS the St. Joseph Healthcare Conference Center for our meeting. It was great seeing so many old friends and colleagues. Welcome to new member Wanda Morrow, who took over the position vacated by Barbara Allen at Stephens Memorial Hospital.

Elsewhere in this newsletter we feature your new 2007 Board. After celebrating 10 years of MeAMSS this year, it's as though we've come full circle with Cheryl Schilke once again leading our Association as President, a kick-off into our next decade of MeAMSS. Welcome back Lena McDougal, President-elect. Lena served on the board for many years as Secretary. I'm sure she'll be a great President-elect. Deb Carter, Treasurer, will continue in her current position. Claudia Edwards, who has been Editor of *The Lighthouse*, turns over the reins to Pat O'Connor. Claudia moves on to the position of Secretary. Pat has served on the board in many capacities: Education Chair, President-elect, President, and Past President. Pat brings to the board years of experience that we shall appreciate. Lisa Davis will be assuming the Membership Chair vacated by Jamie Mark. Becky West is taking over the responsibility of Media Chair, and I'm sure she will have as good a working relationship with our website developer as Allison did. Becky had been Member at Large. Julie Plummer accepted the role of Member-at-Large. The Member-at-large role is a good beginning position on the board and is a support position that I'm sure Julie will serve admirably. Rose Lyons is assuming Chair, Education Committee. Rose served on the board briefly some years ago as Treasurer. We welcome her back. And, me, I move on to the role of Past President. I'm sure the 2007 board will continue to serve our Association well.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize the contributions of, and extend my sincere thanks to, those members who are leaving the board:

- Freddie Jackson, who has been a close advisor to me in her role as Past President, will be sadly missed.
- Jamie Mark served as Membership Chair and previously served as Member at Large. We have seen increased membership under Jamie's leadership.
- Allison Meyer in her role as Media Chair was instrumental in working closely with Kreg Rose, our website developer, and in creating policies

# KUDOS KORNER!



**Congratulations to:  
Claudia Edwards, CPMSM for being recognized at the  
Maine Coast Memorial Hospital's annual meeting as its 2006 Most Valuable Player**

**Denise Sjogren on her recent nuptials. Denise is now Denise Sudborough  
and is employed at Dahl-Chase Pathology Associates**

## **PEOPLE ON THE MOVE**

**Pat O'Connor, 2007 Lighthouse Editor, has taken a new position as Interim Director of Medical Staff Services at a Rhode Island hospital. She'll be working three days a week with an expected assignment of about six months. For those of you who joined us November 3, Pat, along with Kim Pelletier, told the audience of their experiences as medical staff consultants**

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### **Odd- n-Ends**

Sent in by Joyce Allen, CPMSM

DEA published a new manual for practitioners recently. It can be downloaded at:  
[http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/pubs/manuals/pract/pract\\_manual090506.pdf](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/pubs/manuals/pract/pract_manual090506.pdf)

The BOLIM is now accepting credit card payments on applications

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### ***President's Message Continued:***

regarding the web, advertising, etc. She has been an involved member of the board.

- MaryCarol Rumsey has served on the Education Committee for many years and as Education Chair these last six. She has also served on the board in many positions. She put together many interesting programs that garnered no less than 3, and most times 4, CEUs per education session. Those of you who need to maintain certification did not have to travel far with MaryCarol at the helm.
- Melissa Cadiuex had faithfully served as the board's secretary for the last two years – not an easy task. Melissa brought to the board her cheerful personality and valued input.
- And, finally, Kim Pelletier. Kim had been elected as President-elect, but in her capacity as a medical staff services consultant, was unable to accede to the role of President. Kim has served on the board for at least 8 years, possibly 10. She was a great President who led the board in developing goals and objectives, and revising bylaws, job descriptions and the Association's mission, vision and values statement, in addition to creating a leadership manual for other board members. Kim, the Association and your board, thank you so much for your contributions.

***Happy Trails!***

***Ron***

**MeAMSS Goes International!**  
**(From Kittery to The County)**  
*By Debra Carter, CPCS*

For those of us living in Maine, we know about our state's coastline, the mountains, the lakes, and the forests. But you can't appreciate just how large the state is until you travel from Kittery to "The County" as members of the MeAMSS board were fortunate to be able to do this summer. For years, several members of our Association have traveled to our educational meetings around the state, usually held in the Augusta vicinity because of its central location. For MeAMSS board members, their commitment to this organization is demonstrated by their willingness to travel – this year to not only the educational meetings but to the board meetings as well. My trip to "The County" helped me to better understand the commitment of these members.

This story is simple. We started out at 12:30 p.m. from Portland. Ron Lambert, our current President, had already traveled an hour from Kittery to pick us up in Portland. We had our directions and off we went to a part of Maine that none of us had seen. I should point out that the directions given to us went something like this: "Follow I-95 until it ends, take a right and an hour from there is Caribou". I asked for the hotel address. "You can't miss it. Just follow the road from the end of I-95 and after an hour, you'll see it". "Where?" I asked. "An hour from I-95, really, you can't miss it". OKAY.

A little background is needed for this particular tale. For those of you who don't know Ron, he drives a bright yellow Ford150. Ron had just returned from bull riding school in Kansas, a dream fulfilled. He thought it appropriate for this trip to wear his "cowboy" attire – cowboy hat, cowboy shirt, jeans, cowboy boots, and a very large cowboy buckle on his belt. Two things were missing from his attire – the guns and the horse. We are obviously thankful he picked us up in his truck (and not a horse)!

So, on a beautiful afternoon, we departed the city for parts unknown with the directions given to us by reliable (we thought) colleagues. We made a few stops along the way to stretch our legs. We experienced cities fading away to be replaced by miles and miles of green and blue – the lakes, the mountains, the trees, and the sky. We didn't see as much wildlife as we expected to, but we did catch a glimpse of a moose feeding by the road. We were so intent on the scenery that when we saw the sign that read "U.S. Customs, Proceed to Gate and Stop", one of our passengers remarked – "Did the directions say we had to go through Canada?" A bit of panic set in at this point, because you are not allowed to just turn around. This wasn't a turnpike tollbooth. As we pulled up to the border guard, he leaned in, looked at us and said to Ron, "You're a long way from cowboy country. Where are you headed?" After we explained our mistake, the guard was very understanding and gave us directions for turning around but cautioned us that we would need to stop at the border on the other side. Now our truck was pointing toward the U.S. instead of Canada. The guard asked the following: "How long were you in Canada?" (Didn't they see this bright yellow F150 just turn around?) "What was your business in Canada?" (A 60-second vacation?) "You say you're going to Caribou. Do you know how to get there?" (Obviously NOT.) After a second questioning about the usual foodstuffs, (a half can of cashews and an unopened box of brownies) we were finally on our way.

We arrived in Caribou at 6:45PM. Our colleagues had enough sense not to ask what took us so long. Dinner that evening was wonderful and some former board members shared with the rest of us their many stories of living in "The County". As we headed off to the hotel (and yes you can't miss it), we were given instructions about night driving in "The County" to avoid meeting up with the moose. The next day, we had a royal reception at Cary Medical Center (thank you, Becky West), and accomplished much at the meeting. By 2:00PM we were headed south, this time with a better idea of where we were going.

MeAMSS Goes International Continued

There were two lessons to be learned from this trip: the first is just how gracious, intelligent, talented, friendly, and committed our members are, particularly when they choose to serve on the MeAMSS board. We have a fun time when we get together while accomplishing pretty remarkable goals. Secondly, and most importantly: Interstate 95 ends in Canada not in Houlton. **Take the Presque Isle exit off of I-95**, travel toward Presque Isle and you will get to Caribou without having to go to Canada!

**Hindsight is 20/20**

By Kim Pelletier, CPMSM, CPCS

First, I want to thank each of you for the wonderful comments during the MeAMSS meeting November 3. Women find it very difficult to accept compliments, so thank you from the bottom of my heart.

As part of my presentation, I thanked several individuals who I truly believed to be instrumental in my personal and professional growth. Somehow, however, I totally ignored the most important person, and my closest friend, who has been by my side since 1997. We have shared rooms in order to attend NAMSS' conferences (and boy do we have secrets!). We have shared many "road trips" in order to attend board and Association meetings (and despite her criticism, I still drive the same way). She supported me through a few "bumps" in the road which I did not think I could get through or overcome, and held me up when I was down. She is the first person I go to with questions while I am on the road. And, she didn't hold it against me when I neglected to say all of this to her last Friday. MaryCarol Rumsey, you are the truest of friends, a colleague among colleagues, and I would find it very difficult to do this consulting work without your support, guidance, and encouragement.

Kim

**2007 MeAMSS Board**

**President**

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**Membership Chair**

Lisa Davis, CPMSM  
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**Member-at-Large**

Julie Plummer, CPCS  
[jplummer@tamc.org](mailto:jplummer@tamc.org)

**HELPFUL WEBSITES**

- <http://www.mainedental.org/>
- <https://profiles.ama-assn.org/amaprofiles/>
- [https://www.do-online.org/index.cfm?PageID=cme\\_guidereqs](https://www.do-online.org/index.cfm?PageID=cme_guidereqs)
- <http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/10/chaps10.htm>
- <http://www.royalcollege.ca/>
- <http://www.state.me.us/pfr/olr/>
- <http://www.archives.gov/locations/index.html>
- <http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/letter>
- <http://www.nccpa.net/namss.org>
- [docboard.org](http://www.docboard.org)
- [msleader.com](http://www.msleader.com)
- [msspnext.com](http://www.msspnext.com)
- [qualityforum.org](http://www.qualityforum.org)
- [credentialinfo.com](http://www.credentialinfo.com)
- [www.aana.com](http://www.aana.com)
- [jointcommission.org](http://www.jointcommission.org)
- <https://www.nursys.com/Common.asp?pt=LICENSEVERIFICATION>

**We're on the Web!  
Check us out!  
[meamss.org](http://meamss.org)**

## **NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF NURSING**

Virginia deLorimier, Assistant Executive Director of the Maine State Board of Nursing addressed the MeAMSS members at the November 3, 2006, meeting in Bangor. The following are some of the highlights of her presentation:

- Effective October 2006, license renewals are available online. The MSBON hopes to be paperless by 2008. Renewed licenses will no longer be issued, though initial licenses will but without an expiration date. To determine whether a license is current, one must go online to check Maine license status. One word of caution, however, the authorization for advanced practice nurses is not yet available online. Advanced practice nurses must submit a paper application for their advanced practice authority. Notifications are mailed out about six weeks prior to expiration. If an RN fails to renew his/her advanced practice authority, there is no backdating. Ms. deLorimier suggested the audience track expiration dates to ensure the APRN has renewed his/her authority.
- One can check Compact States APRNS' status online. One can also obtain a list of Compact APRN Renewals.
- The MSBON continues to issue initial approval to practice letters: Temporary approvals, Independent approvals and Compact approvals.
- As of January 2007 all advanced practice nurse must have a master's degree. In order to apply for APRN status, an application must be filed and a transcript from the master's program must be sent to the MSBON. In addition, the Board needs verification of the test date or results of national examination.
- An advanced practice nurse can obtain temporary approval pending national examination results. These approvals expire at different times. Nurse practitioner temporary approvals are good for two years with two attempts at examination. If a nurse practitioner does not pass within that time period, s/he cannot function as a nurse practitioner.
- Certified nurse specialists and certified nurse midwives have one year under temporary approval.
- Delegated practice: The MSBON does not require a nurse practitioner to go under delegated practice. However, if the medical staff bylaws mandate that nurse practitioners are dependent, then by operation of the bylaws a supervisory relationship must be filed with the physician's medical licensing board. The advanced practice nurse's scope of practice is still under the purview of the MSBON; however, the BOLIM will only allow physicians to delegate certain activities to the advanced practice nurse. Example: Even though an advanced practice nurse holds a DEA registration for Schedules II-V drugs, if the advanced practice nurse is under delegation, the nurse can only write prescriptions for Schedules III-V unless the nurse applies for Schedule II prescriptive authority at the BOLIM.
- Nurse Licensure Compact: "The mutual recognition model of nurse licensure allows a nurse to have one license in his or her state of residency) and to practice in other states (both physical and electronic) subject to each state's practice law and regulation. Under mutual recognition, a nurse may practice across state lines unless otherwise restricted." There are approximately 33 states that have enacted compact agreements. On January 10, 2000, the Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators (NLCA) were organized to protect the public's health and safety by promoting compliance with the laws governing the practice of nursing in each party state through the mutual recognition of party state licenses" (source: <https://www.ncsbn.org/nlc.htm>).

If a nurse who resides in another state that is not a compact state wishes to practice in Maine, s/he must apply for a license in the State and would be issued a single state license. If a nurse from a compact state moves, to Maine, her license in her former state is nullified and she is issued a new compact license in Maine.

- Certified Nurse Midwives and maintenance of competence: A national certification examination to confer the credential Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM) was first instituted in 1971 by the American Certified Nurse Midwife Certification Council (ACNM). In 1991, the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB) was

*Continued on Page 6*

incorporated as an independent certification organization, separate from ACNM. In 1992, AMCB assumed responsibility for the National Certification Examination (NCE) and issuance of certificates for nurse midwives. Today the AMCB is the only organization that officially:

1. confers the credential CNM or CM;
2. verifies certification for purposes such as employment or state licensure; and
3. issues replacements for lost certificate for any CNM or CM, regardless of whether the initial certificate was issued by ACNM or AMCB.

CMP and CCA distinctions: The AMCB began issuing time-limited certificates to anyone who became a certified nurse midwife after January 1996. **For those individuals with a time-limited certificate, choosing between the CMP and CCA is not an either/or option. They must meet the CMP (Certification Maintenance Program) requirements in order to receive a new certificate.** However, they may participate in the CCA program (Continuing Competency Assessment) in addition to CMP. For those CNMs who do not have a time-limited certificate, the CMP is a voluntary process, although states and employers may require participation (mandated in AL, GA, MD, ME, MO, and NM).

In 1986, ACNM established the CCA Program. When originally established, the CCA Program was mandatory for all CNMs in active clinical practice or teaching in an education program. In 1996, the ACNM Board of Directors changed the position on CCA to make it a voluntary program for any CNM or CM. The CCA Program **does not** have any impact on national certification, but it may have impact on the ability of some CNMs to receive state licensure.

The table below summarizes the two programs:

<u>Program Sponsor</u>	<u>CMP</u>	<u>CCA</u>
Program Effective Date	AMCB January 1, 1996	ACNM 1987 as mandatory; 1995 as voluntary
Participation requirements	Mandatory for all CNMs and CMs certified after January 1, 1996 Voluntary for CNMs certified prior to December 31, 1995 but may be mandated by some states	Voluntary for all CNMs and CMs. May be mandatory in some states.
Completion options	Accrual of 20 contact hours or 2 CEUs approved by either ACNM or ACCME for Category I activities during the 8 year period and either Option 1: Completing and successfully passing open book post-tests for 3 certification maintenance modules within the 8-year period Or Option 2: Passing the NCE between beginning of the 7 <sup>th</sup> year and end of the 8-year certification period	Option 1: Passing the NCE once during 5-year CCA cycle (initial certification does not count) Or Option 2: Completing 50 contact hours or 5 CEUs of ACNM approved and/or ACCME Category I continuing education activities and/or any of the four alternatives in lieu of CEUs
Dates effective	Initial certification becomes effective the day a graduate takes and passes the NCE and expires 8 full years later on December 31  Subsequent certifications become effective January 1 and expire 8 years later on December 31	A CCA cycle always begins on September 1 and expires 5 years later on August 31. The year it begins depends on when an enrollment application is submitted, regardless of graduation or certification date  Subsequent CCA cycles begin when a new enrollment application is submitted for each cycle  Self Reporting Forms (SRFs) are always due by October 1 following the cycle's expiration.

Program requirements on successful completion	For CNMs and CMs with a time limited certificate, a new 8-year time limited certificate is issues	Certificate of Satisfactory Completion is issued once random audit of cycle is completed.
Failure to meet requirements	<p>For CNMS without a time limited certificate, a certificate of completion is issued</p> <p>For CNMs/CMs with time limited certificate:</p> <p>For certificants who choose Option 1 and fail, a CMM post-test, another post-test may be resubmitted. If they fail the second post-test, they may submit the post-test for the updated module in the content area once, if available within 8-year certification period. If the post-test is failed a third time, the certificant must pass the NCE. If the certificant’s certificate expires before passing the NCE, the certificant may apply to the Credentials Administration and Report (CAR) committee chair for a limited extension of the certificate. The certificant must take the examination at the first available opportunity</p> <p>Certificants who selection Option 2 will be allowed to take the NCE as many times as possible within the last two years (potential is up to 9 times in a two-year period)</p> <p>Policies for re-entry into practice after failure or lapse of CMP requirements are currently under development</p> <p>If a CNM without a time limited certificate does not meet the CMP requirements, no certificate of completion is issued, but original certification is still valid</p>	<p>No Certificate of Satisfactory Completion is issued</p> <p>Participant is invited to enroll in next CCA cycle</p>
Enrollment	CNMs and CMs with time limited certificates are automatically enrolled in the CMP and are required to keep the AMCB informed of any changes to name, address or status of licensure	Participant must submit a completed CCA Enrollment Form at the beginning of the CCA cycle
Documentation & verification of meeting program requirements	Certificants are required to maintain individual records of accumulated CEUs. A 10% audit of all certificants whose certificates expire that year will be conducted in the 8 <sup>th</sup> year of certification	Participant must submit a completed SRF listing activities completed in the 5-year period that meet the CCA Program requirements. The SRF must be postmarked by October 1 of the year the cycle ends. No documentation is due with the SRF. An audit is conducted of 10% of the cycle participants selected at random plus any SRFs that did not demonstrate meeting the minimum requirements. Audit participants are asked to submit copies of documentation of reported CEU or alternative activities
Mechanism for verification of participation	Certificate with valid dates or letter of verification issued by AMCB	CCA Enrollment card with valid dates for participation in current cycle

Ability to change options	<p>Certificants who originally elect to complete the CMMs may choose to change to passing the NCE at any time</p> <p>Certificants who originally elect to pass the NCE between years 7 and 8 may not choose to change to completing CMMs</p>	<p>If participant cannot complete 5 CEUs within 5 year CCA cycle, must pass exam before end of CCA cycle</p> <p>If participant does not pass exam, must submit a Self Reporting Form (SRF) documenting completion of 5 CEUs no later than the CCA reporting deadline</p>
Fees	<p>Annual administrative fee</p> <p>A certificant must pay an annual administrative fee for each year of the 8-year cycle or the cost of the exam if they choose to retake it at the end of their 8-year cycle but not both. There is no cost to retake the post tests but there may be a fee for additional post test booklets</p> <p>Late fees are assessed as appropriate</p>	<p>One-time fee per cycle of \$75 for ACNM members/\$125 for non-ACNM members, due with application to enroll</p>

Source: Continuing Education & Practice Resources by Lara Slattery, ACNM Education Manager (this first appeared as an article in the January/February 1999 issue of *Quickening*).

The following are some legal questions and answers that I found on the Horty Springer website, [www.hortyspringer.com](http://www.hortyspringer.com):

**Question:** A physician who served briefly at our hospital as a locum tenens crossed out the statement: "and I agree not to sue" on the special release we provided to an inquiring hospital, after we responded that we couldn't complete their questionnaire without a specific release. There were some issues about his ability to work collegially with others (physicians and nurses) during the few weeks he was here. The inquiring hospital is pressuring us. What should we do?

**Answer:** By asking for the special release, you have already followed what is becoming a "best practice" to send a "flag" to the inquiring hospital. In light of the Kadlec case, you want to be careful not to open your hospital up to the contention that you omitted material information. You can continue to take the position that no information can be provided without that signed unaltered release. That should send a message to the inquiring hospital, which may hold his application incomplete. (In Kadlec, a federal jury in Louisiana awarded \$8.2 million in damages in a case that is likely to become a landmark in credentialing. In May 2005, the court allowed the case to go to trial, holding that, in order to protect future patients when a physician moves on, hospitals have a duty not to misrepresent material information, either directly or through omission, when responding to reference requests about former medical staff members. *Kadlec Med. Ctr. v. Lakeview Anesthesia Assoc.*, No. Civ.A. 04-0997 (E.D. La. May 19, 2005).) You would likely win summary judgment if the physician sues, based on immunity under HCQIA, if you replied notwithstanding the physician's failure to sign your release, and if your response was truthful, but suit could still be filed. Most hospitals would not process an incomplete application and would hold it incomplete if they cannot get responses from references sufficient to demonstrate current competence and satisfaction of all qualifications, including those related to behavior.

**Question:** I'm confused! Which AHPS do we need to "credential and privilege" and then what about hearings and appeals?

**Answer:** Both the JCAHO and CMS have changed their positions regarding these practitioners and, unfortunately, those positions are not 100% consistent. For instance, the JCAHO now requires that PAs and APRNs be granted clinical privileges, whereas in the past, the JCAHO had allowed them to be granted a "scope of practice." The JCAHO continues to allow hospitals to credential and privilege PAs and APRNs using an "equivalent" process. However, CMS has rejected this approach. Therefore, to be consistent with CMS requirements, the Medical Executive Committee and the Board must act on all initial and renewed requests for privileges from these AHPs. If PAs and APRNs are granted privileges and processed through the medical staff process, then, under JCAHO MS.4.50, the hospital would also be required to afford these practitioners a "hearing and appeal" if an adverse decision was made pertaining to their clinical privileges. A meeting would not be appropriate for PAs and APRNs, although it could still be used for the truly dependent practitioners.

## GOODBYE AND THANK YOU!

*By Claudia Edwards, CPMSM*

Thank you for making me a better medical staff services professional. This is my last edition of *The Lighthouse*. I have served as your editor for the last four years. I have enjoyed it immensely though it's time to move on. I am not leaving the board, however. My new position will be that of Secretary, and I hope to be able to continue contributing articles of interest in future editions while serving the Association in a different capacity.

As I look through the issues over the last four years, I can take satisfaction in viewing the changes made to our newsletter. I accepted appointment as editor because I have a thirst for knowledge. When I am working under schedules and tight deadlines, I find the pressure sends me off in new directions for knowledge – the offshoot of which was another article in the newsletter. The growth I have attained, not only in producing your newsletter, but in increasing my knowledge base, has earned me the respect of my peers as well as my supervisors. As a result of my being involved in the newsletter and with our board, I have received recognition from my employer, the likes of which I never expected. I was recently recognized as the 2006 Most Valuable Player at my hospital. But, I didn't enter this position for recognition. I wanted to educate. I have all of you to thank for allowing me to play that role.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank **my Most Valuable Player, Sue Flanders**, without whose support, I would not have survived this past summer. The employee, who was responsible for enrolling our employed physicians into managed care programs, and maintaining recredentialing with them, left the hospital's employ at the end of June. Without an immediate replacement, the task of ensuring that the three new physicians we'd hired were enrolled in the various plans as well as Medicare, MaineCare, MaineCare Managed Care and Health Net Services fell to me (in addition to my current responsibilities). Apparently, my hospital felt I knew what to do. Boy, were they ever wrong! There's nothing like learning 'under fire'. Enrolling physicians into these plans is like learning a foreign language – many of the applications were not intuitively logical to me, particularly Medicare. To make matters worse, during this same period Medicare reworked most of its enrollment forms! Sue became my new best friend – ever willing and ready to answer my numerous questions. She drove out of her way to deliver printouts of essential website pages and names of contact people to aid me in my new endeavors. Well, Sue, I survived. While I whined about my frustration and lack of knowledge, I have to say, once again, it was a new learning experience. We now have someone in that position and I am happy to say that I am slowly returning those responsibilities. Thank you, Sue, so very much for you truly are My Most Valuable Player!

In closing, I hope you will support Pat as our editor. If you learn something new in the performance of your profession, why not share it with our members by submitting a tidbit to Pat? Have you polled the membership as to how to handle a certain situation? I'm sure all of the members would benefit by sharing your findings in the newsletter. No submission is too trivial. The editor always needs filler items as well as articles. Who knows? You could be the winner of a free 2008 MeAMSS membership!

It was good seeing you at the November meeting. I look forward to seeing more of you next year at our educational sessions!