

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Thank you for allowing me to serve as President of this state society. I am truly honored to be here. I look forward to working with all of you to help move this organization forward with further growth of membership and the opportunities present in this career path. My theme for the coming year is "Making a Difference".

I'm going to borrow a story you may have heard before and is meaningful to me.

A man on the beach where thousands of starfish lay dying in the sun saw a girl tossing them into the sea, one by one. "Why bother?" He asked. "You won't make much of a difference." Tossing yet another starfish into the sea, the girl said "I made a difference to that one". CMA's make a difference everyday.

A CMA happened to be working with her doctor helping him as he gave a talk on gastric surgery options to a group of people in a conference room at the hospital. Seeing a man near the front row, she noticed he was sweating a lot although the room was a comfortable temperature. Before her eyes, his color began to change, but showed no other symptoms. She took the liberty to call for help and get him taken to the ER. The man was having a heart attack and ended up in the cath lab the next morning. She made a difference. CMA's can make a difference.

A CMA was on vacation and on a flight to Boston. On the flight she happened to notice an elderly patient that she knew from the office. She didn't say anything to her as they were seats apart. Once they landed she had to go and wait for her luggage. While she was waiting she saw a group of people gathered around in a huddle. Looking further she noticed "her" patient in the middle. She had fallen, and was a little disoriented. The CMA worked her way to the patient and called her by name and identified herself. The women smiled and said "I am so glad you are here, can you help me?" She took the time to call the patients family who was waiting in another area of the airport. The CMA stayed with the woman until ems took her. The woman recovered. CMA's can make a difference.

A CMA was invited to the CMA luncheon many years ago. A long time member introduced herself, took an interest in the new CMA and told her about her local chapter and introduced her to chapter members and mentored her along the way. That CMA was our State President in 2008-09, Theresa Errante-Parrino and the CMA that made a difference was Mary Keho. CMA's can make a difference.

Everyday we can make a difference. One patient, one encounter, one student, one person at a time - everyday. We can make a difference. We can make the difference. John Kennedy stated "one person can make a difference and every person should try". Shouldn't we all try to become better and stronger, take on some more responsibility, and help make a difference to this organization? Each one of us has talents, skills and a multitude of abilities to make a group of incredible people. The FSMA. Each one of us brings our own identity to the group and as a group we can make a difference. It is with great pleasure and pride that I assume the presidency. I look forward to the challenge and I will challenge you as members to go out and make a difference to just one person, each and every day. FSMA- Making a Difference-Everyday.

Jeanne Von Ohlsen, CMA(AAMA)
FSMA President 2010-2011