

# TMGMA ENEWS

January/February 2019

## Message from the President



Happy New Year everyone! I hope all of you had a wonderful, restful holiday season filled with good food, good friends and all the family you could tolerate.

How many of you have made New Year's resolutions? How many of you have had significant others make New Year's resolutions FOR you? My wife is going vegan. Which means her decidedly omnivore husband is going ve-

gan; sort of. I see more tofu for me in 2019. Don't get me wrong. I know that real men eat tofu and it's a great low fat source of protein, but it just can't compare to the Bobby Flay standing rib roast I did on the Big Green Egg for Christmas!

One other resolution I have made is in 2019 I am going to become a Fellow in the American College of Medical Practice Executives (ACMPE). I must be nuts to broadcast this but now I have people to hold me accountable. I need to do this, as my sweet mother used to say, "...like I need another hole in my head." If I sit back and think about it, I've got too much on my plate. But I'm thinking it's kind of like having kids. There's really no good time to have them. So you just hold your breath and take the plunge. Fortunately for me, TMGMA has an excellent resource for those that want to become a Certified Medical Practice Executive (CMPE) or pursue their fellowship. Loretta Duncan is the TMGMA ACMPE representative. She's awesome. For all those interested in becoming Certified or a Fellow, she can answer any questions you may have. She also has a set of the Body of Knowledge study guides that can be checked out by TMGMA members. In addition to Loretta, for those that are members of national MGMA, there is a hosted online study group to help prepare you for the CMPE qualifying exam. How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time. Decide to do it then do the next right thing. For me, I've decided on a topic for my fellowship project. The next right thing is to get my Business Plan Proposal submitted. I'll focus on that for now.

Just a reminder that our 2019 Spring Conference is April 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> at the Westin in beautiful downtown Chattanooga. We've got an exciting line up of speakers including a pre-conference workshop with renowned leadership speaker Tracy Spears on "The Threads that Connect a High-Performance Culture". Our other pre-con workshop is "Finding Your Superpowers: Where to Start as a Manager". Presenters are TMGMA favorites Jackie Boswell, Steve Dickens, Loretta Duncan and Anne Pontius. At \$50 per person either one of these workshops is a steal! Seating is limited so register early.

In the weeks ahead, be on the lookout for a TMGMA member survey. It is a short, 10 question survey that should take less than 5 minutes to complete. We truly value your feedback and would greatly appreciate your participation.

TMGMA is here to provide resources to practice executives to keep you at the top of your game or to help you get started in the field. Let us help you get your new year started on the right foot.

J. Kelly Davis, BS CMPE

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# Medical Professional Liability Insurance

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# PRACTICE EXECUTIVE OF THE *Year*

Do you know a practice executive who has gone beyond the call of duty? Oh wait, all of them do. Do you know a practice executive who has made a lasting contribution to his or her organization, physicians, staff and patients? Oops, that is still all of them. Do you know a practice executive worthy of recognition by his or her peers as a leader among leaders? If so, nominate him or her for the Thomas H. Stearns Practice Executive of the Year Award. TMGMA is now accepting nominations for this prestigious award.

Nominations require a written statement why an individual deserves this award. Nominations must include:

- The nominee's full name, practice and years of experience as well as name and contact information for the person submitting the nomination.
- Multiple letters of endorsement and/or documentation why this individual is worthy are acceptable but all materials must be provided together in one submission.

Direct nominations and/or questions to Stephen A. Dickens, JD, FACMPE, Chair - TMGMA Council of Past Presidents at [steved@svmic.com](mailto:steved@svmic.com) or to his attention in care of SVMIC at P.O. Box 1065, Brentwood, TN 37024. Self-nominations are acceptable. The deadline to nominate is March 6. The Council of Past Presidents will present the award during the awards luncheon on Thursday, April 4 in conjunction with the 2018 TMGMA Annual Conference in Chattanooga.

Stephen A. Dickens, JD, FACMPE  
Chair, Council of Past Presidents

**TENNESSEE MGMA 2019 SPRING CONFERENCE • APRIL 3-5, 2019 • THE WESTIN CHATTANOOGA**



**BE THE  
SUPERHERO  
OF YOUR PRACTICE**

**MGMA  
TENNESSEE**

**April 3-5, 2019**

**Registration Now!!!**

# ACMPE Corner



**Happy New Year TMGMA members!** Since we are just stepping into 2019, I thought this would be an excellent time to remind everyone about the changes to the ACMPE continuing education requirements.

MGMA still requires 50 hours to maintain your ACMPE credentials and to complete your CMPE. However, the allocation of these hours changes beginning with the January 2019-December 2021 reporting period.

The biggest change is that 30 hours must be from MGMA national, state or local chapters. I know this may seem like a lot, but it's only 10 hours per year from any combination of MGMA meetings at the local, state and/or national level.

Other ways to earn these 30 hours:

- Article assessments (free, 10 a year offered)
- Webinars (free as long as they are not certificate bearing, 25-45 a year)
- Survey participation
- Lunch and learns/ Meetings with professional development (presentation on a topic)

There is also a requirement that 12 of these 30 hours must be from LIVE learning sessions, such as live webinars, teleconferences and face-to-face events. Remember that these 30 hours (12 of which must be live) can be earned at the local, state or national MGMA level.

The remaining 20 hours must come from qualified sources that pertain to the medical practice management field or you can earn all 50 from MGMA events. The choice is yours.

Some examples of non-MGMA sources are:

- Recognized professional associations and organizations
- College and university coursework
- Formal presentations
- Distance learning with interactivity

Earning continuing education credit is easier than you may think. In fact, most of you have probably participated in an activity that qualifies for credit, but didn't realize it. That was certainly the case for me. I encourage you to check out the various programs that qualify for continuing education at <https://www.mgma.com/career-pathways/career-advancement/acmpe/acmpe-continuing-education>.

# ACMPE Corner

## HOW DO YOU LOG YOUR ACMPE CREDIT HOURS?

The new ACMPE tracking portal makes it easy to manage your credit hours. Take a moment to review the instructions for steps on how to log in, view and enter your hours.

1. Sign in to [mgma.com](https://mgma.com).
2. Select **“My Dashboard”** found on the top right corner.
3. Select **“MANAGE MY ACCOUNT”** found on the top left corner.
4. Select **“ACMPE TRACKING”** found on the left side to enter the portal.
5. Click **“Full ACMPE Continuing Education Listing”** to review your total claimed credit hours and to request altering existing credit hours.
6. Click **“Add ACMPE Continuing Education Hours”** to claim all qualified hours for ACMPE.
  - To add hours for MGMA and external sources, click **“Claim My Additional Credit”**.
  - To claim your completed MGMA webinars and conferences, click **“Claim My Attended MGMA Events”**.

As always, if you have any questions about continuing education, certification, fellowship or anything else related to ACMPE, please feel free to contact me.

## Happy New Year!

Loretta Duncan, MS, FACMPE, CHC  
TMGMA ACMPE Forum Representative  
[lorettad@svmic.com](mailto:lorettad@svmic.com)



## TMGMA Legislative News

TMGMA works closely with both the MGMA and TMA Government Affairs staff to provide our members with the latest legislative & regulatory information. TMGMA members are encouraged to participate in grassroots activities, anecdotal surveys, and contacting your elected officials on issues of importance to medical practices. For more information on how you can get involved or questions on any legislative issue, contact your TMGMA Legislative Liaison Sharon Cannon, FACMPE [smcannon2000@yahoo.com](mailto:smcannon2000@yahoo.com)



## 2019 Legislative Priorities:

**BALANCE BILLING:** Special interest groups have pushed the Tennessee General Assembly during the past few years to address the issue of “surprise medical bills,” including filing a bill to remove the ban on the corporate practice of medicine. TMA wants to protect physicians’ rights to choose how they practice and get paid appropriately for services they provide out of network. TMA continues to proactively engage other stakeholders, including insurance companies and hospitals, in efforts to reach a solution that is fair to all parties, especially physicians and patients. If a compromise is not possible then TMA will advocate for a law setting reasonable compensation for out-of-network services relative to in-network rates.

**OPIOID EPIDEMIC:** While TMA was able to make significant improvements to Gov. Haslam’s “TN Together” legislation in 2018, some of the unintended consequences doctors initially feared the new law would create are manifesting across the state. New restrictions on prescribing and dispensing are no doubt achieving the governor’s stated goal of reducing overall initial supply, but are also unreasonably obstructing some patients from accessing legitimate, effective pain management. TMA will work with the legislature to amend the law to address specific issues raised by doctors and patients. [tnmed.org/opioids](http://tnmed.org/opioids)

**SCOPE OF PRACTICE:** TMA for years has led doctors’ opposition to nurse independent practice in Tennessee. The 2019 session is the final in a three-year moratorium with the Tennessee Nurses Association on all independent practice bills, but TMA is on alert to continue defending against any proposals from other groups that would threaten patient safety and quality of care by removing physician oversight for nurses, PAs or any other midlevel providers. TMA will continue promoting physician-led, team-based care as the safest, most efficient and effective healthcare delivery model in Tennessee. [tnmed.org/teambasedcare](http://tnmed.org/teambasedcare)

**MAT PARITY:** TMA will ask the General Assembly to consider a resolution encouraging health insurance companies to include Medication-Assisted Treatment therapies in patients’ health plans and reimburse specialists who provide MAT services at rates comparable to other treatments. TMA has long advocated for more accessible and well-funded treatment options for patients struggling with substance abuse. Using medications in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies is a necessary strategy in the ongoing fight against Tennessee’s opioid abuse epidemic.

Day On The Hill 2019 is TMA’s annual policy briefing and lobby day in Nashville connects physicians directly with lawmakers so they can advocate for their patients and discuss major issues affecting the medical profession in Tennessee. Register today and join us!



# TMGMA Webinars

## ON DEMAND WEBINARS



### JANUARY WEBINAR

**JANUARY 15TH, 12:00-1:15PM (CST)**

### ***Implications of the new Support Act on Opioid Treatment in your Practice***

On October 24, 2018, President Trump signed into law the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (SUPPORT Act). The SUPPORT Act addresses numerous aspects of the opioid crisis, including prevention, treatment and recovery. The SUPPORT Act includes significant changes to the prescription-writing authority of a number of different types of mid-level providers. This webinar will review those provisions of the SUPPORT Act, as well as discuss next steps for physician practice managers to comply the new fraud and abuse requirements in this federal law.

[Register now!](#)

#### **ABOUT THE SPEAKER:**

Richard D. Sanders is founding partner of Southern Health Lawyers, LLC. In this capacity he represents a variety of healthcare providers on a broad range of issues, including business transactions, fraud and abuse compliance (Anti-Kickback Statute and Stark), Certificate of Need (CON) issues, medical staff credentialing, Medicare reimbursement, antitrust policy, and legislative activities. He also assists providers in their relationships with federal and state regulatory agencies. After graduating from Duke University in 1992 with a double-major in political science and history, Rich earned his Juris Doctor degree from the Emory University School of Law in 1996. In 2013, Rich was rated as a "Top Rated Lawyer in HealthCare Law" and has a AV Preeminent® peer review rating from Martindale-Hubbell™. Rich currently serves on the adjunct faculty at Emory University and teaches courses in business and regulatory law. In 2004, he was awarded Professor of the Year. Rich is a former intelligence officer in the U.S. Navy, where he worked with an Atlanta-based unit supporting the U.S. Sixth Fleet in Naples, Italy.



**TMGMA offers a FREE Webinar Series as a benefit of membership. Our webinars focus on the domains of the ACMPE Body of Knowledge. These webinars are free to ALL members. Webinars will be eligible for one ACMPE Credit Hour. Recordings of webinars will be available**