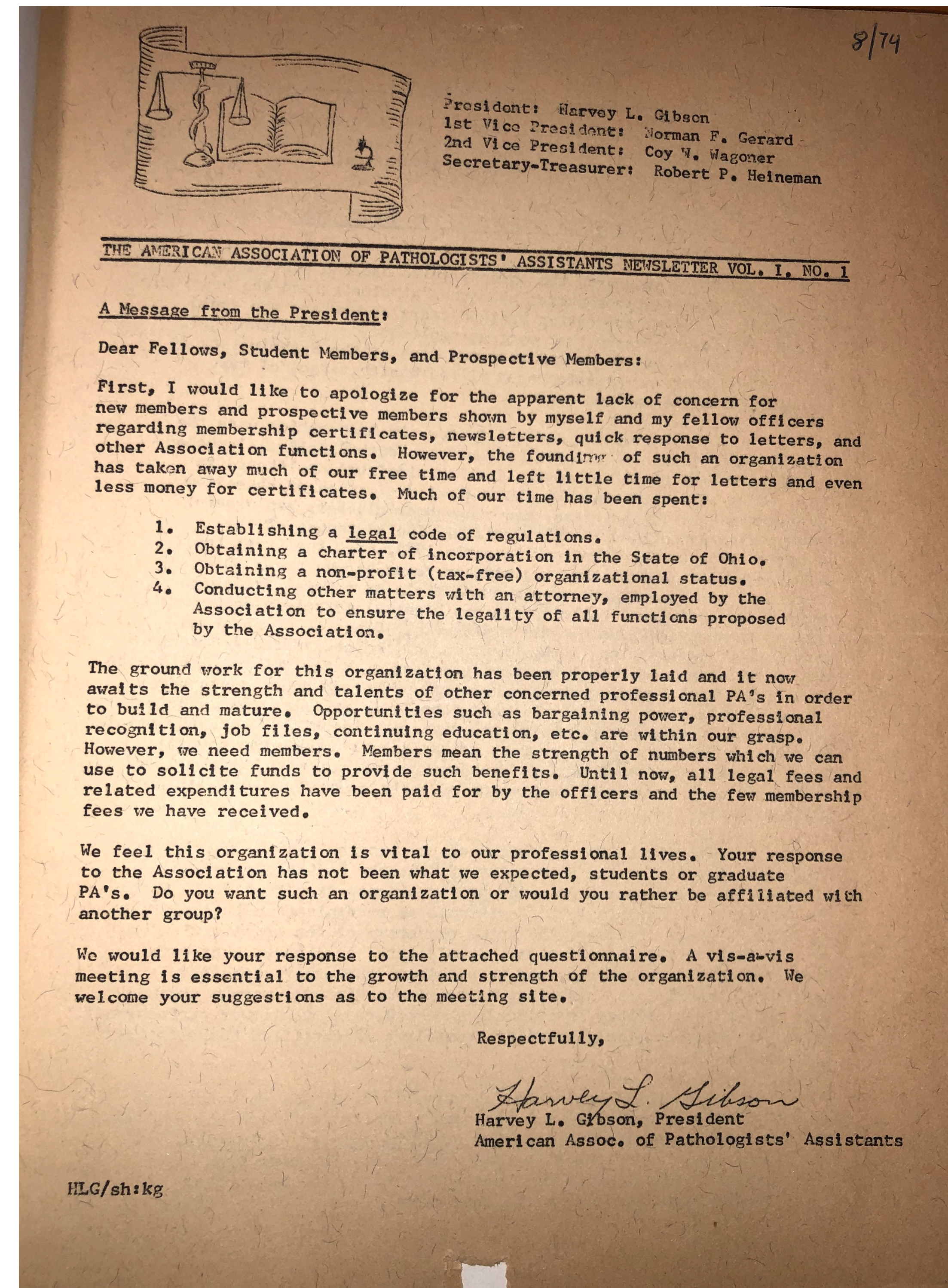
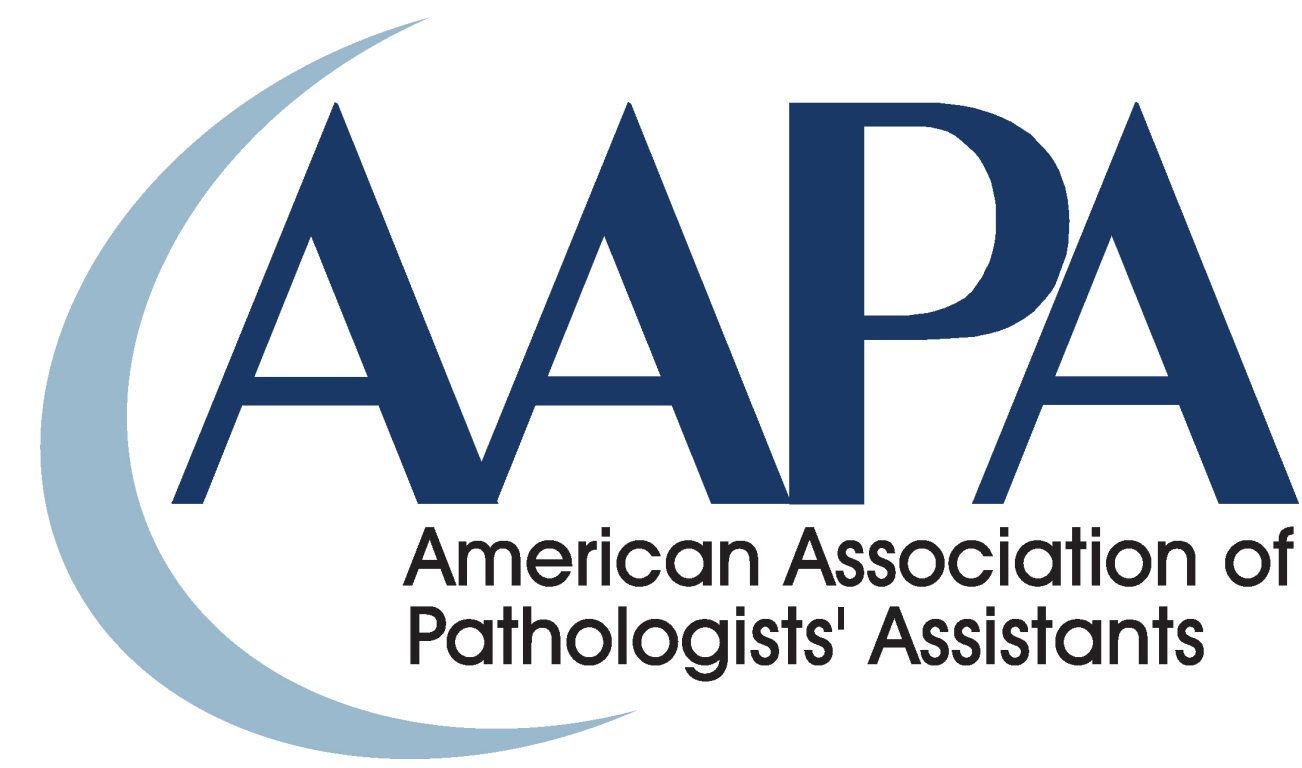
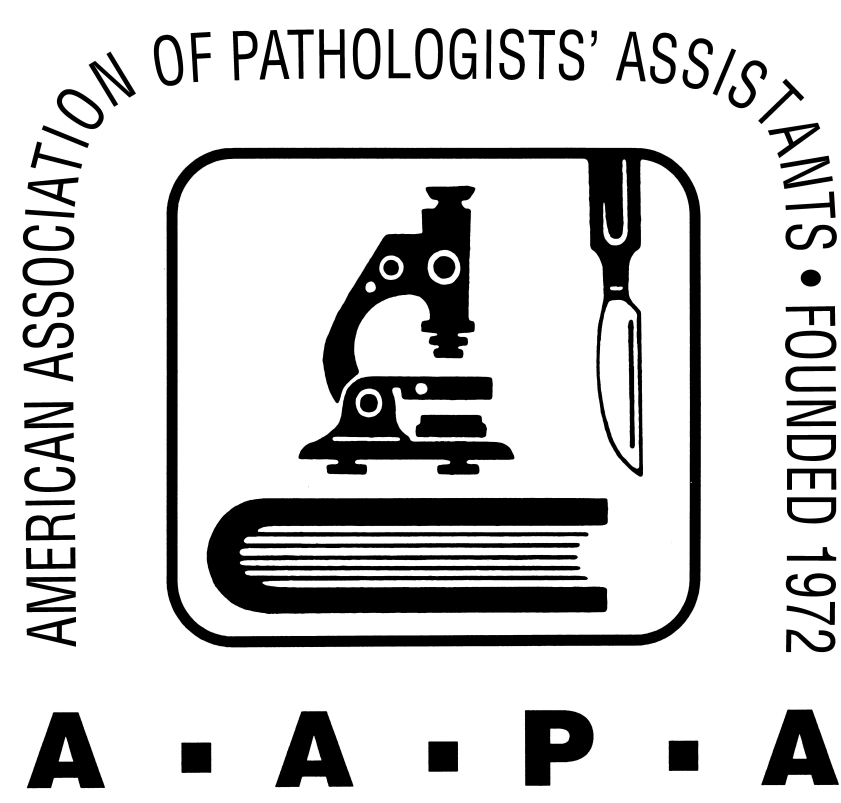




The Formation of the American Association of Pathologists' Assistants



From the first planning meeting held in February of 1972 came a proposed organization which adopted the name of “The American Association of Pathologists’ Assistants”.

The Association is dedicated to, and adheres to, the same high professional, ethical and moral ideals that guide the many other professional medical associations that exist in our society today. A provisional clause was included in the Association’s Code of Regulations, whereby many of the now employed, non-certified so-called pathologists’ assistants could become members of the Association if, after examination by the Association membership committee, they were found to be qualified under criteria established by the Association.

It was a general consensus of the founding members of the Association, that a non-profit organization was the best vehicle to: Achieve the prime objective of identifying those who were qualified as certified Pathologists’ Assistants. And, to inform the general public and members of the medical profession of the qualifications of these trained pathologists’ assistants.

And, to insure that those who are not qualified as Pathologists’ Assistants will be subject to criticism and may, in some instances, be subject to legal remedy if the good name of the certified Pathologists’ Assistants is used indiscriminately by those seeking employment as certified Pathologists’ Assistants when, in fact, they are not.

AAPA Newsletter VOL. 1, NO. 1, P2-3, Aug 1974



The American Association of Pathologists’ Assistants organization was formed in order to promote the individual pathologists’ assistants and to represent a small group of individuals as a unified force. The AAPA was a source of potential jobs and provided clarification of the legal standing of individual pathologists’ assistants and of the profession in the medical community.

The AAPA provided its members a platform to network even before the time of computers and the internet. It provided a forum for the exchange of information between members and a sounding board for each of us to compare our job situations and the attendant obstacles that arise in each of our personal and professional careers. I personally found this to be most helpful. In most of my positions, I was the first pathologists’ assistant to be hired. This provided me with the unique experience of “breaking the ice” and showing what I could do.

I found that training pathology residents in the academic positions at the University of Kentucky and the University of Virginia could potentially expand horizons for other pathologists’ assistants. Residents could see our usefulness and eventually might go on to hire pathologists’ assistants themselves once they were part of their own pathology departments.

Through the AAPA I have made lifelong friends in both the United States and in Canada, where I have been an “unofficial” member of the Canadian pathologists’ assistant delegation for years. The great locations of the AAPA conventions over the years have allowed my family to visit many places we might not otherwise had the opportunity to see.

I consider the AAPA and the pathologists’ assistant profession to be the guiding forces in my life. I left rural Indiana coal mines to become a medical professional in pathology through the Duke University PA Program, under the auspices of A. Wendell Musser, MD, a fellow Hoosier who as a mentor, saw my potential and recommended me for the first class of three in that program. That year at Duke I met my future wife of 48 years, and my life was forever changed.



Coy Wagoner PA(ASCP)cm, Duke Class '71



The Administration Committee ensures that correct parliamentary procedures govern all Association activities, including laws associated with incorporation, legal matters, nominating and voting for Trustees, and Bylaws format including adoptions, amendments or repeals of such as recommended by the Board of Trustees.

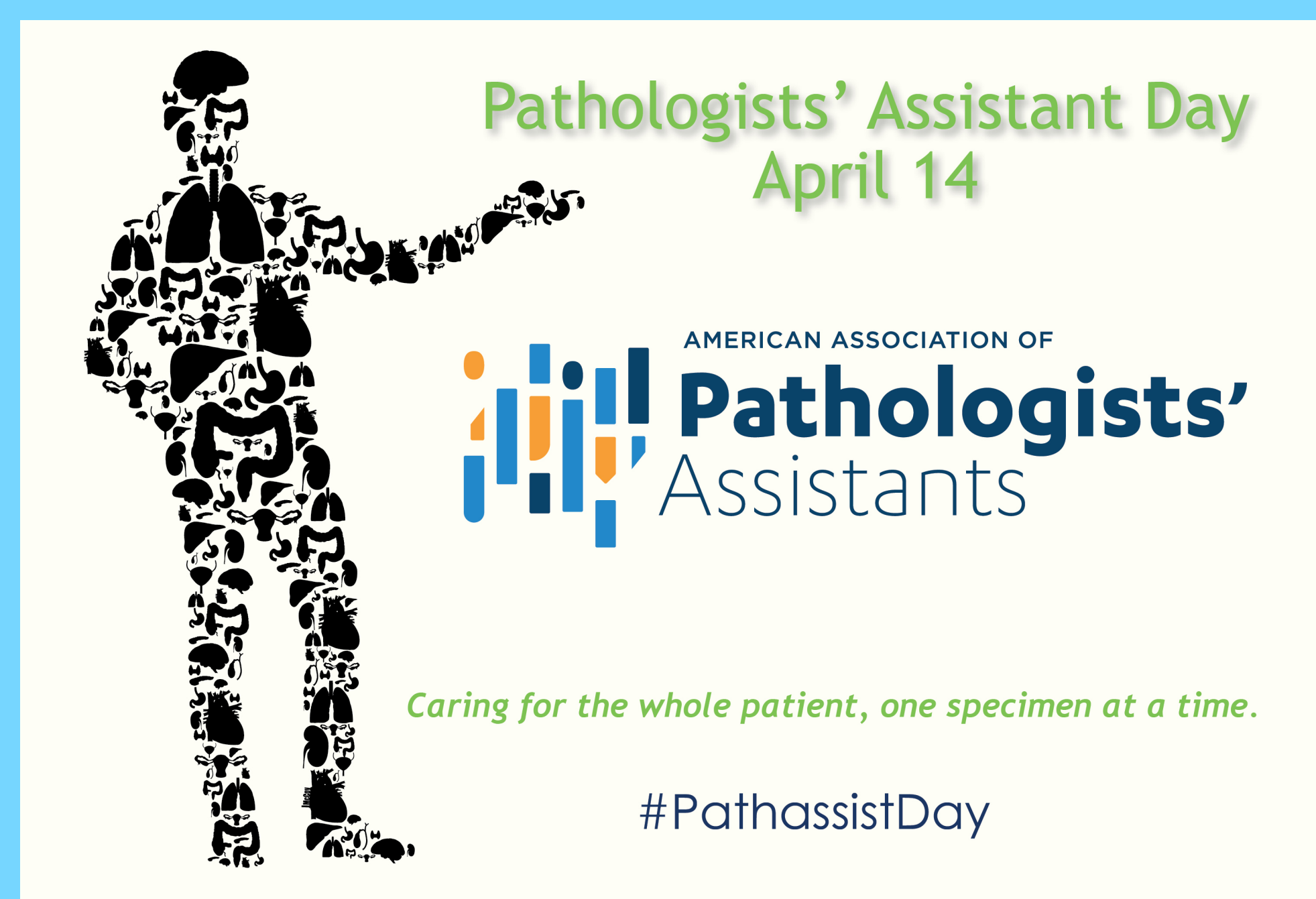


Scan for Administration Committee volunteer opportunities

The legislative subcommittee monitors legislative and licensing activity, and guides members on how to best address these issues to the benefit of pathologists’ assistants.

Current projects include addressing VA job posting issues, responding to the CMS proposal that would allow nurses to perform high complexity testing, and updating the AAPA governing documents.

LOOKING FORWARD



Join us in celebrating Pathologists’ Assistant Day (PA Day) on April 14th! Professional advocacy is a core value of the AAPA, but we need your help to keep moving forward! The movement starts with you as an individual in your own workplace. Don’t wait for someone else to start the celebration for you; start it yourself! Let others witness the passion that you have for your profession.



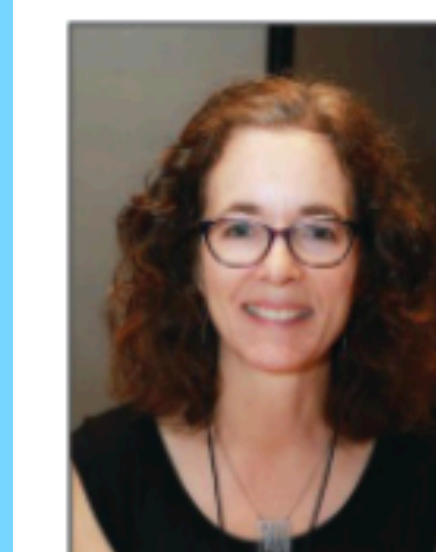
Scan for Membership Committee volunteer opportunities



The Membership Committee closely monitors all activities of the Association, disseminates information to the membership, and maintains the student liaison program. The committee is the central information headquarters for all inquiries from members and nonmembers, be they individuals or groups. The AAPA has more than 2400 members!

The Membership Committee is currently exploring internal specialty groups.

2022 Board of Trustees



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The Board of Trustees shall be responsible for conducting the regular business of the Association as well as protecting the integrity of the Association, its mission, and its members.