Florida Society of Medical Assistants, Inc.

September 29, 2012

To: Judy Seymour, CMA (AAMA), FSMA President
Chapter Representatives
Executive Board Members
Committee Chairs
Physician Liaison

From: Mary Morris, CMA (AAMA)
Delegate to AAMA National Conference

Re: Delegate Report

This delegate had the extreme pleasure of attending the 56th Annual AAMA Conference, September 7-10, 2012 in Scottsdale, Arizona. As usual, the national conference offered possibilities to earn many CEU'S and to network and socialize with CMA'S from other states.

Not long after my arrival in Arizona, this delegate attended the Dessert Social/ Excel Awards presentation. There is nothing better than starting the weekend out with tasty desserts and finding out whom the award winners were for 2012. Hopefully next year, Florida will take home some of those awards!

The orientation meeting for delegates and alternates continues to be a good reminder of how to conduct oneself in the house. This tends to be a short meeting since there are not many changes, if any, that occur from year to year. However, there was one change this year pertaining to check in at the credentials table. For check in, delegates and alternates needed to have their AAMA membership card. The yellow cards given out by the state President to each delegate/alternate are no longer being used. Since this was new this year, other forms of ID were allowed. Next year the membership card will be mandatory at check in.

The AAMA HOD had a long day filled with vital business. The HOD elected the following officers:

Vice President – Nina Watson, CMA (AAMA), CPC
Secretary/Treasurer – Charlene Couch, CMA (AAMA)
Speaker of the House – Paula Purdy, CMA (AAMA)
Vice Speaker of the House – Lisa Lee, CMA (AAMA)
Trustees – Loxie Kistler, EdD, RN, CMA (AAMA)
Deborah Houston, CMA (AAMA), CPC
Michael Pfeil, LVN, CMA (AAMA)
Joyce Garibay, CMA (AAMA)
Karen Minchella, PhD, CMA (AAMA) one year term
Nominating Committee – Lisa Johnson, CMA (AAMA), NC
Monica Case, CMA (AAMA), TN
Melissa Burbage, CMA (AAMA), SC
Jennifer Amaral, CMA (AAMA), CT

There were several proposed bylaws amendments brought before the house. There was an amendment to 12-01 Article III Organizational Policy. Amendment 12-06 Article VII Dues was referred back to the bylaws and resolutions committee for clarification and resubmission to the 2013 HOD. The HOD approved: To serve as an AAMA officer or trustee, to serve on the Judicial Council, or any AAMA committee/strategy teams, or to be a delegate or alternate to the AAMA HOD, individuals must not have had their memberships revoked as delineated in Article VI Section 4. Amendment 12-05 and 12-12 were not adopted. These proposed amendments were too lengthy to type out in their entirety, but this delegate does have them available if anyone has any further questions or concerns on what was voted upon.

There were two resolutions submitted: The New York State Society submitted Resolution 21-1 which states, CPR training and an overview of automated external defibrillators should be required for high school graduation. The resolution resolved that the AAMA encourage states societies to take the initiative to advocate for their legislators to mandate CPR training for every high school student. Resolution 12-1 was NOT adopted.
Resolution 12-2 was submitted by AAMA Board of Trustees. It was resolved that the AAMA adopt the following as its mission statement: CMAs (AAMA) protecting patients by providing excellent healthcare. This resolution was referred back to the Board of Trustees for revision.

What would probably be considered by all as the biggest “news” of the conference was the announcement by Executive director Don Balasa, JD, MBA, on the recent ruling (8/23/12) by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services (CMS) authorizing credentialed medical assistants to enter medication orders into the computerized provider order entry system. This is a major victory for the AAMA and the medical assisting profession. More information on this all important victory can be found on the AAMA website.

Lastly, this delegate has to give kudos to the top notch education that was offered at the conference. Topics attended that were of most interest included: The Many Faces of Lupus, Update on Shingles, Robotic surgery, and GERD updates.

This delegate appreciated the opportunity to represent the state of Florida as one of its delegates.