Florida Society of Medical Assistants, Inc.

TO: FSMA Executive Board Members
Chapter Representatives
Committee Chairs
Physician Liaison

FROM: Bonnie Chrimes, CMA (AAMA)
Delegate to AAMA National Conference, Atlanta, Georgia

Date: October 26, 2013

RE: Delegate's Report

It was an honor to attend the 57th AAMA National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia as a delegate for FSMA.

It was my privilege to serve as a delegate to the AAMA National Conference in Atlanta September 27-30, 2013.

Congratulations to newly installed AAMA President Nina Watson, CMA (AAMA), CPC. Elections in the House of Delegates were as follows:

Vice President: Charlene Couch, CMA (AAMA)
Secretary-Treasurer: Julie Flaatten, CMA (AAMA), RN, EMT-B
Trustees: Patricia Hightower, CMA (AAMA); Freda Miller, CMA (AAMA), CPC, PCS and K. Minchella, CMA, (AAMA), PhD

Nominating Committee: Monica Case, CMA (AAMA); Mary Gambrell, CMA (AAMA) Virginia Thomas, CMA (AAMA) and Betty Jones

The House of Delegates approved Bylaw changes for updating Active Membership and must hold current credential status. Officers and trustees must maintain current membership during their term of office. Student members shall be enrolled in a medical assisting program accredited by either the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs or the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools. Student members shall be limited to one time enrollment, selecting either a one year or a two year membership term.

The House of Delegates adopted the resolution to establish single year student member dues at $25 and two year student member dues at $45, beginning in 2015 membership year.

On September 29, 2013, Donald A. Balasa, JD, MBA, AAMA Executive Director, Legal Counsel and Mr. Robert Anthony, Deputy Director of the Health Information Technology Initiative Group of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) gave a presentation to the House of Delegates. The presentation dealt with the CMS rule for meaningful use order entry. Also Mr. Anthony gave an overview of the Electronic Health Records (EHR) Incentive Program.

The CMS Stage 1 rule stipulated that only “licensed health care professionals” would be allowed to enter orders of the CPOE system for purposes of having the entry count toward meaningful use under the EHR Incentive Programs for Medicare and Medicaid. On August 23, 2012 CMS final rule for Stage 1 stated that “credentialed medical assistants” would include CMSs (AAMA), as well as “licensed health care professionals” would be permitted to enter medication, laboratory, and radiology orders. CMAs (AAMA) rule would also apply to Stage 2 and to Stage 3 when it goes into effect.

Mr. Balasa stated that eligible professionals participating in one or both of the Medicare of Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs were urged to make sure their medical assistants entering orders into the CPOE system are credentialed. He also stated the CMA (AAMA) credential is the only medical assisting credential that requires successful completion of an accredited postsecondary medical assisting program and uses the National Board of Medical Examiners as test consultant.

A noncurrent CMA (AAMA) is not permitted to use the credential and therefore would not meet the requirements of the EHR Incentive Program.

It was this delegate’s pleasure to serve FSMA in this capacity. Thank you for allowing me to represent FSMA at the National Conference in Atlanta.