Florida Society of Medical Assistants, Inc.

October 1, 2013

To: Deniece Jozefiak, 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 57th Annual AAMA Conference, September 27-30, 2013 in Atlanta, Georgia. 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 Atlanta, this delegate attended the Welcome and Awards Celebration. There is nothing better than starting the weekend out with tasty desserts and finding out whom the award winners were for 2013. It is with great pleasure to announce that Florida's very own Theresa Errante-Parrino, CMA (AAMA), EdD, MEd, PMD, BMXO, CPhT received the Golden Apple Award. Theresa is very deserving of this award and the Florida Society is very lucky to have her as a member.

The orientation meeting for delegates and alternates continues to be a good reminder of how to conduct oneself in the house. Due to the implementation of electronic voting in the house this year, it was mandatory to attend the HOD Delegates and Alternates orientation. A demonstration on how the electronic voting works took place in the orientation so everyone will feel comfortable with the electronic voting process. Presenting to the credentials desk with your AAMA membership card was also a change that went into effect this year.

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

Vice President –Charlene Couch, CMA (AAMA)
Secretary/Treasurer – Julie Flaatten, CMA (AAMA), RN,EMT-B
Speaker of the House – Paula Purdy, CMA (AAMA)
Trustees – Patricia Hightower, CMA (AAMA)
Freda Miller, CMA (AAMA), CPC, PCS
Karen Minchella, CMA (AAMA), PhD
Nominating Committee –
Monica Case, CMA (AAMA) TN
Mary Gambrell, CMA (AAMA) SC
Virginia Thomas, CMA (AAMA) VA
Betty Jones NC
Chris Hollander, CMA (AAMA) Chair CO

Other HOD highlights….

Bylaws amendments approved include the following:
*Updates to active membership: Active members must hold current credential status.
*Updates to dues policies: Officers and trustees must maintain current membership during their terms of office.
*Updates to student membership: Student members shall be enrolled in a medical assisting program accredited by either CAAHEP or ABHES. Student members shall be limited to a one time enrollment, selecting either a one year or a two year membership term.

Resolutions: The HOD adopted the following resolution, that the HOD establish single year student member dues at $25.00 and a two year student member dues at $45.00, beginning with the 2015 membership year.

During the HOD a presentation on meaningful use was made by Donald Balasa, AAMA Executive Director and Legal Counsel and Robert Anthony from the Office of E Health Standards and Services. There are three stages to meaningful use, stage 1 is data capture and sharing, stage 2 is advanced clinical processes and stage 3 is improved outcomes. Each stage has core objectives that need to be met for maximum reimbursement. Stage two involves patient engagement through electronic exchange with a summary of care to more than 50% of transition of care and referrals. Also, in stage 2, 5% of patients must access their medical record for incentive reimbursement. The stage 1 final rule was that only licensed healthcare professionals were allowed to enter orders. But as of 8/23/12, the CMS authorized credentialed medical assistants to enter orders into the CPOES. What a victory for the CMA (AAMA)! The CMS rule is in effect for reporting periods in 2013. It is important to realize that auditing will take place to ensure that the proper personnel are entering into the EHR with penalties for those not abiding by CMS rules. Much more information can be obtained at www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivesPrograms.

Highlights from the Board of Trustees meeting held on Friday, September, 27th will be available on the AAMA web site for all to view. Copies of the “Membership Matters” power point presentation are available from the AAMA executive office for use at the state or chapter level. The 2015 AAMA Annual Conference will be in Portland, Oregon. (hotel and dates to be announced)

The AAMA National Conference will be held next year in St. Louis, MO, October 17-20, 2014 at the Hilton.

This delegate appreciated the opportunity to represent the state of Florida.