Florida Society of Medical Assistants, Inc.

October 12, 2013

To: Deniece Jozefiak, CMA (AAMA)
FSMA President
FSMA Executive Board

From: Deniece Jozefiak, CMA (AAMA)
Delegate to AAMA National Conference

Re: Delegate Report

This delegate had the honor and pleasure of attending the 57th Annual AAMA Conference, September 27-30, 2013 in Atlanta, Georgia. As usual, the national conference had many opportunities for great educational sessions as well as networking with new and old friends.

This delegate attended the orientation meeting for delegates and alternates. 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. There we no more Delegate/Alternate Cards to be given out this year. All Delegates and Alternates had to sign in with their AAMA membership card. Some forgot theirs but AAMA had printed ones for all Delegates/Alternates in case they were left at home. Next year no extra cards will be printed.

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
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

Instead of a Keynote Speaker we had the honor of Donald Balasa, JD, MBA, AAMA Executive Director and Mr. Robert Anthony, deputy Director of the Health Information Technology Initiative Group of the Centers of Medicare (CMS) speak on HIPAA and Stage 2 of Meaningful use for the EHR. This was attended by almost everyone who was a Delegate/Alternate. Questions and answers were taken and again after the Reference Committee Hearings. If someone was unable to attend, they can log onto the AAMA website to obtain this important information.

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. This is great 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.

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 onetime enrollment, selecting either a one year or a two year membership term.
One item was returned to the Bylaws committee. Retired members want to use the CMA (AAMA) and still have active membership status even though they are retired.

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.

Highlights from the Board of Trustees meeting held on Friday, September, 27th will be available on the AAMA website. The 2015 AAMA Annual Conference will be in Portland, Oregon. Date to be announced in the near future.

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

This delegate thanks FSMA for the opportunity to serve FSMA in this capacity.