Florida Society of Medical Assistants, Inc.

November 7, 2015

To: Kathryn Panagiotacos, CMA (AAMA), FSMA President
Executive Council Members
Committee Chairs
Chapter Representatives
Physician Liaison

From: Maria Wiegelmann, CMA (AAMA)
Delegate AAMA 2015 Conference
Portland, OR September 18 – 21, 2015

Delegate Report

Thank you for the opportunity to represent FSMA at the AAMA's 59th Annual Conference. There were 716 people registered for this conference so there were many opportunities to network with leaders from other states and from AAMA.

Education was varied – clinical, ICD 10, leadership development, and many presentations for educators. Steve Hanamura gave an excellent presentation on diversity titled Beyond Our View. Some highlights: recognize and appreciate different perspectives – yours may not always be the best solution; understand how our cultural perspectives influence the way we treat others; set people up for success not failure; establish a positive climate for dialogue; listen with empathy; work together for the common good of the organization. It's always good to be reminded that WE can work with each other and succeed. The knowledge bowl conducted by North and South Carolina was noisy, fun and educational. It was nice to see staff and officers from AAMA participating too.

I attended part of the Board of Trustees meeting. Don Balasa, Legal Counsel for AAMA, spoke of the proposed rulemaking for stage 3 of the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Program as again being very favorable for credentialed medical assistants such as CMAs (AAMA). For all the latest on what is happening on this and other legislative issues facing credentialed medical assistants you can view his Legal Eye blog on the AAMA website. Don also announced that AAMA and the Mountain

Plains FASD Practice and Implementation Center located at the University of Nevada, Reno, will partner to prevent Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD). From the press release on September 18, 2015 (you can read the full text on the AAMA website):

"The goal of the Mountain Plains PIC program is to enhance awareness and change practice behaviors of medical assistants with regards to providing alcohol screening and brief interventions to patients to reduce risky and hazardous alcohol use. The AAMA will help the Mountain Plains PIC achieve these goals by contributing to the development and dissemination of training materials and practice resources. "

The Board announced that there will no longer be a time limit on when you can take the CMA (AAMA) exam – candidates must be graduates of a CAAHEP or ABHES accredited school – employers like it.
AAMA is also working on a sample CMA (AAMA) exam to be posted on the AAMA website – none of the questions on this exam will appear on the actual test. Minutes of this meeting will be posted online.

The keynote speaker at the Welcome and Awards Celebration, Erin Fraher, PhD, addressed this topic: "How can we transform the workforce to meet the needs of a transformed health system?" She spoke of how the role of the credentialed medical assistant will change in response to the changes in the health system. We will assume new roles – care coordinators, health coaches, outreach workers, help to manage high risk patients. This will require additional training – upgrading skills of MAs already in the field and redesigning curriculums. See her excellent power point presentation on the AAMA website. The one point that she mentioned that we all reacted to was the fact that although median hourly wages increased for MAs in the U.S., if you adjust for consumer price index increases (1998- 2014) wages are flat – about $10.25 an hour.

Although Florida did not win any Excel Awards at this meeting, our very own Mary Lou Allison, CMA-C (AAMA) received and Achievement Award for Website Development. Congratulations Mary Lou! We know you earned it – thank you!

At the State and Chapter Leaders sessions there were many ideas presented. FSMA is already using some of them - advertising state and chapter meetings and seminars online, offering free CEUs online, sending Eblasts congratulating new and recertified CMAs, listing employment opportunities online, using the FSMA Facebook to engage our members. Some states have had success with holding meetings online - others have more success with in person meetings. You have to find out what works for your state and chapter and be open to new ideas. The Best Practices presentation will be on the AAMA website soon - take a look!

The orientation for Delegates/Alternates reviewed using the electronic voting method. Credentials check-in is also being done electronically. This makes everything run very smoothly when it comes to voting.
All Florida delegates attended the Reference Committee meetings for reports, bylaws, and resolutions. It's important to attend these meetings since this is your time to ask

questions and voice opinions about the information presented which you will vote on at the House of Delegates. Kathryn Panagiotacos, CMA (AAMA) posted a notice on the message board for all delegates to meet after the reference committee meeting to discuss the candidates and the proposed bylaws change and resolution.

The HOD elected the following officers:

Vice President	Julie Flaatten, CMA (AAMA), RN, EMT
Secretary/Treasurer	Freda Miller, CMA (AAMA)
Trustees	Mary Gambrell, CMA (AAMA) 2 year term
	Patricia Licurs, CMA (AAMA) 2 year term
	Virginia Thomas, CMA (AAMA) 2 year term
	K. Minchella, CMA (AAMA), PhD 1 year term

The Bylaws and Resolutions Committee presented the following proposed amendment:

A. Officers and trustees shall be elected by ballot and a majority vote of the total voting power of the House of Delegates shall immediately elect.

D. If a position is not filled after two ballots, the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes on the second ballot will not be included on the third and any subsequent ballots. For all subsequent ballots, the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes on the previous ballot will not be included on the next ballot and any subsequent ballots.

The House voted to refer the proposed amendment back to the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee for clarification.

The New York State Society of Medical Assistants introduced a resolution on reducing youth exposure to tobacco marketing in stores. **The House voted to refer the resolution back to the New York Society for clarification.**

I was only able to stay for part of the Presidents Luncheon but was happy to be there to applaud Kathryn Panagiotacos, CMA (AAMA) as she participated in the Parade of Presidents.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to again be your representative at the AAMA conference. I will use what I have learned to better serve you.