Florida Society of Medical Assistants, Inc.

October 10, 2015

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

From: Mary Morris, CMA (AAMA)
Delegate to AAMA National Conference 2015

Re: Delegate Report

This delegate had the extreme pleasure of attending the 59th Annual AAMA Conference, September 18-21, 2015 in Portland, Oregon. As usual, the national conference offered possibilities to earn many CEU'S and to network and socialize with CMA'S from other states. 716 were registered for this conference.

After my mid day arrival in Portland on Friday and getting in a few CEU'S, this delegate attended the Welcome and Awards Celebration on Friday evening. There is nothing better than starting the weekend out with tasty desserts and finding out whom the award winners were for 2015. This year there was a featured special address by Erin Fraher, PhD, titled "How Can We Transform the Workforce To Meet the Needs of a Transformed Health System?" Dr. Fraher said there is no other profession that is undergoing such rapid role change. The role of the medical assistant is vital to the healthcare system and will continue to be so into the future.

The orientation meeting for delegates and alternates continues to be a good reminder of how to conduct oneself in the house. The implementation of electronic voting in the house two years ago has made the voting process easier as well as an overall time saver. A demonstration on how the electronic voting works took place in the orientation again as a reminder and to educate those who have never voted electronically before. This allows everyone to feel comfortable with the electronic voting process. For credentials check in, delegates and alternates are required to have their AAMA membership card. This mandate went into effect two years ago as well.

The AAMA HOD had a long day filled with vital business. 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
Karen Minchella, CMA (AAMA) PhD, 1 year term

Nominating Committee – Sherry Bogar, CMA (AAMA) Texas
Betty Jones, North Carolina
Karen Nichols-Skoff, CMA (AAMA) Virginia
Twana Triplett, CMA (AAMA) South Carolina

BYLAWS:
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 HOD 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.

RESOLUTIONS:
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 State Society for clarification.

During the HOD, CEO and Legal Counsel Don Balasa, JD, MBA gave a presentation entitled "Combating FASDs: A New Challenge for the AAMA." As part of a coordinated national effort to prevent fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD), the AAMA and the Center for the Application of Substance Abuse Technologies (CASAT) of the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) based Mountain Plains FSAD Practice and Implementation Center will work collaboratively to prepare medical assistants to reduce alcohol exposed pregnancies and intervene with patients who engage in risky or hazardous alcohol use. The partnership between AAMA and Mountain Plains PIC is supported by grant funding from the CDC. Catherine Flores, CMA (AAMA) BHS, MLT (ASCP) joined Don Balasa during the presentation to speak on what it is like to have a family member with FASD. It was a powerful presentation hearing first hand what goes on with a person who has FASD. There are definite challenges to be had with a family member being diagnosed with FASD. There will be more information coming out in the coming months concerning FASD and how the medical assistant will play a role in educating pregnant women. The medical assistant will again be making a positive difference in educating our patients.

The AAMA National Conference will be held next year in Reston, Virginia on September 16-19, 2016 at the Hyatt Regency Reston.

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