FLORIDA SOCIETY OF MEDICAL ASSISTANTS

Affiliate of the American Association of Medical Assistants

Date: October 5, 2019

To: Marsha Benedict, MSA, CMA-A (AAMA), FSMA President
FSMA Executive Counsel
Committee Chairs
Chapter Presidents
FSMA Liaison Board

From: Heidi Fortin, CMA (AAMA), Bylaws/Policy and Procedures Chair

Bylaws/Policy and Procedures Fall Report 2019

This Bylaw Chair with the help of Marsha Benedict CMA-A (AAMA) and MaryLou Allison CMA-C (AAMA) reached out to all chapter Presidents and all chapter bylaws are now revised for 2018-2019 and posted on the FSMA website under each Chapter with the following:

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 5: STUDENT MEMBER

E. STUDENT- A Student member:

1. Shall be enrolled in a medical assisting program.
2. May choose a two-year student membership term or a one-year student membership term.
   a. After a two-year student membership term, the member is then eligible only for either associate membership or active membership (if the member meets the active membership requirements).
   b. After a one-year student membership term, the member is eligible for a second year of student membership as long as the member renews during the member's one-year student membership term. After the second-year of student membership, the member is then eligible only for either associate membership or active membership (if the member meets the active membership requirements).
   c. No member is eligible for more than a total of two consecutive years of student membership.

At the 66th Annual General Assembly on April 26, 2019, Article IX rewording was approved by the General Assembly to increase participation in FSMA activities Bylaws updated as follows:

Article IX - Liaison Board
Section 1. The Liaison board:

A. Encourage physicians, NP/PA, MGMA and other professional medical groups to support the medical assistant's active involvement in the FSMA and their educational programs.
B. Seek alliance with Florida Medical Professional Associations, for support the credentialing of medical assistants.

Also, at the 66th Annual General Assemble on April 26, 2019, Article XVII: Judicial Council which would be added to the current FSMA Bylaws and Standing Rules was voted NOT to adopt and to be brought back for clarification of rational at the next executive board meeting in November 2019.

The proposed added wording as follows:

Proposed Wording: 196 Article XVII: 197 Judicial Council

A. The Judicial Council shall consist of three Past President of the FSMA whose membership is active.

1. Annually, with approval of the Executive Council, the President shall appoint the most immediate Past President to serve for a term of three years. This member serves as chair.
2. No member shall serve more than two terms, but a member appointed to serve an unexpired term shall not be regarded as having served a term unless serving three or more years.

B. The judicial power of FSMA shall be vested in the Judicial Council, whose decisions shall be final.

C. The Council shall have jurisdiction in all questions involving:

1. membership as provided in the Bylaws
2. controversies arising in the interpretation of these Bylaws
3. the code of Ethics of the FSMA

D. The Judicial Council shall:

1. meet or consult upon the call of the Chair; consultation by mail, phone or electronic means shall be permitted among members of the Council provided the rights of the appellant are not prejudiced.
2. submit an annual report to the General Assembly

Rationale: Incorporate a body of experienced past Presidents as a resource for the executive board in reviewing matters or controversies arising related in the interpretation among the executive board members as provided in the Bylaws and Code of Ethics of the FSMA.

Proposed change in bylaw regarding Vice President succeeding to President.

Current Wording:

ARTICLE VI - EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THEIR QUALIFICATIONS

Section 5. The Vice President shall automatically succeed to the office of President at the end of the term as Vice President.

Suggested wording:

Section 5. The Vice President may automatically succeed to the office of President at the end of the term as Vice President.

Or Remove the statement entirely?

Rationale: Executive Office positions are difficult to fill and many members do not want to commit to 2 years service in advance.

The FSMA Bylaws and Standing Rules have been updated and sent to be reposted to the FSMA website.

This officer appreciates the opportunity to serve the Florida Society of Medical Assistants for 2019-2020..