FLORIDA SOCIETY OF MEDICAL ASSISTANTS

Affiliate of the American Association of Medical Assistants

September 28, 2019

To: Marsha Benedict, CMA-A, (AAMA), FSMA President
Executive Board
Chapter Representatives
Committee Chairs
Physician Liaison

From: Mary Morris, CMA (AAMA)
Delegate to AAMA National Conference 2019

Re: Delegate Report

This delegate had the extreme pleasure of attending the 63nd Annual AAMA Conference September 13-16, 2019 in Greensboro, North Carolina. As usual, the national conference offered possibilities to earn many CEUS and to network and socialize with CMA'S from other states. 886 were registered for this conference.

This delegate attended the Welcome and Awards celebration Friday evening. Awards given out included: Publishing, Website Development, Marketing, Promotion, and Recruitment, Community Service, Membership Retention, Membership Recruitment, Student Membership Recruitment, Greatest Percentage increase of member CMAs (AAMA), and the FA Davis Student Award. Awards of Distinction included the Golden Apple Award, Leadership and Mentoring, and Medical Assistant of the Year. The CMA (AAMA) Employer of the Year Award went to Mercy Health Physicians in Lima. This is the first year for this award. This delegate is happy to report that the Florida Society won the Excel award for Marketing, Promotion and Recruitment for "Can You Hear This Now? A Multitiered Approach to Marketing." Campaign directors were Loxie Kistler, CMA (AAMA) and Mary Lou Allison, CMA-C (AAMA). Congratulations!!!

This was the third year that the conference offered a free app through CrowdCompass. The app offered access to speaker and session information, schedules, and maps. Scheduling changes and session updates could be obtained thru the app as well with notifications sent to your phone. You could also take photos and post them to the site as well. It was nice to have the app to go to as a quick reference without having to shuffle through papers to find what you were looking for. The app has been an added bonus during the conference.

As a reminder from last years report, the CMA (AAMA) recertification policy change to take effect January 1, 2020 – To better ensure current competence and knowledge, the certifying board of AAMA has made the following change in policy regarding the time limit for recertifying the CMA (AAMA) credential by continuing education: Effective 1/1/2020, an individual whose credential has been expired for more than 3 months forfeits the right to reactivate the credential by continuing education and must sit for the CMA (AAMA) Certification/Recertification Exam. Three attempts are allowed to sit for and pass the exam. If the candidate does not pass the exam on the third attempt, the candidate is no longer eligible for the exam or to recertify the CMA (AAMA) credential. Payment of a $50.00 reactivation fee plus the current exam fee is required.

The HOD delegate/alternate orientation took place Saturday morning. This session is a requirement for all Florida delegation. The ABC's of Parliamentary Procedure is handed out at this session as reminder of how to conduct oneself in the House. Voting continues to be handled electronically and has been so for 6 years now. Each year a demonstration is given and practiced to make sure all delegation understands the electronic voting process. This is obviously most helpful for first time delegates and alternates as well as a good reminder for those who have voted before. For credential check in, the delegates and alternates are required to have their AAMA membership card. This mandate went into effect six years ago as well.

An assessment based certificate in Pediatrics will be coming soon to the AAMA e-Learning Center.

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

Vice President – Patty Licurs, CMA (AAMA), CPC-A
Secretary-Treasurer- Virginia Thomas, CMA (AAMA)
Trustee – Franky Favata, BS, CMA (AAMA)
Trustee –Shelley Gingrich, CMA (AAMA)
Trustee – Rebecca Surratt. CMA (AAMA)

Nominating Committee:
Paula Purdy, CMA (AAMA)
Jane Seelig, CMA-A (AAMA)
Stephanie Dotson, CMA (AAMA)
Natasha Geno, CMA (AAMA)

The House adopted amendments to the AAMA Bylaws to do the following:

1. In order to be considered by the Nominating Committee, nominations shall be submitted to the chair of the Nominating Committee postmarked no later than **May 1**. It was previously April 1.
2. 1. Documentation of the qualifications of the nominee and written consent to serve have been submitted to the Speaker of the House **30 calendar days prior to the last business day** before the opening session of the HOD. It was

previously noon central time of the last business day prior to the opening session of the HOD.

A special presentation by AAMA CEO Donald Balasa occurred during the morning session of the HOD. The Certifying Board of AAMA has approved the launch of a three year pilot program which expands the education pathway for medical assistants to take the CMA (AAMA) certification exam. To be eligible for the CMA (AAMA) Certification exam under the eligibility pilot program, candidates must have graduated from a postsecondary medical assisting program meeting program and institutional criteria established by the Certifying Board. The candidate must also furnish proof of having met the graduate criteria established by the CB. The graduate criteria include demonstration of knowledge and psychomotor ability in certain tasks as evidenced by an official transcript, course descriptions and syllabi, and an attestation letter from the program director or instructor verifying a candidate's successful completion didactic and psychomotor requirements. For more information go to www.aama-ntl.org/cma-aama-exam/eligibility-pilot-program.

An open forum for questions and comments about the pilot program occurred later in the day after the reference committee hearings. There were definitely mixed feelings about the pilot program by those in attendance at the open forum. The educators of ABHES and CAAHEP accredited programs are concerned with other institutions bringing down the high standards that we currently have with the CMA (AAMA).

Education topics attended by this delegate on Saturday were: After You Call- Know the Protocol, HPV Misconceptions, Rheumatoid Arthritis, and Update on How to Avoid Identity Theft. An ample amount of clinical, general, and administrative topics were offered during the conference.

The next AAMA National Conference will be held September 11-14, 2020 at the Hilton Orlando in Lake Buena Vista. Let's have a great showing of Florida members next year at the AAMA National Conference by marking your calendars now and planning to attend.

It was an honor for this delegate to represent the state of Florida.