Florida Society of Medical Assistants, Inc.

October 26, 2014

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

From: Mary Morris, CMA (AAMA)
Delegate to AAMA National Conference 2014

Re: Delegate Report

This delegate had the extreme pleasure of attending the 58th Annual AAMA Conference, October 17-20, 2014 in St. Louis, MO. As usual, the national conference offered possibilities to earn many CEU'S and to network and socialize with CMA'S from other states. 669 were registered for this conference.

Not long after my arrival in St. Louis, this delegate attended the Welcome and Awards Celebration. There is nothing better than starting the weekend out with tasty desserts and finding out whom the award winners were for 2014. Florida did not have any award winners this year, but it is my hope that in 2015, Florida can submit names of some of the very talented members that we have for consideration of these prestigious awards. I was most happy as lead delegate to stand in for our President Pat Allen in her absence, to receive her certificate of appreciation from AAMA for being FSMA President this year.

The orientation meeting for delegates and alternates continues to be a good reminder of how to conduct oneself in the house. Due to the implementation of electronic voting in the house last 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 continue 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 last year as well.

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

Vice President –Paula Purdy, CMA (AAMA)

Speaker of the House – Lisa Lee, CMA (AAMA)

Vice Speaker – Debby Houston, CMA (AAMA)

Trustees – Loxie Kistler, CMA (AAM), EdD, RN
Deborah Novak, CMA (AAMA)
Michael Pfeil, CMA (AAMA), LVN

Nominating Committee – chair is Nina Watson, CMA (AAMA), CPC
Monica Case, CMA (AAMA), TN
Jennifer Amaral, CMA (AAMA), CT
Sherry Bogar, CMA (AAMA), TX
Laura Mitchell, CMA (AAMA), OK

One of the two proposed bylaws amendments passed. The one to pass was:
Article VI – Membership, Section 2 Qualifications
An active member shall be one of the following:
2. Anyone who was an active member on 12/31/87, **who has never been a CMA (AAMA)**, and who has maintained continuous active membership. Continuous active membership shall be defined as having dues postmarked or submitted electronically to AAMA executive office by December 31 (the controlling time is that of sending, not that of receiving).

The following was not passed:
3. An individual who has retired from medical assisting, whose CMA (AAMA) is not current, who has not chosen sustaining membership, and whose CMA (AAMA) has not been revoked as provided by the AAMA Certifying Board Disciplinary Standards and Procedures for the CMA (AAMA).

Leaders Session Highlights:
*Go to the AAMA web site for a Program Planners guide with help information for planning education programs.
*Rosters and labels can be requested online by designated persons i.e. officers at the local and state level. There is the ability to add additional names of those able to request rosters/labels etc. from AAMA.
*You can recertify online within 30 days of your certification expiration date if you have accumulate all 60 recertification points thru AAMA. After successfully completing the online process, recertification is automatic. A confirmation email will be sent as well.
*Brief discussion was had about online chapter meetings and survey monkey being implemented by several states. GoToMeetings.com and online CEU'S are also being tried by some states as well.
*The idea of doing the business meeting during the day of the education seminar as opposed to the evening might get more members to attend. This is something FSMA might want to consider trying to see if we can get better attendance at the business meeting.

Don Balasa, Legal Council for AAMA reminded us of the following:
*As of 8/23/12 credentialed medical assistants also allowed to enter medication, lab, and radiology orders for meaningful use.
*CMS rule became effective 1/1/13, the rules apply to all stages.
*A noncurrent CMA (AAMA) is not a credentialed medical assistant and will not meet CMS rule.
*For those graduating prior to 1/2010, there was no time frame for taking the CMA exam. After 1/2010, you have 60 months to take the exam.
*For those letting their credential expire and it has been greater than 60 months, the CMA exam must be taken again in order to be reinstated. If it has been less than 60 months, one can be reinstated through continuing education.

The AAMA National Conference will be held next year in Portland, Oregon on September 18-21, 2015 at the Double Tree by Hilton.

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