FLORIDA SOCIETY OF MEDICAL ASSISTANTS

TO: FSMA Executive Board
Judy Seymour, CMA (AAMA) CCRC FSMA President 2012-2013

FROM: Gayle Bell, CMA (AAMA) North Florida Chapter President

RE: North Florida Chapter Activity Report

Date: January 5, 2013

The North Florida Chapter consists of St. Johns, Clay, Duval, Putnam, and Flagler Counties. We are working with local colleges to increase chapter membership.

Our chapter has been meeting quarterly, at various locations in St. Johns and Duval counties. We will be having a 1 CEU meeting in March at Flagler Hospital in Saint Augustine. The topic will be "*Introduction to Hospice and Living Wills*". Meetings will now include a *"read the creed"* portion of the meeting in which the creed is passed out and a few will have stickers on the back of them. Those with stickers will read the creed aloud and receive a small lagniappe.

Our fundraisers have been; meeting raffles. We will continue to have meeting raffles for 50 cents a chance at winning the prize.

Colleen DeSantis is now our Chapter Secretary. Two chapter officers have attended a steering committee meeting for First Coast Technical College Health Sciences. We plan on introducing our Chapter to three colleges in Jacksonville this year.

Our recent community service and volunteer projects; we had a "Healthy Hearts" themed water station at the Saint Augustine 5K and 10K Marathons, the runners were most appreciative. We helped Haven Hospice with their Monster Dash and Creepy Crawl Marathon, and Happy Hats and balloon booths at; Palencia Street Festival & Military Appreciation Day, Rails and Trails, Ancient City Kids Day, and with Hospice baskets. We have member volunteers at Good Samaritans' Wildflower Dental and Health Clinic, and Vision is Priceless eye screenings in Saint Augustine.

The most often asked question I get from Medical Assistants who are newly graduated is, "How do I get experience when I can't get hired?" The answer is volunteering. A chapter member who worked part time also volunteered part time for the last year doing administrative and clinical duties at Good Samaritans' Wildflower Dental and Health Clinic. She just started full time at an office with the same EHR/ EMR that the clinic had. It is beneficial to add your volunteer experience to "related experience" on a resume.