FLORIDA SOCIETY OF MEDICAL ASSISTANTS

Affiliate of the American Association of Medical Assistants

Date: November 5, 2016

To: Executive Council Members

From: Maria Wiegelmann, CMA (AAMA)
President – Florida Society of Medical Assistants
Delegate Report – AAMA Annual Conference 2016

The 60th Annual Conference of the AAMA was held in Reston, VA, September 16 – 19, 2016.

The most important topic at this annual conference was that the Medical Assisting Educational Review Board (MAERB) is discussing adding additional sponsoring organizations possibly with medical assisting credentials. The discussion began at the Board of Trustees meeting, continued at the MAERB meeting, and was brought to the House of Delegates as a motion by the president of the Colorado State Society as follows:

"I move that this House of Delegates recommend to the Board of Trustees that, if the Medical Assisting Educational Review Board (MAERB) approves sponsorship by other organizations with medical assisting credentials, the American Association of Medical Assistants should dissolve its sponsorship of the MAERB, and the MAERB should be directed to remove all presence from the Executive Office of the AAMA.
This motion is made on behalf of the Colorado State Society, as well as the following states societies that wish to stand in support of this motion – Arizona, California, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Utah.
These state societies do not support any affiliation with medical assisting credentials that do not ensure public and patient safety, and it is our strongest objection that the course the MAERB is pursuing will result in a lowering of educational standards that can lead only in this direction."

The Florida Society of Medical Assistants added its name to support this motion in the House of Delegates. There was a lengthy debate on this motion at the reference committee.
At the second session of the House of Delegates, the AAMA Board of Trustees presented a substitute motion to the delegates. The motion to be voted on was:
"Request that the MAERB not accept any other medical assistant credentialing organization for sponsorship until the Executive Director Marino meet with the BOT at the November 4-5, 2016 planning session in Chicago, and that the BOT will report back by April 1, 2017 to the 2016 Delegates."
The motion passed. (Executive Director Marino is Sarah Marino of MAERB.)

Proposed bylaws amendment 16-04 regarding Article X; Officers and Trustees: Term of Office, Vacancy in Office, Removal from Office, Section 1. Term of office, C. was adopted:

46 “C. The term of office for the Trustees shall be two years or until successors are elected. Three
47 trustees shall be elected in odd years and four Trustees shall be elected in even years, to total
48 at least five, but no more than seven Trustees.
49 Effective with the elections at the 2017 House of Delegates, the Trustees may be re-elected,
50 but shall not serve more than a total of five years in the same office.
51 Trustee terms of office served on or after the 2016-2017 AAMA year shall be counted in
52 calculating the five years.”
53
54 All other proposed bylaws amendments and the one resolution were not adopted.
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56 A list of the newly elected officers and trustees of the AAMA can be found on the AAMA
57 website www.aama-ntl.org click on about (upper right hand corner) and then on National
58 Volunteer Leaders.
59
60 At the State and Chapter Leaders session, Julie Flaatten, CMA (AAMA), RN, EMT, Vice-
61 President of AAMA, previewed a power point presentation on “Mentoring Matters” which will be
62 available on the AAMA website. Our own Deniece Jozefiak, CMA (AAMA), President of the
63 South West Chapter of Medical Assistants, serves on the Leadership Development Team
64 which worked to create the presentation. AAMA is planning to offer more leadership training at
65 next year’s conference. Don Balasa, legal counsel for AAMA, discussed why the Certifying
66 Board (CB) continues to require that medical assistant educators must have graduated from a
67 CAAHEP or ABHES school in order to be eligible to take the CMA (AAMA) exam. The CB’s
68 position is that if another pathway were created for medical assistant educators, there would
69 be 2 categories of CMAs (AAMA) – those who have graduated from a CAAHEP or ABHES
70 program and those who have not. Such a situation would hinder AAMAs ability to protect the
71 right of practice of CMAs (AAMA). An article in the Sep-Oct issue of CMA Today was
72 distributed which addresses this issue. Also announced at this session was that a new
73 Assessment Based Certificate (ABC) on geriatrics would be available in 2017 for CMAs
74 (AAMA).
75
76 Don Balasa, legal counsel for AAMA, held a meeting with some State Societies discussing
77 ongoing legislative issues. Good news for Ohio – unlicensed health care professionals
78 (including CMAs (AAMA) can now do injections under the supervision of NPs and PAs.
79 Arkansas is doing the same with APRNs and is confident that they can do the same as Ohio.
80 Connecticut is working on being able to give vaccinations in the State of Connecticut – they
81 have hired a lobbyist and AAMA and AMT are sharing the expense. In New Hampshire,
82 Genesis - a skilled nursing and rehabilitation provider - is putting CMAs (AAMA) in
83 administrative positions. CMAs must get a CNA which Genesis pays for. Regarding licensing
84 in NH – AMT did not want MAs under licensure under the health department since that would
85 have a definitive scope of practice. In Nebraska, MAs must become medication aides to
86 administer medications – take a course and pass a test. Regarding our situation in Florida,
87 Don suggested possibly getting support from the Florida Department of Education since we
88 are asking for all MAs to have graduated from a school which uses the FDOE curriculum. One
89 of the states mentioned that the U.S. Department of Education may pull ACICS accreditation
90 from private, for profit schools. Once accreditation is pulled, schools would have 18 months to
91 get another accreditation.

I was able to attend all or part of 6 continuing education sessions. In a session on Human Trafficking, the presenter showed us how easily someone can become a victim of trafficking. He interrupted his presentation to “read a text” he just received offering 50 of the attendees a trip to a city in Europe, all-inclusive, hosted by Lady Gaga. Many attendees raised their hands. Frightening how easily we can be taken in. In Sports and Cardiac Kids we learned that when taking the proper precautions children can play sports even with cardiac conditions. The session on Head Injury Care and Treatment gave excellent advice on how to help a brain heal – something as simple as drinking water can help. There were sessions on soft skills and also those geared specifically for medical assistant educators. A job well done by the Education Team.

Although we did not win any Excel Awards this year, it was fun to see how excited all the winners were! Congratulations to all – they will be listed on the AAMA website and in a future issue of CMA Today.

The 61st AAMA Annual Conference will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, October 6 – 9, 2017. The Ohio State Society did a great presentation encouraging us to come in 2017.

The Florida Society of Medical Assistants contributed $100 to the Maxine Williams Scholarship Fund which provides educational assistance to deserving medical assisting students.

I was privileged to participate in the Parade of Presidents representing the Florida Society of Medical Assistants. This took place on the last day at the Presidents Luncheon where Julie Flaatten, CMA (AAMA), RN, EMT was installed as the AAMA President for 2016-2017.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent you at this 60th AAMA Annual Conference.