FLORIDA SOCIETY OF MEDICAL ASSISTANTS

Affiliate of the American Association of Medical Assistants

Date: October 1, 2016

To: Maria Wiegelmann, CMA (AAMA), FSMA President
Executive Council Members

From: Mary Morris, CMA (AAMA)
Delegate to AAMA National Conference 2016

Re: Delegate Report

This delegate had the extreme pleasure of attending the 60th Annual AAMA Conference, September 16-19, 2016 in Reston, Virginia. As usual, the national conference offered possibilites to earn many CEU'S and to network and socialize with CMA's from other states. 624 were registered for this conference.

Friday allowed for continuing education opportunities with topics such as: Ovarian Cancer and Clinical Trials, The Diversity Friendly Practice, When an Esophagectomy Is Needed, and Human Trafficking to name just a few. All sessions were most informative. The day ended with the Welcome and Awards Celebration in the evening. Awards given out include: Golden Apple, Leadership and Mentoring, Publishing, Website Development, Marketing, Promotion and Recruitment, Community Service, Membership Retention and Recruitment and the Student Award.

The HOD delegate/alternate orientation took place Saturday morning. This orientation continues to be a good reminder of how to conduct oneself in the house. The implementation of electronic voting in the house three years ago has made the voting process easier as well as an overall time saver. Each year we are given a demonstration on how the electronic voting works. This is most helpful for first time delegates and alternates and a good reminder to those who have done the voting before. For credentials check in, the delegates and alternates are required to have their AAMA membership card. This mandate went into effect three years ago as well.

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

Vice President - Lisa Lee, CMA (AAMA)
Secretary-Treasurer- Susan Hawes, MBA, RHIT, CMA (AAMA), CMPE

Vice Speaker of the House - Karen Minchella, PhD, CMA (AAMA)
Trustee - Deborah Novak, CMA (AAMA)
Aimee Wicker, CMA (AAMA)
Monica Case, CMA (AAMA)
Nominating Committee - Tandra Bauman, CMA (AAMA)
Debra Benson, CMA (AAMA)
Melissa Burbage, CMA (AAMA)
Cristie Weissmiller, CMA (AAMA)

Bylaws: The house adopted amendments to the AAMA Bylaws to clarify the term of office for the Trustees.

Other business brought before the House: A motion was made by the Colorado State Society, on behalf of many other state societies, that if the Medical Assisting Education Review Board (MAERB) approves sponsorship by other organizations with medical assisting credentials, the AAMA should dissolve its sponsorship of the MAERB and remove all presence from the executive office of AAMA.

There was lengthy discussion by the delegation on the ramifications to CMA (AAMA) to the MAERB accepting other sponsorships. The state societies do not support any affiliation with medical assisting credentials that do not ensure public and patient safety. The state societies feel the course the MAERB is pursuing will result in the lowering of educational standards.

The following decision was made by the HOD to request that the MAERB not accept any other medical assisting credentialing organization for sponsorship until the executive committee of the MAERB and executive director Marino meet with the BOTat the November 4-5, 2016 planning session in Chicago, and that the BOT will report back to the 2016 Delegates by April 1, 2017.

It was very evident in the House this year that the delegation is very passionate about the CMA (AAMA) credential and what it stands for. I believe this was the reason that so many spoke up since there is uncertainty as to what other sponsorships by MAERB could mean to our credential.

The AAMA National Conference will be held October 6-9, 2017 in Cincinnati, Ohio at the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza.

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