

Florida Society of Medical Assistants: Proposed Transition from Tri-Level to Bi-Level Organization

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Introduction

The Florida Society of Medical Assistants (FSMA) is considering undergoing a significant organizational change. This document provides comprehensive answers to frequently asked questions regarding the transition from a tri-level organization to a bi-level organization.

General Information

What is the current structure of the FSMA?

FSMA currently operates as a tri-level organization consisting of local chapters, state society, and the national association. This structure allows for a tiered approach to governance and membership benefits.

What changes will occur in the new bi-level structure?

The new bi-level structure will eliminate the local chapter level, consolidating the organization into two main levels: the state society and the national association. This aims to streamline operations and improve resource allocation.

Rationale Behind the Change

Why is FSMA considering transitioning to a bi-level organization?

One of the key reasons for eliminating the local chapter level is to address volunteer fatigue. Many local chapters have struggled with finding and retaining volunteers to sustain their operations. By consolidating efforts at the state and national levels, we can reduce the burden on volunteers, streamline processes, and ensure that our members receive consistent and high-quality services. **This change will allow our dedicated**

volunteers to focus their energy more effectively, preventing burnout and fostering a more engaged and motivated community.

What are the benefits of a bi-level organization?

Benefits of the bi-level structure include:

- Improved resource allocation by reducing administrative layers
- Enhanced communication and collaboration between the state society and the national association
- Streamlined governance and decision-making processes
- Greater focus on statewide and national priorities
- Potential cost savings for members and the organization

Impact on Members

How will this change affect current members?

Current members will continue to receive the same benefits and services, but with a more efficient and focused approach. The elimination of the local chapter level will not affect the overall membership experience but aims to enhance the quality and delivery of services.

Will membership dues be affected?

Membership dues will **decrease** by eliminating the local chapter dues (currently \$5 per year), bringing the yearly dues total to \$87.

How will members stay connected without local chapters?

Members will be encouraged to participate in statewide events, online forums, and national conferences. FSMA will also enhance digital communication platforms to ensure members can stay connected, share knowledge, and network effectively.

Operational Changes

What will happen to the local chapter leadership?

Local chapter leaders will be integrated into the state society's governance structure, taking on new roles that leverage their experience and expertise. **This integration aims to**

maintain leadership continuity and ensure that local insights contribute to statewide initiatives.

How will the FSMA ensure a smooth transition?

The FSMA will implement a detailed transition plan that includes clear timelines, communication strategies, and support mechanisms. Regular updates will be provided to members, and feedback will be actively sought to address any concerns during the transition period.

Outlook

What is the long-term vision for FSMA?

The long-term vision for FSMA is to become a more cohesive, efficient, and impactful organization that better serves its members. By focusing on state and national levels, FSMA aims to strengthen its advocacy efforts, enhance professional development opportunities, and support the growth of the medical assisting profession in Florida.

How can members provide feedback or ask further questions?

Members are encouraged to provide feedback or ask questions through FSMA's official communication channels, including email, social media, and member forums. **FSMA is committed to transparency and values member input as it navigates this significant organizational change.**

For any additional information, please contact FSMA President Jeanette Tyler at JeanetteTylerCMA@outlook.com