SOUTHEAST
Medical Assistants
CHAPTER
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SOUTHEAST CHAPTER OF MEDICAL ASSISTANTS

March 8, 2011

TO: Christine Petsalis, CMA, and (AAMA) Chairman Bylaws Committee

FROM: Southeast Chapter

RE: Proposed Bylaw Amendment #2

The Southeast Chapter of Medical Assistants wishes to propose the following Amendment to the Bylaws of the FSMA.

OLD

ARTICLE VII GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Section 2: All members in good standing to include membership classes of Active, Life, Sustaining, Associate, Student and Member at Large whose dues have been paid in full as of December 31 of the year preceding the General Assembly shall make up the composition of the General Assembly and have the right to vote.

NEW

ARTICLE VII GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Section 2: All members in good standing to include membership classes of Active, Life, Sustaining, Student <u>CMA's (AAMA)</u> and Member at Large whose dues have been paid in full as of December 31 of the year preceding the General Assembly shall make up the composition of the General Assembly and have the right to vote.

Rationale: Removing the Associate member's ability to vote on proposed bylaw changes and officers of FSMA. We understand that we can be colleagues and work together on common initiatives such as education, patient safety, standards for the profession, etc. However, there are several more credentialing bodies that are marketing heavily. We understand that CAAHEP and ABHES successful graduates can sit for the CMA (AAMA) exam, yet there are students in those same programs who will sit for another exam to become certified. Therefore, it could be assumed that associate members would not approach voting on decisions that would separate the CMA (AAMA) as the premiere credential with the same emphasis (whether yeah or nay). The mission of the AAMA & FSMA is to make the CMA (AAMA) the premier credential and the membership is demanding more and more that the effort to separate the CMA (AAMA) as the superior credential become more evident.