Florida Society of Medical Assistants, Inc.

January 5, 2011

To: FSMA Executive Board, Committee chairs, Chapter Presidents/Representatives
And Physician Liaison

From: Ruth Lapio, CMA(AAMA)
Southwest Chapter President

RE: Southwest Chapter Report

The Southwest Chapter continues to hold our monthly meetings the first Thursday of the month. In January we do not meet because of the holiday season. Our next scheduled meeting is February 3rd at Fawcett Memorial Hospital. Wayne Wallace from the Medicine Shoppe will be discussing over-the-counter meds vs Rx meds for common illnesses. Business meeting will follow.

The chapter continues to provide CEU's at the monthly meetings. We continue to support and show leadership to our students and are trying to encourage the other students to follow.

November 6th Southwest Chapter held a mini seminar including CPR certification/recer. Eli and Andy gave a very well planned update. The chapter was pleased to have members, students, educators, and other health professionals in attendance. Dr. Jeremiah Joseph spoke also discussing alternative approaches to preventing and handling common digestive disorders. Dr Joseph always reminds us of our alternative life style changes important to healthy living, and as he addresses it 'I want to live a long healthy life.

November 20th Judy Seymour and myself visited Manatee Tech Institute in Bradenton. Two of the instructors; Barbara Feeney and Jean Fry are very interested in starting again some Medical Assisting meetings. This was attempted previously but no one followed through due to lack of interest and those people actually left the position.
Now they are interested. All information was given to them in accordance to Chapter management Guidelines set up by AAMA. Judy is definitely an asset to our state society as well as on a national level. Her dedication and outstanding deliverance showed this. They appreciated someone on the state level taking the time to meet with them and answer their questions and give them the answers and confidence to follow through. They were given the guidance and instructed their choices. This will be presented again to the state for discussion of the formation of a chapter at the next January board meeting.

As quoted from Barbara Hurst “We don’t think we have the interest, we know we do.” They have several that are interested in continuing their accreditation and several students graduating that they want to keep involved in medical assisting. They have a February meeting planned with a program for CEU’s along with time to meet and discuss future plans for their area in accordance to state and national guidelines.
They feel the opportunity to support medical assisting locally is important and want to continue. The majority of Southwest Chapter fully supports this because of the distance to travel. We have tried previously to move meetings to adjust to our current membership but it is still more efficient to meet the needs locally.

In December the chapter always holds its annual ornament exchange. This year’s event was held at our local comedy club. Dinner and show were the highlights of the evening especially without the “snow” as some of us remember from our ‘former’ years.

The chapter is looking forward to our next state meeting in January in Tampa.
Some of us are becoming more involved and aware of how we are linked on state levels and the support throughout with medical assisting programs and their inter action.

Our chapter is still supporting our strategic fund raisers through our local restaurants to raise monies to help members and students to attend our state meetings/convention.

As always I am still looking forward to new and exciting news on Medical Assisting and how we can involve ourselves and the students towards a future health professional career.