Florida Society of Medical Assistants, Inc.

TO: FSMA Executive Board Members
Chapter Representatives
Committee Chairs
Physician Liaison

FROM: Marsha L. Benedict, MSA, CMA-A (AAMA), CPC
FSMA President Elect

Date: October 18, 2010

RE: FSMA Delegates Report/AAMA House of Delegates September, 2010

As a Delegate to the AAMA House of Delegates it gives me great pleasure to report the activities of the House of Delegates and the 2010 AAMA Conference, **Learning Sunfari,** held in Orlando Florida at the Hilton in the Walt Disney World Resort, Lake Buena Vista Florida September 24, 2010 through Monday September 27, 2010.

Friday September 24th the AAMA Board of Trustees met. President Bruntz, President Elect Springer and Past President Panagiotacos attended the annual meeting of PAHCOM (Professional Association of Health Care Office Managers) held in Orlando, Florida the week prior to the AAMA conference. 197 members were present and 105 members visited the AAMA booth. All officers felt the event should be ongoing and is a benefit to AAMA members as an outreach and marketing tool. The new **Employer Promotional Kit** developed by the Professional Expansion and Awareness Task Force was given to all Office Managers that visited the PAHCOM booth. The kit was designed to use as a tool for exhibiting or a presentation to physicians, managers and supervisors, etc. Members who plan to exhibit or conduct a presentation may request copies of the kit from AAMA. Sample kits were brought back for FSMA membership to peruse.

Donald Balasa JD, MBA presented an overview regarding "Protecting the Medical Assistant's Right to Practice". In some states anyone giving meds are required to take an advanced course to become a "certified" medication aide. In some states the unlicensed professional is allowed to give meds without the presence of a physician. Thirty-three states have a category using various titles. Mr. Balasa will be publishing an article in the near future.

Mr. Balasa reported the finances of all four AAMA funds are fiscally sound. Some states were sent a letter from AAMA if they are required to complete an IRS 990N form. The IRS sends AAMA a list of nonexempt states that were required to fill out the form.

Mr. Balasa reported that there are currently 7-8 credentials that do not require graduation from a CAAHEP accredited school.

Mr. Balasa currently has a BLOG where any questions may be directed to him. Anyone with questions may use the BLOG or contact him via email or phone.

The Continuing Education Board reported excellent findings with regard to the Electronic Learning Center. The site is well visited. CEU's may be obtained free on ELC during Medical Assistant's Week.

Friday evening along with a wonderful Dessert Social the Excel Awards were presented. Florida Society was awarded the Excel Award for the greatest percentage increase of CMAs (AAMA) based on membership.

Orientation was held Saturday morning for delegates and alternates.

Advisory Committee of Presidents and Presidents-Elect was held on Saturday evening. Membership Committee along with David Knight, Director of Membership announced that an e-blast was sent to all members several times this year. Renewal of dues prior to October 1, 2010 will enter members into a drawing for a free membership. Question was asked; how many members does AAMA loose each year? Answer given; 7,000. This number is regained in new members during the summer. The membership numbers are better this year. Today membership is 27,000. Ten years ago membership was 19,000.

Several State Presidents have been asked to refresh their zip codes as assigned by chapter and send in any changes to AAMA. Every 5 years AAMA will refresh the list. State Presidents may ask for the list of zip codes to refresh their list. Members who wish to remain in a particular chapter may remain in the chapter they request and will not be changed without their approval.

A "Face book" site for AAMA has been launched. The site was developed to help promote AAMA and the CMA credential. Cameras were passed out by members of the BOT and state officers were asked to take pictures during the conference that would be placed on the Face book site. If members objected, pictures would not be included.

Sunday morning the credentials desk opened and the first session of the House of Delegates convened. Preliminary agenda items were brought before the delegates by Speaker of the House and Vice Speaker of the House. Report of the Nominating Committee was given and nominations from the floor. Nominations were taken for 2011 Nominating Committee. The house was recessed and all candidates remained to answer any questions proposed by the delegates.

Reference Committees met and this delegate served as Chair of the reference committee on resolutions.

Board of Trustees, Strategy Teams, Committees, Task Force, Liaison and Education Board Reports, bylaw and resolutions were presented by the reference committees. During the afternoon prior to the house reconvening Marketplace was opened with box lunches served.

When the house reconvened in the evening a report was given by the tellers. The HOD elected the following officers and trustees:

Vice President: Ann Naegele, CMA (AAMA)
Secretary Treasurer: Charlene Couch, CMA (AAMA)
Speaker of the House: Chris Hollander, CMA (AAMA)
Vice Speaker of the House: Nina Watson, CMA(AAMA), CPC
Trustees
Joyce Garibay, CMA (AAMA)

Patricia Hightower, CMA (AAMA)
Debby Houston, CMA (AAMA)
K. Minchella, PhD, CMA(AAMA) one year term

Nominating Committee
Charlene Driggers, CMA (AAMA) (SC)
Kathy Puckett, CMA (AAMA) (OR)
Loxie Kistler, CMA (AAMA) (OH)
Freda Miller, CMA (AAMA) (AK)

The reference committees reported their recommendations. Delegates voted to accept all reports and they were filed for future reference,

Proposed Bylaw amendment 10-01 changing Article VI Membership Section 2 Qualifications to read
A. Active-An active member shall be one of the following:
1. An AAMA Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) whose CMA(AAMA) credential **is current and** has not been revoked as provided by the AAMA Certifying Board Disciplinary Standards and Procedures for the CMA(AAMA) was **referred back** to the Bylaws and Resolutions committee for clarification.

D. Associate-An associate member shall be a medical assistant who is not yet a CMA(AAMA) and who does not fall under any other category, **or a CMA(AAMA) whose credential has expired** was also **referred back** to the Bylaws and Resolutions committee for clarification.

Proposed Bylaw amendment 10-03 Section 1 Classes

A. There shall be eight classes of membership (state) society and AAMA shall be required for all classes except international and honorary, unless there is no constituent society. **A member residing in a state or other American territory or insular possession in which there is no constituent society shall be considered a "national member at large," and may belong to a AAMA without belonging to a constituent society.**

C. Membership in a component (local) chapter shall be required if the constituent society so mandates. **If the constituent society does not mandate that a member belong to a component (local) chapter, or if there is no component (local) chapter, the member shall be considered a "state member at large" and may belong to the AAMA and the constituent society without belonging to a component (local) chapter.** The amendment was **adopted** by the House of Delegates.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment 10-04 Article VII Dues

Section I Annual dues for all classes of members shall be fixed by the House of Delegates upon recommendation by the Board of Trustees. Dues shall become due and payable November 1 and shall be delinquent if not postmarked by December 31.

D. Student members will be assessed **$25.** The amendment was **adopted** by the House of Delegates.

Resolution 10-1 was **adopted** with changes. Resolved that the members of the American Association of Medical Assistants may seek the support of local, state and federal representatives in seeking funding for education, testing, treatment and research for ovarian cancer.

Resolution 10-2 was **adopted**. Resolved that the House of Delegates establish active, associate and affiliate member **dues for 2012 at $77.**

Future conferences will be held September 23-26, 2011 in Indianapolis, Indiana; September 7-10, 2012 in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Education was superb. Leaders in Education and Practice (LEAP) once again had a Practitioners and Educators Exchange room whereby members could use the sign up for ELC and earn 4 CEU's via computer.

A great time was had by all at the annual Knowledge Bowl. Thank you to North and South Carolina for a fun time earning CEU's.

Monday, President Springer invited all those agreeing to be part of the strategy teams to visit her suite for a short orientation. The time spent was very enlightening and those present brought many new and innovating ideas to the table.

The conference ended on a positive note with President Bruntz son serving as the master of ceremony. State Presidents were honored along with Life Members including our own Mary Lou Allison, CMA-C (AAMA) and Past AAMA presidents. FSMA presented corsages to President Von Ohlsen and Past AAMA President Panagiotacos. Both President Bruntz and newly installed President Springer were an encouragement to all members in attendance with their closing remarks. A beautiful bouquet of roses was given to President Springer in honor of her installation. Florida was given many commendations for a great conference. Congratulations to Mary Lou Allison CMA-C (AAMA) and Karen Murray CMA (AAMA) along with their entire team on a job well done.