CALIFORNIA SOCIETY OF MEDICAL ASSISTANTS (CSMA)

 AAMA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

CINCINNATI, OHIO

OCTOBER 6-9, 2017

FIRST DELEGATE’S REPORT

This delegate, by virtue of position and the CSMA Bylaws, was the First Delegate for California. The First Delegate leads the California delegation at the AAMA National Conference. It is this delegate’s responsibility to oversee assignments for the delegates/alternates at the conference. This delegate along with the other delegates/alternates held email dialogue with the Executive Committee on pertinent parts of the Delegate’s packet to discuss their opinion and allow questions on the material of importance.

The CSMA allocates a specific sum in the budget to pay for: double occupancy room (half of the hotel room charge). If a circumstance occurs whereby a delegate/alternate is an additional person with no other delegate/alternate to room with, another AAMA member will be sought to room with this person or the additional person/delegate or alternate may choose to room by his/herself and pay the half occupancy charge. The CSMA also pays for the economy/coach airfare, shuttle (at the lowest price available or recommended by AAMA, and the conference registration fee). No per diem or other incidental charges will be reimbursed. Any reimbursable charges must be filed within 30 days of the end of the conference on a Travel Expense Voucher with valid receipts. The delegates/alternates receiving reimbursement are required to file a report for the CSMA membership which is posted to our website. Reimbursement will not be paid until the report is received and accepted by the CSMA President within 30 days unless a special extension is given.

The 61st AAMA Annual Conference was held in Cincinnati, Ohio, October 6-9, 2017. Delegates/Alternates coordinated travel itineraries and met in Cincinnati on Thursday, October 5. Assignments for specific events were assigned to each delegate and each delegate was given areas of the conference to report on for our Delegate Report. Alternates do not have expenses reimbursed except for overage of monies in the budget. If this occurred or was anticipated to occur, an assignment was made accordingly.

Delegates/Alternates arrived in Cincinnati safely. We held a dinner review meeting to coordinate assignments. On Friday and Saturday, our delegates attended their specific assigned events, attended CEU sessions and were able to visit some surrounding areas of Cincinnati. On Friday, our delegates/alternates attended the Welcome and Awards Celebration. Unfortunately, our CSMA Web Site did not receive an award.

On Saturday, this delegate attended the State Leaders Event along with our Second Delegate and our two Alternates. Trustee Virginia Thomas went over a leadership survey sent out to our leaders. The Trustee indicated the percentage received by each answer and asked the leaders in attendance how they generated new leaders. Results of the survey were given but little discussion on the meaning of the results occurred. In the evening, our CSMA delegation went on a horse and buggy ride around the surrounding area and had dinner at Maplewood Restaurant.

On Sunday we began the business of the association in the House of Delegates. The First Session of the House of Delegates was opened by Speaker Debby Houston. The Color Guard presented the flag and the Star Spangled Banner was sung while all stood.

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Memorials for AAMA past leaders and friend were given. We lost leaders Joan Michaels, CMA (AAMA) from North Carolina and a past president; Crystal Coleman, CMA (AAMA) Life Member from Virginia; Laura Lockhart Haynes, CMA (AAMA) from Indiana, and AAMA staff David Knight, AAMA Director for Membership and Continuing Education. A moment of silence followed.

Nominations were presented and nominations from the floor were taken. Vice President: Susan Hawes, CMA (AAMA) from Maine; Secretary Treasurer: Patty Licurs, CMA (AAMA) from South Carolina; Trustee: Mary Gambrell, CMA (AAMA) from South Carolina; Virginia Thomas, CMA (AAMA) from Virginia; Frank Favata III, CMA (AAMA) from New Hampshire and Claire Houghton from Washington state were nominated, the last two from the floor.

Don Balasa, CEO and In-house legal counsel presented information on MAERB along with two of the research specialists who conducted an evaluation of credentialing exams on whether they met the requirements of the curriculum. Questions were held and would be taken in the Second Session of the House of Delegates. A discussion about MAERB would occur following the Reference Committee hearings under Committee as a Whole.

The First Session was recessed with the Candidates Forum beginning. The Candidates Forum is a session where each candidate gives an oral speech to the Delegates, Alternates and membership. Following each candidates speech, there is a question and answer period conducted by IPP Paula Purdy. Following the Candidates Forum, the Candidates proceeded to go to each Society table to answer any questions we may have had. Only Vice Presidential candidate Hawes came to the California delegation.

Reference Committee: The Reference Committees met to allow delegates/alternates/ members of AAMA to speak on the proposed Bylaws and on the content of the Officers, Committee and Task Force reports.

The Second Session of the House was called to order at 6:35 pm.

The Credentials Chair reported on the voting body for the House. There were 151 possible votes; 139 were present with 10 proxy votes or a full voting body of 149. Majority vote was 75; 2/3 vote was 100.

Clickers were used for voting and distributed to HOD. Voting for officers, Trustees and Nominating Committee began. Elections: Vice President: Susan Hawes, CMA, (AAMA), MBA RHIT FACMPE from Maine; Secretary-Treasurer: Patty Licurs, CMA (AAMA) from South Carolina; Trustees: Mary Gambrell, CMA (AAMA) from South Carolina; Virginia Thomas, CMA (AAMA); Frank Favata III, BS, CMA (AAMA) from New Hampshire. Nominating Committee: Julie Flaatten CMA (AAMA), RN, EMT, Chair; Sherry Bogar, CMA (AAMA); Cheryl Bouschor, CMA (AAMA); Betty F. Jones; Jane Rogers, CMA (AAMA). There were 14 abstention votes for the Trustee positions.

The Proposed Bylaws on Student Membership was passed. There were no resolutions submitted; and all Officer, BOT, Committee, Task Force Reports, Education Board Reports, Special Reports were approved and filed for future reference.

There was no Unfinished Business nor New Business submitted to the House by the deadline required which was the Friday before the House met. The Medical Assistants Creed was read by all delegates who stood for the Creed, and the Good and Welfare Statements proceeded for 10 minutes.

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The Ohio Society was thanked for their hospitality and work for the 61st Annual AAMA National Conference and everyone was invited to attend the 62nd Annual AAMA Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. The House was then adjourned.

There was a VERY special moment in the House when President Julie Flaatten presented a Life Membership, the highest recognition in our AAMA association for a volunteer leader. Since this award was given to me, I feel it inappropriate to put comments in this report and have assigned it to IPP Virginia Marquette to report on but I will say how PROUD, HUMBLE and DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE I was to receive this award.

Monday ended our AAMA National Conference with morning CEU sessions and ending with the Presidents’ Luncheon. Vice President Ojeda represented the California President in the Parade of Presidents as the President needed to get to the airport.

This delegate and officer extends my appreciation to our CSMA membership for their confidence in sending this delegate to Cincinnati, Ohio, to represent the best interest of California medical assistants and the profession of medical assisting across the nation.

Joyce Nakano, CMA (AAMA)

First Delegate

CSMA President, 2017-18