CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANTS

REPORT OF THE FIRST DELEGATE

AAMA 58TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE

ST LOUIS, MISSOURI

OCTOBER 17-20, 2014

It was an honor and privilege to represent California and CSMA at the 58th AAMA Annual Conference at the Hilton Ballpark in St. Louis, Missouri, October 17-20, 2014. It was this Delegates second attendance at Nationals and my first time serving in this position. During the conference, my goal was to work for CSMA by networking with other participants and asking questions, specifically about membership.

This delegate attended the following CEU Sessions;

* PowerPoint into Video- Laurie Stowers, MA, BA
* A New Kind of Bedside Manner- Rise of Apology Laws- John Carlile, MD.
* Elder Abuse and the Law- Damon Bruntz
* Time is Muscle, Time is Brain - R. Scott Duff, MD.
* Self-Management Skills-Buz Jacobson BS
* One Health Initiative- Commonalities of Medicine for Humans and Animals- Clark Fobian, DVM.
* Living with Chronic Illness. Replacement speaker- Laura Flaker, RN, BSN, MSN.

On Friday, this delegate attended the First Timers Meeting. The Board of Trustee (BOT) members of AAMA mingled and individually introduced themselves to those that attended. I had the opportunity to introduce myself to current AAMA President and new resident of California, Nina Watson, CMA (AAMA).

The BOT meeting was held on Friday from 9-12pm. Luckily, I arrived early; the viewing gallery filled quickly and was standing room only. It was a great introduction to the workings and actions of the AAMA.

Key notes discussed were;

The plan to move forward and continue the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Health Information Technology. This is an open opportunity. There are grants that we can apply for that our

Profession can fit into. This will require time to do research. Trustee Minchella will chair the committee, she felt it would relate with the Core Curriculum Task Force (CCTF) that she is already working on. The President will add to this Committee. It was agreed to disband the Ad Hoc Committee to Develop Opportunities in the Healthcare Environment. This work is being done by other committees. The Ad Hoc Committee to Restructure the Annual Conference will also be disbanded. An email will be sent to this year’s conference participants to conduct a “Survey Monkey” within one week after conference. A White Paper will be created to flagship and promote our CMA (AAMA) credential as an employment tool. Convention speaker’s fees have increased to $500.00 per hour.

Director Don Balasa, JD, MBA discussed the recent article on Medical Assisting programs in the New York Times written by Kevin Carey, October 4, 2014 “When Higher Education Doesn't Deliver on Its Promise. Medical -Assistant Programs: A Case Study.” Do Medical Assistants graduates obtain gainful employment? The reporter contacted Don Balasa, JD, MBA prior to the article, yet he did not follow up. The Gallery suggested to follow up with the reporter regarding this article.

The Welcome Awards Celebration and dessert social is the official opening of the conference and an opportunity to acknowledge the accomplishments of our members. In addition to this year, the parade of presidents/state representatives opened the evening events. I was honored to stand for CSMA President Betty Thang, CMA (AAMA) and received her certificate of appreciation. Resuming this year was the traditional ribbon cutting at the start of the Convention. Portland, Oregon will be hosting the 2015 AAMA Convention from September 18 to 21, 2015. The Oregon Society members presented a “skit” reflecting the history of their state and welcomed us to attend. The complete list of Excel Award winners will be in the next issue of CMA Today and posted on the AAMA Website. Listed are the main award recipients:

 ***Golden Apple****- Mary L. Dey, CMA-AC (AAMA), BAS-[MI]*

***Leadership and Mentoring****- Rusty Dowling, CMA (AAMA) - [MI]*

***Medical Assistant of the Year****- Kathy Puckett, CMA (AAMA)-[OR]*

The BOT strategically placed flip charts by the registration area, available to post suggestions and or questions/concerns. This also created area of discussion for members.

A map of the United States was available, and we were requested to place a pin on our home town. I counted only 6 for California! The other side of the map was covered with pin! We traveled pretty far, but Alaska and Hawaii made it too!

House of Delegates (HOD) Delegate/ Alternate Orientation

 Michael Ledbetter from [www.turning](http://www.turning) Technologies.com instructed our first- time Delegates on how to use the new polling devices. California would have one Delegate and two proxy votes. Proper protocol during the HOD and the motion process was also discussed.

State Leaders (Formally Advisory Council of Presidents and President Elect)

Program Planner David Knight from AAMA provided Department contact information for the AAMA website and reviewed the new online Recertification process and answered any questions that arose. A select group of AAMA current and former leaders were chosen to answer questions about leadership. Jennifer Amaral, CMA (AAMA)-[CT], Deb Benson, Continuing Education Board Chair [VA] Nikal Redwine, CMA (AAMA) -[GA]., and Jan Caplan, CMA-A (AAMA) -[MO] whom said, “Without the vision, we do not have a goal.” Other comments were “Leaders need to open and listen, look towards your elders and use the resources around you.” A liaison of the AAMA is available to assist with chapter membership. Contact BOT- Chris Hollander, CMA (AAMA) and her committee for support.

The floor was opened, and members voiced their concerns about membership. Several valid ideas were noted:

Routinely call AAMA for new CMA‘s. Educate our employers, speak to local colleges, and assign student ambassadors. Educators- require attendance to meetings. Offer extra credit. Send questionnaires to members, “why are they no longer attending meetings”? Use “Survey Monkey”- 10 questions. Offer free CEU’s., food, and credit card processing.

Suggested Reading;

Leadership for Healthcare Professionals- Jerry R Ledlow

The Interprofessional Healthcare Team: Leadership and Development- Donna Weis

House of Delegates.

The House of Delegates (HOD) was delayed due to transportation problems arising from the local 10k race. We began at 8:30 am, and the Sons of the American Revolution presented the colors and Bill Byrd from Lafayette Park United Methodist Church sang the National Anthem. There was a quorum of 140 active votes including 6 proxies. Key approvals at the meeting were: New lease for AAMA Executive office Space in the Civic Opera Building. Approved StateNet for legislative monitoring. This system will find and identify key legislation in the 50 states, the District of Columbia and the United States and will allow for easy collection reporting and automated e-mail alert system. Several Eulogies were given in memory of those that had a connection with the AAMA Alice Budny, CMA (AAMA), Cynthia Connelly, CMA (AAMA), Elisabeth Massey, CMA (AAMA), Dave Stanley (CMA Today Production), and Betty Lou Willey, CMA -AC (AAMA)

Don Balasa, JD., MBA spoke on ABR-OE (Assessment-Based Recognition in Order Entry). This presentation was recorded. Previously recorded videos on this subject are posted on the AAMA website. The ABR- OE went into effect 01/01/2013 due to the Center of Medicare's EHR Meaningful use Incentive program requirement. Only credentialed medical assistants and or other licensed health professionals are allowed the entry of medication, radiology and laboratory orders into the electronic health record (EHR). Those medical personnel that are CMA (AAMA) do not qualify to obtain certification for ABR-OE as they are current. This official recognition of the holder’s qualifications must come from an outside source, not within their employment. Failure to meet even on core objection for Meaningful Use would result in forfeit of the entire incentive payment. Currently within a ten- month period, the AAMA has had 2,345 ABR-OE applicants who have been processed and 325 that are pending (prior to convention) for this 24- month recognition. Several members approached the microphone to express their concerns on whom may enter orders. Our own CMSA member Joyce Nakano, CMA (AAMA) attended the HOD and expressed her thoughts on this subject. Members of the HOD appear to need additional clarification regarding the ABR-OE and the purpose and involvement of AAMA. A motion was made for continued discussion, which was defeated by 17 yes to 117 no. The Centers for Medicare (CMS) forwards any questions regarding ABR to our own Don Balasa, JB, MBA for clarification. You can find additional information on the AAMA Website-Legal Eye or the CMS Website.

New clarification of whom may take the AAMA Exam can be viewed on the AAMA Website. Individuals who have graduated from a medical assisting program by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) or the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) on or after January 1, 2010, must pass the CMA (AAMA) Certification Examination within 60 months after the date of graduation. Graduates before January 1, 2010, are not subject to the 60-month requirement and do not have any time limit for taking and passing the CMA (AAMA) Certification Examination and being awarded the CMA (AAMA) credential.

Prior to the June, 1998 administration of the CMA (AAMA) Certification Examination, there were eligibility pathways other than graduation from a CAAHEP or ABHES accredited medical assisting program. Those CMA (AAMA) prior to June of 1998 and were not graduates of an accredited program are eligible to recertify by continuing education or retesting.

ARTICLE IV-MEMBERSHIP, SECTION 2, Qualifications.

**Current Wording**

1. ACTIVE- An active member shall be one of the following:

2. Anyone who was an active member on 12/31/87, and has maintained continuous active membership. Continuous active membership shall be defined as having dues postmarked or submitted electronically to the AAMA Executive Officer by December 31 (the controlling time is that of sending, not that of receiving.)

ARTICLE IV-MEMBERSHIP, SECTION 2, Qualifications.

**APROVED WORDING**

1. ACTIVE- An active member shall be one of the following:

2. Anyone who was an active member on 12/31/87, **who has never been a CMA (AAMA**), and has maintained continuous active membership. Continuous active membership shall be defined as having dues postmarked or submitted electronically to the AAMA Executive Officer by December 31 (the controlling time is that of sending, not that of receiving.)

**Amendment 14-01 Adopted by the HOD**

**PROPOSED WORDING**

**ADD NEW ITEM 3**

ARTICLE VI-MEMBERSHIP, SECTION 2, Qualifications

 3. An Individual who has retired from medical assisting, whose CMA (AAMA) is not current, who

 has not chosen sustaining membership, and whose CMA (AAMA) has not been revoked as

 Provided by the AAMA Certifying Board Disciplinary Standard and Procedures for CMA (AAMA).

**Amendment 14-01, Item 3. FAILED**

There were several challenges during portions of the voting process and clarification of parliamentary rules, which required pauses in the HOD session. No New Business or Resolutions were presented. It was requested that the HOD minutes be posted to the CMA today (member’s only section), and that the previous year’s minutes are added to the Delegates packets in the future. Include “state” of those that are running for office. The AAMA 59th Annual Conference, “Building Bridges,” is scheduled for September 18 to 21 in Portland, Oregon at the DoubleTree by Hilton.

**The 2014-2015 House of Delegates**

Vice President-Paula Purday, CMA (AAMA) - [OR]

Speaker of the House- Lisa Lee, CMA (AAMA) - [UT]

Vice Speaker of the House- Debby Houston, CMA (AAMA), CPC - [VA]

**Trustee**

Loxie Kistler, CMA (AAMA), EdD, RN. - [OH], Deborah Novak, CMA (AAMA) - [OH.], Michael Pfeil, CMA (AAMA), LVN-[TX]

**Nominating Committee-** Chair- Nina Watson, CMA (AAMA) CPC

Jennifer Amaral, CMA (AAMA) - [CT], Monica Case, CMA (AAMA)-[TN], Laura Michell, CMA (AAMA-[OK]

Sherry Bogar, CMA (AAMA) - [TX]

The Presidents luncheon was our final farewell. Those of the 669 registered members whom did not have to leave early, trickled into the banquet room and found their seat to a beautiful meal. I shared with the members of my table that the berries served at the hotel were from my hometown of Watsonville. They also had a long trip!

Announcement - The Society of Past Presidents collected at the conference a combined total of $5,627.00 for the Maxine Williams Scholarship and Ivy Reade Relkin Surveyor Training Fund.

Susan Hawes, CMA (AAMA), MRA, CMPE [ME] was added as Board of Trustee after consultation between HOD, Legal Counsel and Parliamentary Advisors.

Life member of the AAMA was presented to Cheryl Vineyard, CMA (AAMA) of New Mexico. Cheryl has been an active member of the AAMA and has never missed a Convention.

Current President Nina Watson, CMA (AAMA) presented incoming President Charlene Couch, CMA (AAMA), [UT] with the gavel to signify the beginning of her 2014-2015 presidential term.

The conference ended earlier this year, which allowed attendees to arrive home sooner. Many BOT members were continuing their convention duties immediately leaving to attend another Convention in Florida. Fellow CSMA member Pamela Sanborn, CMA (AAMA) who attended on behalf of Cabrillo College, was off to Los Angeles for another educator conference as well.

 In conclusion, there were several last minute speakers’ cancellations and replacement sessions due to circumstance beyond anyone’s control. There were a few bumps in the road. Missouri “rolled” with it and did an excellent job hosting the 58th AAMA National Conference and the Hilton, Ballpark Hotel were helpful and accommodating to our needs. The educational topics were well rounded. There was a standing poll at the awards ceremony showing years of AAMA membership. Several members stood after 45-50 years! The dedication and passion were evident throughout the convention. Old friends connected instantly. There is a history and a bond among our members. We are the Gold Standard!

 Thank you again to Joyce Nakano, CMA (AAMA) for introducing me to other members of the association and guiding me during this Conference. I appreciate CSMA for this opportunity to serve our members in this capacity.

Virginia Marquette, CMA (AAMA)

1st Delegate

CSMA Vice President