California Society of Medical Assistants

AAMA National Conference

Orlando, Florida

September 21-25, 2023

This officer served as the First Delegate to the 67th Annual AAMA National Conference in Orlando, Florida, at the Hilton Lake Buena Vista Hotel in the Disney Springs area. Traveling to Florida was a challenge. The day began a flight at 6:45 in the morning, flying to Denver, Colorado and then on to Orlando. The flight to Orlando arrived 45 minutes early but was placed in a “holding pattern” due to a weather system over Orlando. After a 45 minute wait, it was announced that we were running out of gas and had to be diverted to Tampa to refuel, but that would only take a few minutes. After an hour on the ground refueling, the flight was ready to return to Orlando but could not leave as it was cleared for departure but not arrival. We left about a half hour later. Upon arriving in Orlando, the airport opened and we were able to land.

Many attendees made arrangements to travel to the hotel site. By the time we landed, my ride had to leave and went to the hotel. Next option was a Mears shuttle but after a call to them, they had no room. The public bus did not stop near the hotel, the taxi was well over $50 and I did not want to spend the association funds for this. Uber and Lyft was supposedly less. I could not get to the hotel in a reasonable manner. Should I sleep at the airport, purchase a ticket and return to California? Delegate #4 arrived an hour later and we could connect by phone. She had a reservation through Mears so she was told to go on to the hotel. She said she would call to see if there was a way to find another space to go to the hotel. She did find a way but I was on the A side of the airport and had to get to the B side ASAP. It was not an easy task to maneuver through the airport. Bottom line: the shuttle waited, we met and were taken to the hotel. If it wasn’t for Delegate #4, this officer with her sciatica pain, would have returned to California and assigned Delegate #2 to vote by proxy. Disney did not have its own shuttle.

The delegates were somewhat dismayed with the ambiance of the hotel since it was a Disney Resort Hotel but it only had one statue of Mickey, one picture of a Mickey ice cream bar but little other reminders we were on the Disney property. This does happen, unfortunately, at some sites for the Conference but more of a shock as Myrtle Beach last year was exceptional. We did meet up with another member from California who was there on his own.

The second day began with a Continental breakfast, the Board of Trustees and continuing education classes. I had a good meeting with the President and Vice President with one other member and then off to the Welcome Party Social. Awards of plenty but not for California since we do not apply for awards. A brief intro to the Grand Rapids Conference next year and then bed.

Our second day was the HOD. The first session began with the Veterans escorting our flag into the ballroom and the singing of our national anthem. This was followed with a presentation by CEO Don Balasa on the interrelations of the education board with the BOT. He discussed the NCCA accreditation of Certifying bodies and the legal link with the boards.

Next was the memorial to Past President and Life Member Ann Naegele, CMA (AAMA) by Past President Mary Dyer. Ann had her funny side as well. Mary told some funny stories. She said that one time when they went to the lake, Ann took out a kayak and, of course, turned it over and was completely wet but laughing all the way through it. She then told a story that there was a flood in Ann’s town and Ann lost her house but Ann had heard that there was an older couple needing help in the community so she told her husband that they needed to go help them, not realizing that the older couple mentioned were the Naegeles. Yes, funny stories but ones we can remember Ann and her adventures.

The first session of the HOD had a “keynote speaker, CEO Don Balasa” who spoke on the interrelations of the boards, staff and the BOT. It was then recessed for “Meet the Candidates.” All candidates gave their speech which was followed by answering questions from the delegates at each delegate table. We did not get to speak to all but we did speak to some. This session lasted about 1 ½ hours.

This led to lunch and then the Reference Committees on Officers Reports, Committees, Task Forces and Strategic Committees. There were no resolutions but there were 7 Bylaws proposals.

After a lot of discussions during the Reference Committee Session on Bylaws and the Officers Reports, the Reference Committees retired to write reports for the Second Session of the HOD. During the discussion on Bylaws, three past presidents stated that the Bylaws #4 was about the association which is a business and not the credential. I believe they indicated that the credential is separate from the association. The result was that Bylaws #4 passed that any “credentialed” medical assistant be considered an “Active” member. Bylaws #5 was defeated. See the Bylaws discussion later in this report.

Elections were first on the agenda. Voting Power: 151 Total Voting Power; 143 votes with 8 proxy votes. Majority vote: 77 and 2/3 votes 101. Election results: Amy Wicker, CMA (AAMA) elected VP with 141 votes and 10 abstentions; Sherry Bogar 102 with 49 Abstentions: Vice Speaker: Natasha Geno 96 and Jane Seelig 47 votes 7 abstentions with Geno becoming the Vice Speaker; Trustees: Miller 98 with14 abstentions; Aimee Quinn 120; Shirley Sawyer 122 votes; ShannonThomas 113 and Sandra Williams 110. Elected as Trustee were: Candy Miller who received the one year term from the resignation of S. Gingrich; Aimee Quinn, Shirley Sawyer 122; Shannon Thomas 113 and Sandra Williams 110.

Nominating Committee: Todd Lasher NY; Crissy Taylor from SC; Michelle van Handle WI; and Casie Hamilton WI.

Seven bylaws were voted on with 6 passing.

Bylaws #1

**ARTICLE VIII- Qualifications of Officers and Trustees, Section 1 and Section 4B.**

**PROPOSED WORDING: The Officers of the AAMA shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary-Treasurer**

SECTION 1. The Officers of the AAMA shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary-~~Treasurer,~~ a Speaker of the Housel a Vice Speaker of the House and the Immediate Past President

SECTION 4. Additional qualifications for specific offices shall be:

B. A candidate for Secretary-~~Treasurer~~ shall:

1. Have served two complete year as a member of the Board of Trustees or two complete years as Chair of the Certifying Board Continuing Education Board or the Medical Assisting Education Review Board

THE REFERENCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED TO ADOPT. Vote: 138 yes; 10 No. 2 Abstentions

CSMA Delegate’s evaluation: The purpose of this bylaws amendment was to take away the title “treasurer” because the current Secretary-Treasurer does not have single responsibility over the finances of the institution. The discussion from one delegate was that every organization across the United States has a “treasurer” in place. Your CSMA delegate does not know whether this is factual or not. There was also a mention that the . . . “Chair of the . . . Medical Assisting Review Board” could run for an officer position; however there is another bylaws which strips MAERB from eligibility.

**ARTICLE VIII- Qualifications of Officers and Trustees**

**PROPOSED WORDING**:

SECTION 4. Additional qualifications for specific offices shall be:

1. A candidate for Vice President shall:
2. Have been an elected member of the Board of Trustees for two complete AAMA years (an AAMA year is from annual meeting to annual meeting of the House of Delegates) or Chair of the Certifying Board, or Continuing Education Board~~, or the Medical Assisting Education Board~~ for two complete years.
3. Have served as one of the following: President, Vice President, President-Elect, Speaker, or Vice Speaker of a Constituent Society,
4. A candidate for Secretary-Treasurer shall:
5. Have served two complete years as a member of the Board of Trustees or two complete years as Chair of the Certifying Board, or Continuing Education Board~~, or the Medical Assisting Education Review Board~~;
6. A candidate for Speaker of the House of Delegates shall:
7. Have served two complete years as a member of the Board of Trustees or two complete years as Chair of the Certifying Board, or Continuing Education Board, ~~or the Medical Assisting Education Board~~
8. Have served two complete years as a member of the Board of Trustees or two complete

years as Chair of the Certifying Board, or Continuing Education Board~~, or the Medical~~

~~Assisting Education Review Board~~. Have served two complete years as a member of the

Board of Trustees or two complete years as Chair of the Certifying Board, or Continuing

Education Board~~, or the Medical Assisting Education Review Board~~

D. A candidate for Vice Speaker of the House of Delegates shall:

1. Have served two complete years as a member of the Board of Trustees or two complete

years as Chair of the Certifying Board, or Continuing Education Board, ~~or the Medical~~

~~Assisting Education Review Board~~.

1. have served as President of a Constituent Society and attended at least two previous AAMA

meetings as a Delegate

E. A candidate for Trustee shall:

1. have attended at least two previous AAMA meetings as a Delegate or served as Chair of the

Certifying Board, or Continuing Education Board, ~~or the Medical Assisting Education Review~~

~~Board~~;

2, have served as one of the following: President, Vice President, President-Elect, Speaker or

Vice Speaker of a Constituent Society;

3. have actively served for one full year on: (1) a national committee; (2) a national board (i.e.,

the Certifying Board, or the Continuing Education Board, or the Medical Assisting Education

Review Board) or one of its committees, task forces, or strategy teams, or (3) a national task

force or strategy team whose medical assistant members are appointed or approved by the

Board of Trustees.

THE REFERENCE COMMITTEE ON BYLAWS RECOMMENDED THIS BE ADOPTED. Yes: 144; No: 6 with 0 Abstentions.

CSMA Delegate opinion: This was clean up since MAERB is no longer a part of the association and should not be eligible to run for office.

REFERENCE COMMITTEE ON BYLAWS RECOMMEND THIS BE ADOPTED. Voting: 126 yes; No. 22, Abstain 1.

**ARTICLE VI- MEMBERSHIP, Section 2A**

**PROPOSED WORDING**.

SECTION 2. Qualifications.

1. ACTIVE- An Active member shall be one of the following.
2. A credentialed medical assistant holding current status through a National Commission for Healthy Certifying Agencies (NCCA)- accredited certification program and whose credential has not been revoked as provided by the respective credentialing body.
3. Anyone who was an Active member on Dec. 31, 1987m who has never been a CMA (AAMA) and who has maintained continuous Active membership. Continuous Active membership shall be defined as having dues postmarked or submitted electronically to the AAMA Executive Office by December 31 (the controlling time is that of sending, not that of receiving).

REFERENCE COMMITTEE ON BYLAWS RECOMMENDS THIS BE ADOPTED. Vote: 129 yes; 17 No; 4 Abstain

This bylaws amendment proposal had a robust discussion with 3 past presidents indicating that this was a membership issue and not a credentialing issue, with the “credentialed medical assistant” holding one of the other 4 other credentials to become an Active Member. They stated that this was a business and the credential was not a part of this decision. This bylaws amendment was passed.

**ARTICLE VI- MEMBERSHIP, Section 3**

**PROPOSED WORDING:**

SECTION 3. Privileges

AAMA Active and Life members who are CMA (AAMA) holding current status are eligible to serve as national officers, trustees and committee chairs. Any AAMA Active or Life member may serve as a Delegate, Alternate Delegate, or committee member. Privileges on a State Society and Chapter level will be determined by those entities respectively,

REFERENCE COMMITTEE ON BYLAWS RECOMMENDS THIS BE ADOPTED: Vote: 99 yes, 49 No. Abstain 2. **THIS BYLAWS PROPOSAL FAILED**. This Amendment requires a 2/3 vote of 101 or higher to pass.

This Bylaws Proposed Amendment lost.

**ARTICLE XIII- BOARDS AND COUNCILS, Section 1-2**

**PROPOSED WORDING:**

SECTION 1. Certifying Board.

1. An annual report shall be submitted on a date specified by the Speaker of the House.

SECTION 2. Continuing Education Board

1. The Continuing Education Board shall be under the authority of the Board of Trustees. An annual report shall be submitted on a date specified by the Speaker of the House.

REFERENCE COMMITTEE ON BYLAWS RECOMMENDS THIS BE ADOPTED. Vote: 138 Yes; 12 No. 0 Abstain

CSMA Delegate: The date of submission of Annual Reports for BOT members is decided by the Speaker of the House so this bylaws proposed amendment would have these Boards fall in line with the submission date of all reports.

**ARTICLE XVII- PUBLICATION**

**PROPOSED WORDING:**

SECTION 1. There shall be an official publication that is published regularly according to the format and frequency determined by the AAMA Board of Trustees,

REFERENCE COMMITTEE ON BYLAWS RECOMMENDS THIS BE ADOPTED. Vote: 119 Yes; 30 No. 1 Abstain

Note: Voting Power 151

**SUNDAY** was a continuing education day, State Leaders and the Presidents’ Banquet. Monica Case, CMA (AAMA) becomes the 2023-2024 AAMA President with Deb Novak, CMA (AAMA) becoming the Immediate Past President. The new officers and trustees were installed

**Life Membership was awarded to: Rebecca Walker, CMA (AAMA) (NC), Regent of the SoPPS.**

**MONDAY** was another continuing education day and departure day.

This year, the AAMA used Cvent for Conference Registration as well as a scanning process to verify attendance and CEU credits. It was indicated that this was a “trial” and the results will determine if it is continued.

This officer wishes to express appreciation to our members for their continued faith in our ability to lead this organization. With few volunteers, it is difficult to plan and carry out those events to push our organization forward but we continue to do what we can. I am not one to give up on our Society.

Joyce

CSMA President

First Delegate