**President’s Message #2**
October 2021

This is my second of three messages to our membership.  In April 2020, this officer entered the presidency having served as vice president.  Protocols to implement goals of the Society were done with appointment to Standing Committees.  During this continued pandemic, changes were needed to have the Society function as best as it could under the circumstances.  Lockdowns, masking, social distancing and strict restrictions were implemented by both the Federal and State governments.  The attempts to control the coronavirus and its variants continued with vaccines given to most of our population who were cleared to have them.  Children are now back in school with continued restrictions but together with their friends in an atmosphere of in-person learning in California.

The pandemic is not over so we have set up some new programs to implement for our members virtually.  Our Annual Meeting will be held on **April 23, 2022**, virtually so please put this date on your schedule.

CSMA approved a virtual platform for meetings and presenting CEU sessions.  We have currently had 9 of these sessions for our CSMA members and our expanded AAMA members.  We gave our first session in June and just completed our 9th session in September.  We will be presenting one more session in October on October 23.  We will go “dark” in November and December so our members can enjoy the holiday season with their families.  This may be the first time they will be able to gather with their families to celebrate the holidays.

Our CEU Sessions have been well accepted by our members.  Because of the pandemic and the financial burdens, CSMA Executive Committee voted to offer our sessions “free of charge” for the remainder of our fiscal year which ends in April 2022.  The only requirement was verification of being a member of AAMA/CSMA.  Many members thanked CSMA for offering this method of obtaining CEUs for recertification.  We had many members from outside California join us as well.   Although we met our members through Zoom, we hope to have them participate in our proposed 2023 in-person meeting in the North to follow-up meeting them.

Our Standing Committees continue to work and set new goals for their committees.  Our Minutes Committee completed the Minutes.  Our Audit Committee completed the audit. CSMA Certification Committee continue to send congratulatory letters to our new CMA (AAMA)s and serve as a contact for them, Marketing had CSMA banners made which may be used at events attended by CSMA and working at other marketing projects.  Public Policy is watching legislations and regulations affecting medical assistants in California. There was a regulation with the California Medical Board to update the current regulations regarding the list of approved medical assisting certification providers. Credentials recognized by California law would have to be or become NCCA accredited (National Commission for Certifying Agencies).  It is my understanding that the regulation passed and certification providers will have 5 years to become accredited by NCCA.  AAMA is an approved medical assisting certification provider by NCCA.  Other Standing Committees are working to fulfill their goals which includes planning for the Annual Meeting.

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The Southwest Regional Conference was cancelled by New Mexico and New Mexico anticipates an in-person conference in 2022 as long as the coronavirus is under control.  For those who go to the SW Regional, no set date has been set but it has usually been the third weekend in July.

This year’s 65th AAMA Annual Conference was held in Houston, Texas, with around 400+ people in attendance.  CSMA was to send 4 delegates and 2 Alternate Delegates.  Due to personal issues, one delegate and one alternate delegate needed to resign.  CSMA did send 4 delegates which was our full complement of voting delegates.  Reports from each delegate will be posted to the web site giving their perspective on the AAMA 65th National Conference.  Because Minneapolis had to cancel hosting the AAMA National Conference in 2022, it has been moved to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Remember to send in your dues.  Dues vary by state, but what you are given in discounts and the complimentary magazine subscription can more than make up for the cost of your dues. If you pay by October 30, there is an $8 discount.  Also a benefit to your Society is the number of delegates which is based on the number of members we have as of December 31.

This officer appreciates the trust given to lead this Society.  Our volunteers have worked hard to benefit our members and to be available if questions arose.

Happy Medical Assistants Recognition Week and Medical Assistants Day on Wednesday, October 20. We are now headed into our holiday season and I hope that all of you enjoy celebrating with your families.  We are still not out of this pandemic but there will be a bright future if we work together.  My best holiday season wishes to all our military, first responders and healthcare workers who take care of all of us.

Joyce Nakano, CMA (AAMA)
CSMA President