CALIFORNIA SOCITY OF MEDICAL ASSISTANTS

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL REPORT 2017

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

July 21-23. 2017

The Southwest Regional was held in Phoenix, Arizona, July 21-23, 2017, at the Holiday Inn/Airport. There were 35 members in attendance from: Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah and other members from Florida, Idaho, Iowa and Michigan. Hawaii is a member of the SW Region but was not in attendance.

The SW Regional offered 12 CEUs for the weekend. There were 8 CEUs for the General category; 2 CEUs for Clinical and 2 were either Clinical or General. Topics included “Crying with Crayons, Vaccine Update, Patient Safety, Building Workplace and Virtual Teams, Parliamentary Procedures and Seasonal Allergies – Nip them in the Bud.”

Social: The hotel provided breakfast for guests staying at the hotel. Arizona Society provided a gift for every attendee. There was also a 50/50 drawing and a drawing for special gifts. Lunch and dinner were on your own and many grouped together to go to various sites and renew their friendships. One group went to a nearby casino while another went to the Nationals vs the Diamondback game.

The SW Regional Meeting was set aside to discuss issues facing the SW Regional states. Topics of MAERB issue; ABR-OE were discussed. There was a discussion about nonmembers and several attendees indicated that AAMA needs to “go backwards before it can go forward.” I think, but am not sure what they were talking about and tried to get the issue clarified but could not. I think they were referring to the status of the Associate member’s category. They felt that the Associate member could join the association but not offered the same benefits of an Active member and were unable to serve as a delegate. It was also indicated that AAMA does not promote the Associate category. More clarifications is needed before discussions can really occur on this issue. This attendee left a little early to catch a plane.

The discussion did shift to the California 2018 SWR. Discussions focused on where to hold the 2018 meeting. San Francisco, Oakland, Sacramento, Lake Tahoe, Los Angeles near LAX, San Diego and Ontario. It was suggested by the people in attendance that CSMA look into the Ontario site as it appears to be a hotel that would accommodate the number of attendees.

The hospitality of Arizona was apparent and everyone had a great time. The attendees are looking forward to next year’s regional.

It was an honor and pleasure to officially represent CSMA at this conference. It has been a while since I last attended and a good reacquaintance with my friends from the SW and AAMA. No greater accolade can be given to the friends you gain and even keep in AAMA no matter how long it has been in seeing them in person. There are even more friends that I met who were new to this conference and I hope they will come to California next year.

Joyce Nakano, CMA (AAMA)

CSMA President, 2017-2018