California Society of Medical Assistants

Southwest Regional Meeting

July 2023

This officer represented CSMA at the Southwest Regional Meeting in Houston, July 21-23, 2023 per the CSMA Bylaws. The regional was held at the Embassy Suites. The Bylaws of CSMA allows for 2 representatives, funds available, to attend. The second representative is the Vice President. If there is no Vice President, the Executive Committee may appoint a representative, funds available. The Executive Committee approved the attendance of Gini Marquette, CMA (AAMA).

This delegation traveled on Thursday, July 20, to meet the opening time for the regional on Friday. This officer would like to thank Gini Marquette, CMA (AAMA) for being my caregiver at the regional since this officer could only walk a short distance due to sciatica pain. Gini was my wheelchair pusher at the Houston Hobby Airport on my return trip since there were many people waiting for some service to the gate. Gini pushed the wheelchair through security and to my gate before leaving for her own departure gate.

The regional was a hybrid meeting with approximately 40 in total attendance over the 3 days including 14 or 15 virtual attendees.

The SW Regional states attending were: California, Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas and Utah. Several state societies could not attend due to recent family losses or serious family illnesses. Deborah Novak, CMA (AAMA), AAMA President was present as the guest of Texas Society attending the regional instead of the Texas Annual Meeting.

Texas had 12.5 CEUs in the administrative category. These speakers were excellent and CSMA hopes to have some of them present to our virtual CEU sessions. Most, if not all, were administrative topics. Next year, the SWR will be held in Oklahoma City, probably the third weekend in July 2024. 2025 is scheduled in Utah and 2026 in California. Keep the dates open, usually the third weekend in July. If you cannot attend the national conference, you may be able to attend this SWR which focuses on CEUs and Leadership followed by a SWR Meeting to discuss issues common to our SWR states.

President Novak gave an update of AAMA issues. Chair Sherry Bogar from the AAMA Bylaws Committee indicated the Delegates Packet is projected to be out between August 1 to August 8. CSMA indicated we hold Zoom Meetings to discuss the packet and invited anyone who is a delegate to attend if they wished to attend. Zoom meetings will be scheduled to discuss the Delegate Packet as was done last year to prepare for the HOD and voting. CSMA Delegates should clear their calendars after August 15 for these sessions. I anticipate there will be 4 Zoom Meetings.

Texas held a “Dessert Social” and game night, and a session “Lunch with the AAMA President.” If you needed administrative CEUs, this was the meeting to attend. The meeting was well-planned. CSMA extended appreciation to Texas Society to all the workers who put this event together.

The AAMA National Conference will be held September 22-25, 2023, with travel on Thursday, September 21 at Lake Buena Vista in Florida on the Disney property. The 2024 AAMA Conference will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

On Sunday, the SWR received sad news that Past President and AAMA Life Member, Ann Naegele passed away. This officer was a close friend of Ann’s. Ann cared for everyone and will be sorely missed. She now joins her husband in God’s house. There is a tribute to Ann on the website under the SWR information so please read it. It says it all about a great friend, lady and past president. CSMA will make a donation in Ann’s name in appreciation for her service to AAMA and the medical assisting profession. AAMA is a professional organization but it is also “family” and we just lost one of our members.

Other members at the SWR and some who could not be there were also dealing with family health issues. Please keep all those who attended the SWR who have family challenges in your thoughts since there are too many to list.

On the brighter side, this was a great conference. Thank you, again, to the Texas Society of Medical Assistants, Lisa Connelley, CMA (AAMA) their president, and all the workers who put this together.

This officer thanks the CSMA for their confidence in sending this officer to this meeting.

Joyce Nakano, CMA (AAMA)

CSMA President