April 2016

Dear Leaders and Members of MSSNY,

On behalf of the American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMA) and the New York State Society of Medical Assistants (NYSSMA), I extend greetings to all leaders and members of the Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) on the occasion of the April 2016, Annual Meeting of the MSSNY House of Delegates.

The American Association of Medical Assistants is the national membership organization representing the medical assisting profession. Established in 1956 and located in Chicago, Illinois, the AAMA has over 35,000 members and is an Official Observer of the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association.

The Certifying Board of the AAMA bestows the CMA (AAMA) credential on those medical assistants who pass the CMA (AAMA) Certification Examination, the only medical assisting examination that utilizes the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) as test consultant. Only graduates of postsecondary medical assisting programs accredited by either the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) or the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) are eligible for the CMA (AAMA) Certification Examination. The CMAs (AAMA) must keep their credential current by recertifying every five years by continuing education or retesting. We must earn 60 CEUs every 5 years. Those individuals whose CMA (AAMA) is not current are not permitted to use the CMA (AAMA) for any purpose.

CMAs (AAMA) work under the direct supervision of physicians in ambulatory care settings, and are especially valuable to physicians because of their clinical and administrative knowledge and competency. The demand for CMAs (AAMA) throughout the United States is increasing significantly because more health care is being provided on an outpatient basis.

We will be holding our 57th Annual NYSSMA convention April 14-17 in Syracuse. We will offer 12 CEUs, along with our General Assembly. We are pleased to have the AAMA Chief Executive Officer and Legal Counsel, Donald Balasa as our national representative. A bill regarding the medical assistants’ scope of practice has been introduced by a downstate legislator and another group representing medical assistants. The NYSSMA attendees will spend a lot of time on this proposed bill with Mr. Balasa, so that it is document worth supporting. We are very pleased that we can share this info with Barbara Ellman when needed. We are also going to work with NYSNA (New York State Nurses Association) this year.

Some of the educational topics for the 2016 meeting include: ICD-10; The Crisis of Bed Bugs in NYS & Health Care Workers; Concussion & Post Concussion Syndrome; An Interactive presentation on Autism; Body Mechanics & Posture-How Technology Has Changed Us; Medicaid Today; Male Breast Cancer; Neuroblastoma; Laughter in Healthcare; Delivering Bad News in Healthcare; Healthcare in the Trans Gender Community, and Understanding & Working with Trans and Gender Creative Children.
NYSSMA's web site is getting a make over (www.nysmedassist.org), and will be the primary avenue for communication with our members. We send a publication (NYSSMA Today) out three times a year and have won AAMA Awards of Excellence numerous times. Many of our chapters continue to have a newsletter for their members. AAMA keeps us informed with our CMA Today publication and eblasts on a regular basis.

We are very grateful to MSSNY, Onondaga County Medical Society; Monroe County Medical Society and Broome County Medical Society for their continued support with our convention journal.

Erie Chapter of Medical Assistants held their 50th Annual Educational Seminar in March Dr. Nancy Nielson presented on Health Insurance Updates. They have a large membership.

We had 3 delegates and 5 additional members representing NYSSMA at the AAMA Convention in Portland, Oregon last October. NYSSMA is very often the only state society that submits resolutions. That was the case again in 2015. We submitted a resolution Tobacco Advertising and Children. The topic yielded a lot of discussion.

Each year, we award a scholarship in the name of our founding member, Dorothy Ross. Our winner for 2015 was from Buffalo and the 2016 winner is from the Finger Lakes region.

The number of chapters has deceased as we loose members that do not want to be a leader or have no time or support to do so. Many of our members no longer have the support of their physician employer and getting to the annual meeting can be a problem for them. We strive to change that especially since they can earn so many CEUs. Many chapters continue to have monthly educational sessions and mini seminars on Saturdays offering 3-4 CEUs. Monroe Chapter will hold a seminar in May. Onondaga Chapter is planning one as well. NYSSMA will attempt to hold seminars for students and another for those in need of CEUs that may not be able to get them at the chapter level. Please consider supporting your office staff by paying their dues (tri-level membership for $105); sending them to seminars or the annual meetings and encourage their participation in the professional organization just for medical assistants.

The AAMA and the NYSSMA stand ready to help the Medical Society of the State of New York in a variety of ways. Please do not hesitate to contact me if we can be of assistance.

Once again, we wish MSSNY an excellent 2016 Annual Meeting!

Very truly yours,

Paula Guidozzoli, CMA
NYSSMA President, 2015-2016