

## **OSMA Conference Highlights**

The 2018 OSMA Annual Conference was a huge success, with many thanks to the hard-working members of Marion-Polk Chapter of Medical Assistants and the OSMA Board. There was an good number of attendees at the conference this year, around 125, which included full registrations, single day registrations and student registrations.

Included as part of the Conference Program this year was a very successful Student Day program, that was organized by Virginia Chambers, CMA (AAMA). This program included education for students and mock interviews with several different interviewers. The students were given the opportunity to meet with potential employers and experience a real interview to prepare them for their futures. Virginia Chambers, CMA (AAMA) is deserving a huge thank you for her hard work with planning of this event.

The education was well attended by all and covered a wide variety of topics and speakers. There were many hours spent recruiting the speakers and organizing the education. A special thank you goes out to Judi Bennett, a retired medical assistant, who made sure that the computers all worked and the speakers had everything they needed to complete their sessions. Some of the programs are available on the website for you to review. We did receive good feedback about the speakers and the topics.

Virginia Thomas, CMA (AAMA), AAMA Trustee, served as our National Representative at the OSMA Conference. She attended all of the business meetings and conducted a “Meet your National Representative” session during the conference.

During the awards program, Molly Bilyeu, CMA (AAMA) was awarded the Betty Hill Outstanding Service Award for OSMA and Gaby Carrillo, CMA (AAMA) was awarded the OSMA Medical Assistant of the Year Award.

The fun night theme was “Casino Night” where attendees participated in casino style games and placed raffle tickets in jars to win gift baskets. All that attended had a good time.

The catering staff and general staff from the Oregon Garden Resort did a fabulous job with the meals and meeting spaces. They were exceptionally courteous and helpful to everyone.

A Bylaws Amendment was passed by the House of Delegates that changed the format of the business meeting at the conference from the House of Delegates format to a General Assembly. That means that each member of OSMA will carry a voice and a vote during the business session at the conference. Beginning in 2019, the General Assembly format will be conducted.

Start planning for the 2019 OSMA Conference, which will be held once again at the beautiful Oregon Garden Resort. Keep watching the OSMA Website for more details about the conference.

As the OSMA President, I would like to personally thank each member of OSMA that attended the conference and all of the hard-working members and volunteers that made this conference

successful. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help with the planning of a conference or would like to learn more about it, please come to our next Board meeting on 10/20/18 and express your desire to learn more. The continued success of OSMA is dependent upon the volunteers in this wonderful organization.

Kathy Puckett, CMA (AAMA)  
2018-2019 OSMA President