

The TAMFT Marriage and Family

NEWS



Tennessee Division of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

NOVEMBER 2011

From The President

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Dear TAMFT Members,

Your President and Legislative Committee have been very active in the preceding period of time. Since January, 2011, we have contacted the state Departments of Corrections, Children's Services, Mental Health, Labor and Education about making use of the state job classification earlier passed for licensed marriage and family therapists. We are trying to start having them make use of this classification in hiring LMFT's. I continue to write Senators Corker and Alexander and Rep. Black on behalf of our MFT Medicare bill to add LMFT's as mental health providers under Medicare. We have also advocated again with Senator Alexander's office for LMFT's to be added as approved providers under "No Child Left Behind". Senator Alexander's office has shown some openness to this, but the President has now allowed waivers under this legislation to let all states handle education in their own ways in this area. Robbie Hutchins, Legislative Chair, continues to take part in the state Children's Mental Health study helping to form a family centered service delivery system for children's mental health. Robbie also arranged for us to get great advertising as a profession by us being part of the mental health day program at the zoo. Robbie and Todd Bouldin, our lobbyist, spent a lot of time lobbying with department of Education officials to add a licensed marital and family therapist classification to school personnel. The study showed that this will be costly, have strong opposition from other mental health providers, and will first need approval from the state Education department. Their reasoning is that they do not see the need now in a time when other school counselors are being laid off. We have a lot of work in front of us to educate local school officials of the need for this classification. Thanks to Robbie and the committee for all their hard work. Thanks to Dianne Bradley for representing us at the state Regulatory Board meetings.

Thanks to Cindy Gamble for chairing the Supervision Committee. This committee is studying the needs for clinical supervision of our division and will propose ways to make this supervision more available and accessible.

Adina Hertzberg is a new member in the area who has agreed to head the Marketing Committee which we will be organizing in the future. We thank her for her willingness to help.

Carole Webb, Membership Chair, has been working on a new initiative, which is a grant we have applied for with Nissan that is pending. The grant would let us have a program similar to the one Virginia Tech does to provide services for couples having financial conflict. It would provide for eight-week groups that would train couples in good financial and communication skills. An MFT would teach the couple communication skills and a financial

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FROM THE PRESIDENT (continued)

counselor would train them in financial skills in this time of recession. Training would be through the Virginia Tech faculty, and the program has been backed by the state Department of Labor.

We will be having a division election in the fall that we ask you to take part in by voting and suggesting nominees. The positions for Middle and West Tennessee election committee representatives and West Tennessee board area rep are open for 2012.

Please contact Catherine Robbins, elections committee chair, with suggestions at crobbs@mac.com.

Our state conference will be in February, and we are still in need of volunteers to help with the conference in various ways and to make clinical presentations. Please contact me with those at rgillespie15@hotmail.com. Thanks for your help.

My wife remains quite ill, and I would ask for your prayers for her as we enter a difficult period of time.

Thanks for all you do for our association.

Richard Gillespie, L.M.F.T. and M. Div.

FROM LINDA OXFORD, LCSW, LMFT (Past President)

Revision of the AAMFT Code of Ethics and AAMFT Bylaws

In September, draft revisions to the AAMFT Code of Ethics were presented to the AAMFT Board for review and consideration. In addition to reports from the Task Force charged with studying and recommending changes to the Code and the Task Force charged with drafting the revisions to the Code, the Board also considered AAMFT members' feedback about what elements of the Code they thought should be clarified or improved and feedback from the AAMFT Ethics Committee regarding proposed revisions. The recommendations of the Board were then submitted to the Task Force for incorporation into the final draft of the updated Code of Ethics, which then will be submitted to the AAMFT membership for review and response.

Feedback from the AAMFT membership and questions posed to the Ethics Committee and the AAMFT legal/ethical staff indicate that areas of concern to members include managing confidentiality and privileged communication, potential and actual conflicts of interest related to multiple roles with clients, and using web-based technology in the provision of services to clients.

A proposed AAMFT Bylaw amendment is currently before the membership that would provide international applicants for membership in AAMFT with a means to join the Association in cases where there does not exist sufficient licensure for mental health professionals such that MFT licensure can qualify individuals for membership. To address this situation, a provision has been proposed to the AAMFT Bylaws that would allow the AAMFT Board to establish and implement standards for membership in any jurisdiction where relevant licensure for mental health professionals is unavailable to MFT practitioners. Please cast your vote in regard to this amendment either online or by submitting your vote in hard copy to AAMFT using the ballot recently provided you via the postal service.

FROM THE TREASURER (Article Submitted by Mike Runcie, Treasurer)

News from the Treasurer

Your TAMFT Board recently met and received an update on our financial situation. Our year-to-date income is \$45,396.95. We have two main revenue streams: our annual dues payment which we receive through AAMFT after they have collected dues from members, and our Annual Conference registration fees and sponsorship. Our total expense year-to-date is \$48,044.75, leaving our association with a net loss for the year of \$2,647.80. Though we have experienced a loss thus far, no need to fear because we do have \$ 13,456.65 in our reserves!

An important decision was made at our recent board meeting regarding our management company. We are sad to say, "so long" to Ann Ninness and her staff from Central Office Management Solutions (COMS). They have done an exceptional job assisting us on so many levels during this past year. As we transition away from COMS, we are excited about our new partnership with XML Association Management of Nashville, TN. You will hear more about this transition at our conference in 2012.

It is a pleasure serving the association as treasurer. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions about TAMFT finances or if you have ideas to help us improve our service.

Mike Runcie
Treasurer

TAMFT MIDDLE TENNESSEE MEETINGS (Ashley Dumas, Middle TN Region Representative)

The Middle Tennessee luncheon meetings occur every other month, beginning in January. Meeting locations alternate between Trevecca Nazarene University and Lipscomb University. They are typically held the 4th Friday of the month, from 11:00am — 1:00pm. The first hour includes lunch and the second hour is a speaker/facilitator presentation. You will receive a certificate that verifies an hour of credit. For further information about the Middle Tennessee meetings, please contact Dr. Susan Lahey at 615-248-1751, SLahey@trevecca.edu, or Dr. Paul Cates at 615-966-1781, Paul.Cates@Lipscomb.edu.

If you would like to receive more information about upcoming meetings, please email Cathy Lincoln (Cathy.Lincoln@Lipscomb.edu), and she will add you to the email distribution list.

TAMFT EAST TENNESSEE NETWORKING LUNCHEONS AND MEMBERSHIP (Submitted by Cindy Gamble, LMFT, East TN Region Representative)

Our next Networking Luncheon/Networking Opportunity will be November 11, 2011, in Johnson City, TN, at Wesley Memorial UMC from 11:30am – 1:30pm. Our speaker will be Kathy Benedetto. There is no charge and Certificates of Attendance for the 1.5 hours for this presentation will be handed out at the end of the presentation. You can reserve a place for this meeting by sending me an email to cindy@helping-heart.com. Please feel free to invite others who are not presently members of AAMFT/TAMFT, who are students, or in the other helping professions. These luncheons are free and open to anyone interested in helping people.

In 2011 so far, we have met four times—twice in Knoxville, TN, once in Johnson City, TN, and once in Chattanooga, TN. The last presentation was on September 9, 2011, in Knoxville, TN, presented by Terry Gamble, MBA on “Private Practice—What does Technology Have to Help Me?” and was a big success with over 30 individuals in attendance. Of the 30 individuals in attendance at the luncheon, we had 9 Master Level students. Many Graduate students in our counseling programs do not take advantage of these events and we really need to encourage them to come, participate and give them an opportunity to learn and ask questions of our membership.

I am in the process of setting up the calendar for 2012 Network Luncheons to once again be held in the Knoxville, Chattanooga and Johnson City areas of East TN. I am looking for individuals to present topics of interest to our membership or for some recommendations of who I could contact to solicit such presentations. Please be on the lookout for these dates on the TAMFT website, <http://www.tnamft.org>, and in future Newsletters.

TAMFT WEST TENNESSEE MEETINGS (Submitted by Melissa Canterbury, West TN Region Representative)

The West Tennessee Network Luncheon will be at Harding Graduate School in the Hospitality Room. This networking luncheon will be from 11:45 a.m. through 1:00 p.m.. A certificate of attendance will be available for those who attend.

December 5, 2011—Ron Johnson will present “Spirituality and Counseling.”

2012 Ethics Series begins in February!

Future Network Luncheons are being planned for Spring 2012. If you are interested in presenting or have topic recommendations for future networking luncheons, please email Keith Fussell at keithbfussell@gmail.com or myself, Melissa Canterbury, at westTNrep@tnamft.org.

AAMFT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AND CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

By: Linda A. Hazel, Ph.D., LMFT, CAS, EMDR-2

The AAMFT Annual Conference for 2011 was held in September in Fort Worth, TX. Prior to the Conference I attended the 2011 Leadership Day to represent Tennessee. It was a very busy and beneficial meeting. The Division Leaders meeting included reports on the Implications of bylaw changes at the divisional level, Membership Recruitment Strategies and Divisional Conferences. The Divisional Presidents and President-Elects broke into small groups and exchanged ideas about Division Conferences, Communications and Recruiting and Training Emerging Professionals.

I am listing the changes in Membership Levels as they have been approved by the AAMFT Board. We learned that as each member renews their membership, they will receive a new Certificate of Membership for the new correct Level of Membership to replace the old certificate.

The new Membership Levels include:

Clinical Fellow

Highest level of membership
Eligible to hold any office in AAMFT - except Student Rep.
LMFT or
Evaluative Track meeting CM qualifications plus another mental health license
Fully franchised

Previously Clinical Member

Pre- Clinical Fellow

Associate type of license or current evaluative track
Graduate of COAMFTE Accredited Program
May vote for all offices - except Student Rep.
May hold Director position on Board but not Officer position
May serve on Elections Council, Committees and Task Forces

Previously Associate Member

Member "Open Category"

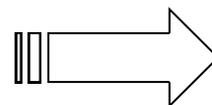
Licensed as Mental Health Professional - highest possible licensure
Lawfully eligible to provide mental Health Services to couples and families
May vote for all offices - except Student Rep.
May hold Director position on Board but not Officer position
May serve on Elections Council, Committees and Task Forces

A new "Open Member Category"

Associate Member

Path to Member Category
Intern or restricted license in mental health other than MFT
Legally allowed to provide mental health services under supervision
Can vote only for Student/Associate member of Board

A new "Open" Member Category



AAMFT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AND CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP LEVELS (cont'd)

By: Linda A. Hazel, Ph.D., LMFT, CAS, EMDR-2

Student Member

Student in a Mental Health program that can lead to eligibility for either Clinical Fellow Member (Open Category)
Hold Student Rep position on the Board

Previously Student Member

Affiliate Member

Meets the educational and professional qualifications set by the Board
Professionals in Fields related to Marriage and Family Therapy
For example: family medicine, law, clergy
Not franchised

Previously Affiliate Member

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR TAMFT AWARDS

Our TAMFT Awards Luncheon is fast approaching! The TAMFT Awards Committee (Brenda Dew, Randy Phillips, and Linda Oxford) invites members of TAMFT to nominate candidates for division awards, which are presented to recipients at the annual conference. In addition to the name and title of your nominee, please provide a summary of your rationale for submitting the nomination (summary of candidate's service, contributions, achievements, etc.) and contact information for the candidate including mailing address, telephone number, and email address.

Please submit your nominations by November 20th via email to brenda.dew@lindsey.edu, rndllphllps@gmail.com, and lkoxford@bellsouth.net.

Award Categories are as follows.

Distinguished Service to Families

Criteria: Person or agency who has exhibited excellence and dedication in working with families. Need not be an MFT or associated directly with TAMFT/AAMFT.

Objective: To recognize community-based programs/persons who are making a positive difference in the lives of families.

Legislator of the Year

Criteria: State legislator who has exhibited interest and support in legislation which impacts families.

Objective: To recognize "family friendly" legislators and to extend awareness of TAMFT in the State Legislature

Dedicated Service to the Division:

Criteria: May be awarded each year to up to two persons who have exhibited exceptional dedication to TAMFT through their volunteer service or elected office

Objective: To reward/recognize the importance of volunteer involvement in support of objectives of TAMFT

Distinguished Contribution to the Profession

Criteria: One award per year to person who has made a recognizable contribution to marriage and family therapy profession through published works, in conducting significant research in the field or in other clearly defined ways

Objective: To recognize persons making outstanding contributions to the MFT field/profession

Lifetime Achievement Award

Criteria: No more than one award per year to person who has made significant and recognizable contributions to the field of MFT and to the state and/or central associations (TAMFT/AAMFT) over a period of not less than 20 years.

Objective: To honor longstanding contributions to field of MFT and TAMFT/AAMFT for 20 years or more of consistent and noteworthy service.

TAMFT SEEKS FUNDING FOR COUPLES EDUCATION (Submitted by Carole Webb)

Just when President Richard Gillespie wrote all of us about providing counseling for couples impacted by the economy, we learned of materials developed by Virginia Tech's Marriage and Family Program to meet exactly this need. Since then, we have prepared a grant proposal to Nissan to pilot the program in Middle Tennessee. Hopefully, funding will allow us to provide educational groups led by a marriage and family therapist and a family financial educator to improve relational skills and financial problem solving. Under the VA Tech program, groups of 6-8 couples meet for five, four-hour classes. Funding would cover the cost of the training of mfts and financial planners in the program, payment for therapists' time presenting classes and reimbursement to couples for providing pre and post program evaluations.

Nissan funding is limited to Middle Tennessee, but other sources are being sought for the same program in East and West Tennessee. Please contact Richard Gillespie or Carole Webb cresilience@comcast.net if you wish to be involved in raising money or delivering the program in your Tennessee Counties. Look around and identify potential funders in your area!

NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION



TAMFT HAS A NEW MANAGEMENT COMPANY!

NEW MAILING ADDRESS & PHONE #:

TAMFT

C/O XMi Association Management

618 Church Street, Ste 220

Nashville TN 37219

Phone: 615-254-3687

tapplegate@xmi-amc.com.

SAVE THE DATE

TAMFT 2012 SPRING CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 15 - 18, 2012

**CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS - SPONSORS - EXHIBITORS
POSTER PRESENTATIONS**

FOR THE 2012 SPRING CONFERENCE

Contact Brad Bull bwbull@cn.edu for more information.

NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION (Continued)

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

(Submitted by Judith Roney, Ethics)

[Mental Health Law Brochure](#)

Attend 2011 end of the year Seminar and receive 6 CEU's.

[Click Here to find out more!](#)

Best Practices in Documentation,

Medical Records Compliance and Audit Defense Systems (Advanced HIPPA Workshop),

6 hours, www.CrossCountryEducation.com.

Workshops are in Nov. 16 in Knoxville, and Nov. 17 in Nashville.

Ethics: A Musical Comedy,

Memphis Nov. 8, Nashville Nov. 9,

dancingmooseproductions.com.

Legal Issues in Behavioral Health in Tennessee: Legal and Ethical Considerations,

www.pesi.com,

Nashville Nov. 17.

Advertisement Opportunity

Opportunities to advertise in this quarterly newsletter are now available. You can submit training events, job opportunities or other announcements in our newsletter. The advertisements must be consistent with AAMFT's and TAMFT's mission. The price for advertising in our association newsletter shall be as follows:

Non-Members or Agencies:

1 page \$250.00

½ page \$150.00

¼ page \$100.00

Members of TAMFT receive a 50% discount.

For more information contact sbarkmeier@xmi-amc.com.