

The TAMFT Marriage and Family

NEWS



Tennessee Division of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

December 2012

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From The President

Dear TAMFT Members,

First I would like to formally welcome Barney Self as our new President-Elect. Certainly he brings great experience and long-time membership in our organization and will be a huge benefit to the leadership of our Board. He has stepped up to support the Board, our TN Division and me already. He and I attended the Leadership Day and AAMFT Annual Conference in Charlotte, NC. He will be our



**Linda A. Hazel, Ph.D., LMFT,
CAS, EMDR-2, CSAT**

representative to meet and assist our honored speaker, Pat Love in February at our Annual Conference. He will be very involved in the future of TAMFT in many ways. Please make a point to meet him in February at the annual conference. We are excited to have him.

I again wish to sincerely thank Linda Oxford who has gone above and beyond for TAMFT. She has given ongoing support and knowledge to me and our Board. Thank you, Linda! And let's just add loud congratulations to Linda Oxford for her election to the AAMFT Board of Directors. It is exciting to have a TN member serve on the Board again and I am sure she will bring ideas and real experience to that process.

Can you believe how time flies? The TAMFT 2013 Annual Conference is right around the corner – not that long after the holidays. **Save the dates of February 22 & 23, 2013 and be sure to register early.** You will not want to miss this one. It will indeed be a learning experience as well as entertaining. We will also have two other workshops, student poster sessions and sponsors. If you or someone you know would like to be a sponsor this year, please have them contact Sharon Barkmeier for the information and to register as a sponsor. Please note that the rates have been adjusted this year to offer a possibility of more sponsors. If your organization or one you know may be interested in sponsoring, just let us know. Please make plans to be there and bring another professional with you.

We have all been very busy with the business as hand – life, work and family. However, we continue to struggle with getting members to be on our committees. We believe that we have an opportunity to continue to

grow our TN division of this strong organization so that we can continue to grow our profession. It is a goal for this next year to have a group of members participate in a drive to get new members joining our organization and helping to spread the word about AAMFT and in turn, TAMFT.

I would also like to remind everyone that the AAMFT Code of Ethics has been updated. Please take a few minutes to read the new code. It is not that there are many changes but the changes are very important for us to take note.

I would also like to thank XMI and especially thank Sharon Barkmeier for such a wonderful job with our upcoming conference and our organization in general. Thanks Sharon.

If you have any suggestions or want to volunteer in any capacity please let us know. This is an especially important time for AAMFT and TAMFT because as the membership categories changed recently, we have an opportunity to grow our organization with other licensed mental health providers. Please pass the word!

See you all in February at the 2013 TAMFT Annual Conference to learn from Pat Love and the workshops, look at our student's poster session, visit with each other and catch up and finally enjoy the community.

Annual Conference Special

Marriage and Family Therapy has a broad tent. Our ranks are made up of Psychologists, Social Workers, Pastoral Counselors, Psych Examiners, Licensed Professional Counselors and yes, Marriage and Family Therapists. This diversity is a strength of our Association. In addition, each of us as MFT's has friends and colleagues that are not MFT's. In order to further our connection with practitioners of other designations and acquaint them with the quality of our annual meeting we are offering a special conference fee arrangement.

If you sponsor a friend or colleague who is not an MFT or who is not a member of AAMFT they can register at the Member Rate. To Sponsor a friend or colleague simply send in their conference registration with yours or have them designate you as a sponsor on their form if they are using the online registration option. So, please inform your friends or co-workers that our conference is a great place to fulfill their needed Continuing Education needs and enjoy a great speaker! I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Conference in February. Registration is now open at www.tnamft.org.

By Barney Self
Vice President, TAMFT

2013 Student Poster Competition

All students are invited to submit an abstract to enter the 2013 Student Poster Competition. Posters meeting the following criteria will be displayed during the entire conference:

- The poster session must focus on a topic relating to marriage and family therapy (e.g., MFT theories, MFT models, effectiveness research, assessment or treatment in MFT, etc...). Students from all counseling-related programs are encouraged to participate. You do not have to be in a MFT program to enter (students in Social Work, Professional Counselor, Pastoral Counselor, Psychology may submit an entry). This is an excellent venue to present your value to potential employers and/or practicum sites.
- An abstract describing the poster session must be submitted to jfkennedy@harding.edu no later than midnight on Sunday, February 17, 2013.
- The top three winners will receive a Kindle Reader.

Call for Nominations for TAMFT Awards

The TAMFT Awards Committee 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 no later than January 31, 2013 via email to sbarkmeier@xmi-amc.com.

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.

AAMFT Annual Meeting, Charlotte, NC Recap

The annual meeting in Charlotte was an excellent one and one that was well attended by our TAMFT ranks. The conference itself was poignant and focused specifically on the evolving roles of women in society and family life. Joycelyn Elders was the keynote speaker and was followed by a veritable plethora of plenary speakers who challenged us as a profession to be more informed, more sensitive and more proactive regarding the needs of women in families and in society at large.

On Friday evening at the Board Dinner and Award Presentation event one of our very own Richard Gillespie was recognized by AAMFT for service to the Division and to AAMFT at large. Many of you know of his contributions personally; however others of you may not.

The following is a brief summary of his contributions to AAMFT:

Richard has been a clinical member for over 20 years and an Approved Supervisor for over 15 years.

He has provided excellent leadership, particularly in the legislative realm where, as chair of the Legislative Committee he led the initiation of the successful state licensure effort by the Louisiana AMFT licensure committee. Upon coming to Tennessee he led the Tennessee Division's efforts to promote the passage of a state jobs classification bill in 2009, passing a successful vendorship bill in 2010, lobbied for LMFT's to be fully recognized as mental health providers in the state employee health plan in 2010 and successfully lobbied to include LMFT's as school mental health providers eligible for employment in the school system in 2011. He has led the Legislative Committee and the Division in successful lobbying efforts to include MFTs in Tennessee Department of Children's Services local advisory committees, successful efforts for inclusion of MFTs in Tennessee Children's Mental Health Study (2008 – present), successful efforts for inclusion of MFT's as mental health stakeholders and providers in Tennessee state education department anti-bullying program, and the current lobbying effort for inclusion of MFTs in the Tennessee Governor's Children's Cabinet as a resource group (2012).

Perhaps one of Richard's most substantial contributions to the Tennessee Division has been his leadership in engaging members directly in effective political action and advocacy through active participation in the process of lobbying and testifying before various government and legislative committees, and in mentoring other Division leaders and emerging leaders in effective political action and advocacy. Upon assuming the role of Division President-Elect in 2009, he immediately positioned in the role of Legislative Committee Co-Chair, Robbie Hutchens and mentored her for 12 months as an emerging Division Leader with particular interest and ability in legislative and political action and advocacy. Robbie now chairs our Legislative Committee and continues Richard's legacy of timely, strategic and extraordinarily effective legislative and political action and advocacy.

Richard has made numerous significant and long-standing contributions to the well-being of the division through volunteer service as a Board member and on major committees. He has served in the roles of:

- Tennessee Division President (2011)
- Division President-Elect (2009-2010)
- Chair of the Tennessee Division Legislative Committee (2006-2009)
- Site Chair of the Tennessee Division Conference Committee (2005-2006)
- Chair of the Tennessee Division Ethics Education Committee (2003)

In addition, he has made substantial contributions in a volunteer capacity in developing continuing education opportunities for our members that have focused on equipping members for effective political action and legislative advocacy (including developing a divisional conference presentation, news articles, and tools and templates to guide members in successful communication with legislators and legislative aides. He was instrumental in developing a membership campaign to generate revenue for Tennessee Division lobbying efforts, has been a regular contributor to the Division newsletter and website, and has led the Division in public relations efforts with the Tennessee Department of Children's Services, public school system, state mental health system, and state government agencies and entities.

Richard has conducted major presentations on the clinical practice of marriage and family therapy and related issues at divisional conferences sponsored by AAMFT. These major presentations at divisional conferences include:

1997-"Spirituality and Family Therapy"-Louisiana AMFT state conference

1998-"Domestic Violence and Family Therapy"-Louisiana AMFT state conference
2002-"Comprehensive Family Violence Treatment"-TAMFT state conference
2003-"Family Therapy for Juvenile Sex Offenders"-TAMFT state conference
2004-"Domestic Violence and Family Therapy"-TAMFT state conference
2008-"Trauma and Family Therapy"-TAMFT state conference

In addition, his Clinical Update on "Family Therapy for the Families of Juvenile Sex Offenders" was published in Family Therapy Magazine in 2010.

Richard has been active in leadership within the Council of Division Presidents in terms of being a regular and active discussant on the DivList discussion group, in particular with regard to discussions on the DivList about legislative priorities and issues for MFTs, such as MFTs in schools, MFTs in Medicare, state job classification for MFTs, vendorship legislation, and other legislative issues. In 2011 he served on the AAMFT Awards Committee as a member of the Council of Division Presidents leadership.

Richard has worked to publicly promote, advance, and position the profession of marriage and family therapy in the state and its communities and has substantially raised awareness in the state legislature, public school system, public mental health system, state Department of Children's Services, and agencies and institutions in our local communities of AAMFT/TAMFT, marriage and family therapy, and the importance of a family systems framework in serving individuals, couples/partners, families, and the wider social systems in our society. He has regularly written the editors of all four major newspapers in our state on numerous occasions to advocate for an MFT perspective on children's mental health issues, proposed cuts to mental health spending, child protection, and anti-bullying and school violence programs. He has also advocated many times to state departments of mental health, corrections, child protection, and children's services and the Governor's office offering TAMFT and its members as a resource on marital, family and children's issues.

We wish to acknowledge Richard's stellar leadership, support, and service to the Tennessee Division as it has faced growing pains and challenges in governance, resource mobilization and allocation, administrative issues and associated staffing changes, legislative action, and more effective use of communication technology. Richard has raised the bar in board member and volunteer performance, worked ceaselessly in support of our profession and association, and continues to offer invaluable wisdom, assistance, leadership, and inspiration as we seek to find more and better ways to benefit our members and all those they serve.

Congratulations Richard on being the recipient of the Divisional Contribution Award!

News from the Treasurer

This will be my final report as Treasurer for TAMFT Board. I have greatly enjoyed my experience and will miss working so closely with the other fine people who make up your board as well as the good folks from XMI (our management company). I also welcome Adam Horn as the newly elected Treasurer. I've had the privilege of mentoring Adam on his journey to become an approved supervisor with AAMFT. He will do an exceptional job as Treasurer.

Our year-to-date income at the end of November is \$39,536.50. FYI, 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 \$34,963.80, leaving our association with a net gain for the year of \$4,572.70. Our association enters the final month of 2012 with \$14,999.36 in our reserves! It's nice to roll off the board with the association operating in the black!

I truly enjoyed the opportunity to serve you and appreciate the confidence you placed in me to assist with the financial management of TAMFT. Please don't hesitate to contact Adam if you have questions about the finances and/or you have ideas to help improve our service. Best wishes for a wonderful 2013!

Respectfully Submitted,
Mike Runcie

Welcome New Board Members:

Congratulations to all of our newly elected Board Members. We are so happy to have you on board. Thanks to all of our members who ran in this election. *Terms effective on January 1st, 2013.*

Adam Horn, Treasurer, Nashville, TN

David Hall, East TN Regional Representative to the Board, Knoxville, TN

Edward Stone, East TN Representative to the Elections Committee, Cleveland, TN

Anna Claire Bowen, Student/Associate Representative to the Board, Nashville, TN

East TN Representative Report

My term as the East TN Representative is coming to a close on 12-31-12 and I would like to thank the board and the members of TAMFT in East Tennessee for the opportunity to represent them in the last three years. My replacement, Dr. David Hall, has been voted into office by our membership and I welcome him to his new job in representing the East TN members of TAMFT.

During my term, I traveled between Johnson City, Knoxville and Chattanooga, TN to offer opportunities for our membership to meet for network time and training. I hope this was beneficial to you and please let Dr. David Hall know as well.

Thank-you,
Cindy Gamble, LMFT

Sponsorship/ Advertising

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.

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