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From the President's Pen

By Barbara Riggs, PhD

As we move into a new year and settle in for the winter, I am reminded of the many changes going on around us. We don't have to go far to see the impact the ailing economy has had on both businesses as well as families. We, as well as our clients, bear the brunt of the shrinking dollar.

But there are other changes around us as well. Most of us have become very familiar with hand sanitizer to ward off the flu. We all watch as gas prices seem to fluctuate without rhyme or reason. We don't have to drive very far before running into a detour sign as road construction starts wrapping up for the winter. And the changes being proposed in Congress can make your head swim.

As an organization, we are seeing changes as well. The national organization is in the middle of a strategic plan which will guide the organization over the next 10 years or so. It is here that I would like for you to spend some time considering some questions I will pose.

Organizations such as AAMFT tend to be primarily either content based or constituency based. A primarily content based AAMFT would focus on research, on furthering the profession of marriage and family, legislative efforts, etc. A constituency based AAMFT would exist to serve its members and their needs. While these both exist in successful organizations, one is more prevalent than the other.

This brings me to my first question to ponder. What do you want AAMFT to look like in the future? What should its primary purpose be?

Another thought to mull over is how to bring people into the organization that do not have the credentials and education you have, but have a deep interest in or even see mostly couples or families in their practice. The challenge as well as the question is how to keep the value of clinical membership high but open up the organization to other interested individuals such as other licensed mental health professionals, family attorneys, family physicians - any one with an interest in strengthening families. Should we broaden our membership base? How does that affect the profession of marriage and family therapy?

I was part of a conversation several weeks ago with a couple of long-time MFTs discussing Brownian theory, differentiation and some of the new neurobiology findings. As ideas were thrown out and grappled with, there was an obvious excitement in the room. It had some of the feel that being an MFT in the 70s and 80s did. This brings me to my last thought which is perhaps more troubling. How do we maintain our distinctness - or do we? Does it matter? Are we really different than our cousins in other mental health disciplines?

I know how I would answer each of these. My intent in asking you is to begin some dialog in our division around these questions. Over the next several months, you will be asked similar questions by the AAMFT Board. We all know change is inevitable. The difficulty is making the right changes. Everyone has heard of the nine dots problem and how the solution involves "thinking outside of the box." I leave you with the challenge to "think outside the box" regarding change and a quote from Paul Watzlawick in which he refers to the 9 dot puzzle:



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President's Pen - (Continued from page 1)

Almost everybody who first tries to solve this problem introduces as part of his problem-solving an assumption which makes the solution impossible. The assumption is that the dots compose a square and that the solution must be found within that square, a self-imposed condition which the instructions do not contain. His failure, therefore, does not lie in the impossibility of the task, but in his attempted solution. Having now created the problem, it does not matter in the least which combination of four lines he now tries, and in what order, he always finishes with at least one unconnected dot. This means that he can run through the totality of the first-order change possibilities existing within the square but will never solve the task. The solution is a second-order change which consists in leaving the [box]. . .

Member Profile

Stewart Turner-Ball completed his undergraduate degree at Anderson University in Psychology, Sociology and Religious Studies. He completed his master's degree at Butler University in Marriage and Family Therapy. Stewart is a clinical member of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy and a charter member of the American Association of Christian Counselors. Licensed as a marriage and family therapist and clinical social worker, Stewart holds state and national certifications in addictions as well. Leadership experience(s) include past presidency of Bloomington (IN) One chapter of Business Network International (BNI) and his current role as founding and immediate Past President with the Indiana Association for Addiction Professionals (IAAP). He recently joined a full time administrative faculty of Indiana Wesleyan University, as the Assistant Director for Addiction Counseling (online). As a frequent speaker at various secular and religious conferences, some of his topics include: Dealing with Difficult People, Loving When It Ain't Easy, Wasting Away in Margueritaville, Conflict Resolution in the Workplace, Winds of Change, and Mastering Our Emotions. His past projects include his work as radio host and author of "Life Issues Today." More recent projects include the release of his "Vision" CD.

In addition to his counseling practice, Stewart consults with small businesses, courts, churches and schools. He resides with his wife, 2 children and Newfoundland dog "Romeo" in Brown County (Nashville), IN.

Region 1 Representative Resigns

It is with deep regret that I am emailing you today. I have accepted a new position with an agency in Missouri and will be relocating there this month. Therefore, I have resigned from my Region 1 Representative and Board Member position with IAMFT. I have certainly enjoyed serving IAMFT and the Region 1 Members over the past year.

I wish you continued success in your professional endeavors!

With Warm Regards,

Marilyn Steinberg, MS, LMFT
AAMFT Approved Supervisor

AAMFT Elections

AAMFT has asked all state divisions to notify members of AAMFT bylaws pertaining to divisional elections. If you are interested in running for office, please review the guidelines below:

7.00 Campaigning

7.01 Campaigning. AAMFT wishes to encourage wide membership participation in elections, and therefore does not prohibit organized efforts of campaigning. However, the following rules pertain regarding campaigning.

7.011 Endorsements. The Board affirms the right of individual members and groups of individuals to write personal letters or make other personal contacts on behalf of specific candidates for elections to association office. However, endorsements are prohibited by any governance unit at the Central or Divisional level. For example:

7.0111 Endorsements by divisional officers. Divisional officers may endorse only as long as they identify themselves as an individual member, not as a representative of the division.

7.0112 Endorsements by members of governance units. Any AAMFT or divisional governance unit member may endorse a candidate as long as he or she identifies him or herself only as an individual AAMFT member, not as a member of the governance unit (for example, a member of the board or a commission, committee, council or task force).

7.0113 Endorsements by special interest groups. AAMFT does not have jurisdiction over any group of members that is not funded by AAMFT and has no official status in governance (such as a caucus or specific interest group) and hence, such groups may endorse candidates.

7.012 Defamation. Candidates are prohibited from making derogatory or defamatory statements about their opponents.

7.013 False, Fraudulent, or Misleading Statements. Candidates are prohibited from making false, fraudulent, or misleading statements about themselves or their opponents.

7.02 AAMFT-Related Communication Vehicles: Central, Divisional and Chapter newsletters, list serves, web pages, and other electronic media are AAMFT related communication vehicles, and therefore must make every effort to be fair. Candidate web pages may not be linked to any AAMFT or divisional communication vehicle.

7.021 Fairness Guidelines. Coverage of nominees for an office must be timely, equal and fair. (For example, the same questions must be put to each nominee). Elections coverage may include questions put to candidates and their responses, biographies, pictures, and statements by the candidates.

7.022 Publication prohibitions. Examples of prohibited activities in AAMFT publications include:

7.0221 President's column. A divisional president's column cannot support a candidate.

7.0222 Letters to the editor. Letters to the editor in support of any candidate or slate of candidates will not be published or disseminated.

7.0223 Paid advertisements. Paid campaign advertisements for candidates are prohibited in these publications.

7.0224 Editorial endorsements. Editorial endorsements of individual candidates are prohibited.

7.03 Dissemination of Campaigning and Publications Rules and Alleged Violations of Such Rules.

7.031 Dissemination. As a pro-active effort on the part of the Association and the Elections Council to prevent complaints about violating campaign rules, the following dissemination efforts will be undertaken annually:

7.0311 Dissemination to divisions and governance units. The Elections Council will ensure that prior to each election, the rules regarding campaigning and publications are put out over the divlist on the web to division leaders, which will also remind them that it is their responsibility to notify their division newsletter editors of these rules. Further, the editor Family Therapy News will be asked to include the rules regarding campaigning in the annual story which highlights the candidates.

7.0312 Dissemination to candidates. The AAMFT Elections Council will send to each candidate a copy of the Elections Council's Policies and Procedures pertaining to campaigning and publications rules. Candidates will be asked to sign an agreement to abide by these rules.

7.032 Alleged Violations. If alleged violations come to the attention of the Elections Council, the Council may choose to take the following actions:

7.0321 Complaints about individual AAMFT members. The Elections Council may choose to forward to the AAMFT Ethics Committee allegations of behavior by members which violate these rules, or also may choose to act as a complainant regarding such alleged violations to the AAMFT Ethics Committee.

7.322 Complaints about AAMFT divisions. The Elections Council may choose to forward to the CDP Chair allegations of violations of these campaigning and publications rules by AAMFT divisions.

7.033 Contested Elections: If a candidate contests an election due to an alleged violation of elections procedures, the Elections Council will make a determination about the alleged violation via conference call with a majority of Elections Council Members within 4 working days. This conference call will be convened by the Elections Council Chair. The Elections Council will decide on a case by case basis: 1) if there has been a violation; 2) the effect(s) of the violation; 3) the effect(s) on the elections process; 4) the consequences for the violator(s) or whether a referral is necessary to the appropriate committee to determine the consequences for the violator(s)

(e.g., the Ethics Committee or Judicial Committee); and 5) the elections procedures that will follow the violation, if any.

8.00 Violations of Campaign Rules.

8.01 Complaints. Complaints of alleged violation(s) of the policies and procedures contained in section 7.00 will be referred to the AAMFT Judicial Committee.

8.2 Consideration of Complaints by the Judicial Committee. The Judicial Committee shall consider complaints of alleged violations of campaign policies according to its established procedures.

IAMFT Fall Conference 2009



Award of Merit
Representative Peggy Welch



Award of Merit
Geneva Osawe, MSW, LMFT, LCSW



Award of Merit
Betty Brandt, MA, LFMT



Award of Merit
Kathleen Grove, MA, JD



Fall Conference Pictures Continued...



Welcome New Members!

Student Members

Aaron Cook
Indianapolis, IN

Terry Coy
Aurora, IN

Kristina Courtney
Dayton, IN

Janet Ditslear
Noblesville, IN

Kristen Fiechter
Indianapolis, IN

Laura Ivey
New Albany, IN

Lauren Rebman
Fort Wayne, IN

Jennifer Schall
Fort Wayne, IN

Jennifer Schinke
Indianapolis, IN

Beverly Ward
Shelbyville, IN

James Williams
Indianapolis, IN

**NEXT
Newsletter**

If you would like to submit an article or an ad in the next newsletter, please contact Ann Ninness at 317-484-2630 or ann@centraloffice1.com

May 15th submission

June 1st publication

Newsletter dates are subject to change. Archive newsletters can be downloaded from the IAMFT website. www.inamft.org

Graduate Student Reflects on Fall Conference - Cassandra Nelson

I so much enjoyed attending this year's IAMFT conference. As a first time attendee, I was really struck by the amount of information that was packed into one day! I found the seminar pertaining to family law and MFT's interesting, and took back to some of my student colleagues at CTS the tips I learned around deciphering legal documents and being a "good witness." It lessened my anxiety about testifying considerably! I also learned some helpful tips from the marketing presentation such as learning that you will probably make many mistakes before you will see results of your marketing efforts. This is not easy to stomach as a (recovering) perfectionist but I'll work on it! Other presentations were so helpful in opening up dialogue around the gray area of ethical dilemmas. It is nice to know that no matter how long you have been in practice, you can (and need to) ask peers for support when dealing with ethical issues that come up in and outside the therapy room. I appreciated the warmth of everyone I met and the spirit of camaraderie I witnessed as people caught up with old friends and made some new ones. I am excited and honored to be part of such a knowledgeable and supportive group of marriage and family therapists.

Cassandra Nelson is a graduate student at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis.

Earn CEU's

Did you know that you can earn CEU's for your license by serving on the IAMFT Board? The meetings that board members attend earn CEU's. We have the following positions open:

- Historian Committee Chair
- Conference Committee Chair

If you are interested in serving please contact Linda Wark, IAMFT Past President. (warkl@ipfw.edu)

Questions??

Do you have a question that would be helpful to IAMFT members? Ask it and we'll answer it in the next issue.

Email Barbara Riggs, IAMFT President 2010
barbara.riggs@indwes.edu
or
IAMFT Central Office
ann@centraloffice1.com

"Refreshing Your Supervision"

led by Suzanne Coyle, Ph.D., LMFT

April 15, 2010
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Location:

Christian Theological Seminary
1000 W. 42nd Street
Indianapolis, IN 46208

Pre-Conference Workshop
American Association of Pastoral Counselors
Annual Conference

To register:

Click on www.aapc.org
For information:
Contact scoyle@cts.edu

(Pending approval for AAMFT Supervisor Refresher Course)

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IAMFT accepts contributions from members just like any nonprofit organization. Our nonprofit status is 501 (c) (6). Contributions to the scholarship fund (to help graduate students attend IAMFT conferences) cannot be used as charitable deductions on your taxes. However, contributions of goods or money as a co-sponsor of our conferences can be used as charitable deductions.

Finally, 68% of your dues to AAMFT are deductible. Contributions can be made payable to IAMFT and mailed to IAMFT Central Office.

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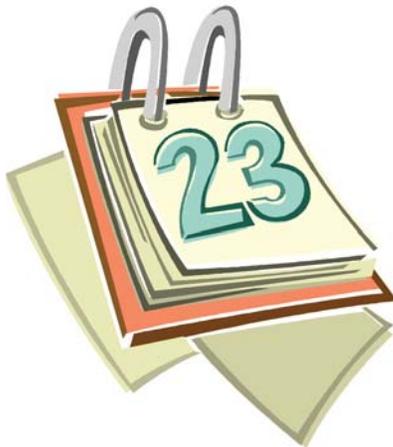
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CE CERTIFICATE WILL BE MAILED UPON COMPLETION OF TUTORIAL AND IAMFT RECEIPT OF QUESTIONNAIRE.

QUESTIONS - CALL 317-484-2630

Save the Date!

*IAMFT
Spring Conference 2010
April 23, 2010*



Speaker:

Janis Abrahms Spring

Topic:

*How Can I Forgive You?
A Radical Approach to
Healing Intimate Wounds*

Location:

*Indiana Wesleyan University - West
INTECH ONE
6325 Digital Way,
Indianapolis, IN 46278*



**Indiana Association for
Marriage and Family Therapy**
1829 Cunningham Road, PO Box 24167
Indianapolis, IN 46224

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WWW.INAMFT.ORG