

Dear OAMFT member,

Happy Easter (and April Fools). First, let me assure you this email is not an April fool's joke. It is 100% serious. I just happened to finish writing it today and wanted to get it out to you as soon as possible. I apologize for the lengthy message but myself and the board have a number of very important items to share with you. Please read each item carefully. If you have questions, let us know.

ITEM #1 Ballot results

As you recall, we sent out a ballot recently, asking for your vote on whether to dissolve and reform as an Interest Network under AAMFT. Thank you to those who voted. Here are the results:

140 votes: 100 (70.92%) yes, 41 (29.08%) no.

So the vote to dissolve OAMFT passed.

Now what?

On April 30th, OAMFT will dissolve as a nonprofit and then be reformed as an Interest Network known as "**Oregon MFTs**" directly under the AAMFT. You will see this on AAMFT website when you go to renew your dues. Until your renewal is due, your membership will automatically be moved over to the Interest Network. Then, when it is time to renew your AAMFT dues, you will have the option of staying/joining the "**Oregon MFTs**." The good news, is that you will notice that the cost for the Interest Network is less than your OAMFT membership dues. However, after April 30th, there will no longer be an OAMFT Board of Directors. Instead, there will be a Leadership Team serving the "**Oregon MFTs**."

So, In accordance with AAMFT directive, the organization known as OAMFT plans to terminate at the end of this month (April 30th, 2018). We will immediately reform as an Interest Network. What is the difference, you may ask? Under the new IN format, AAMFT will be more closely connected with its' Oregon members. Without the state non-profit entity known as OAMFT, AAMFT will directly manage our assets and will collaborate with the "Oregon MFTs" Leadership Team on projects and goals. On April 30th, OAMFT assets (which consists of banking accounts of approximately 35k) will be transferred to AAMFT. AAMFT has assured us that they will honor all current contracts, at least through the remainder of this year. Currently, OAMFT has two contracts. One, is with our lobbyist, which we share with ORCA. The other is our OAMFT Administrative Assistant. So, AAMFT will hold the purse strings, but have assured us that we will still be able to continue our projects, conference, daily operations and AAMFT will approve the expenditures.

ITEM #2 Creation of Listserv

A few months ago, we sent out a survey and in it we asked if you would like to be more connected with our MFT leadership and with each other. A number of you responded “yes” and so, we have created a listserv just for our members. In this way, the members and leadership can converse readily and information can be disseminated quickly. This will also encourage discussion as all the members can “talk” to one another. We are excited to bring this online and hope that you will let us know that you want to be added to the listserv. This is an “opt in” function, so please reply to this email and let us know. The listserv is independent of AAMFT and operated solely by Oregon Marriage & Family Therapists. This will be the one way that all of us can communicate freely, keep up to date on what is happening with our profession, and even contribute on projects and have your voice heard. Please consider joining. It’s free! The web address is: <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/oamft-listserv>. However, you cannot join until you receive an invitation. I am sending those out promptly, so you should be getting an email invite within 72 hours.

ITEM #3 Conference this year

We are excited to offer a conference this fall to our professional colleagues and our members will receive a significant registration discount! We have tentatively set the conference date for October 27th, 2018 in Portland. We will be putting out a Call for Presentations soon. Stay tuned for details on our listserv, website, and facebook.

ITEM #4 Open Positions!

As we transition to our Interest Network next month, there has never been a better time to get involved with your professional organization. We want you to consider applying for open positions in our Interest Network Leadership team or possibly working on one of our committees. The Leadership positions are: Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. (The Chair and Chair-Elect is analogous to our current President and President –Elect positions). The committees are: Membership, Communication, Marketing, Legislative, and Conference. Descriptions of each position and committee shall be posted on our website: www.oamft.org

Please consider volunteering in some capacity. Please let us know if you willing to apply for any open position ASAP. Our time is running out and we need you to let us know your interest now! I apologize for the exclamation point, but we are under a time crunch to make the deadline. Hope you understand. It is essential that we fill those positions or our Interest Network agreement with AAMFT will fall through and we will be in limbo.

This email may have generated questions for you and if so, I encourage you to reach out to me or any board member via our gmail or, join the listserv or facebook and be a part of the discussion. To get on the listserv, you have to "opt -in" so give us your email address and let us know. There is much to discuss and share as we look to the future of Oregon Marriage & Family Therapists and its' professional growth. We need you. As we move through this year, I hope that we can take this time to evaluate our new status with AAMFT and by the end of the year, have a better knowledge of what would serve Oregon marriage & family therapists best, be it as a continuing Interest Network or Independent Nonprofit or something else. Here are the position descriptions:

The Leadership Team will consist minimally of a Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. Each position needs to be filled for the application to be considered.

Chair

Chair duties – Ensure the Network fulfills obligations, presides over meetings, ensure integrity of Robert's Rules, maintain integrity of Network, and generally to ensure that the leadership and Network behaves consistently with its own rules and those legitimately imposed upon it from outside the organization.

The Chair will ensure that meeting discussion and deliberation will be fair, open, and thorough, but also efficient, timely, orderly, and kept to the point.

Although the Chair is permitted to vote on all matters, exercising this option should be on a very limited basis or in the event of a tie. The Chair is to facilitate discussion and not use the position to advocate for a particular position outside of that of the Leadership Team. The Leadership Team speaks with "one voice."

Chair-Elect

Chair Elect duties – Performing all duties of Chair for leadership meetings when the Chair is unavailable or unable to perform them, consistent with Roberts Rules of Order.

Secretary

Secretary duties – Maintain records, meeting minutes, ensure all paperwork is submitted for the Network.

Treasurer

Treasurer duties – Accordingly, he or she may not: 1. Expend more funds than are within the account of the Network. 2. Indebt the Network. 3. Shall bring to the attention of the Network leadership and AAMFT CEO information that might suggest fraud or illegal behavior of a member of any member in the Network in order to determine whether the matter merits an investigation by the CEO and/or CEC; 4. Shall report to the Network membership, annually, of the fiscal position of the component.

OAMFT email address: oamftboard@gmail.com

OAMFT website: www.oamft.org

OAMFT Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Oregon-Association-for-Marriage-and-Family-Therapy-173828336021309/>

Best regards,

James E. Brown, LMFT, LPC

OAMFT Board President