

*HIGHLIGHTS FROM LEADERSHIP TRAINING
AND BUSINESS MEETING
AAMFT ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2009*



Council of Division Presidents Meeting engages about the New Jersey letters and relationship with the Board. CDP Chair, Scott Edwards, shares thoughts, responses and feelings about the events. Division leaders ask for NJ leadership to have an opportunity to respond to the strong opinions shared with the group. NJ Past-President, although not prepared for this event, shares NJ's intent and desire for AAMFT.



Annual Town Hall is cancelled for this year.



The Annual Business Meeting is held Thursday night from 7-9p. Finances, budget and then items on petitions of the CFC group are line-itemed; the petitions are rejected for a course of discussion due to a "procedural error" on the part of the CFC petitioning however the board does give their argument or statement each element. With less than 15 minutes left of the business meeting, Linda Schwallie, President of the Board, opens the floor for questions.

Nearly 20 people fly up out of their seats to stand in line for the microphone. After time continues past the 15 minutes that were remaining of the time designated for the business meeting, Linda Schwallie states that the Board will remain present to hear all that which to speak. Eventually, some 30 people step to the microphone.

General Overview of Statements



Approximately 90% are statements from the CFC folks advocating for their voices to be recognized and their concerns more thoroughly addressed or two-party dialogued with/by the Board.



Approximately 5-8% are statements from various members asking for all parties (the Board and the CFC) to find respectful, honoring ways to have a dialogue about the changes proposed by the CFC. Some of these folks spoke

an acknowledgment that changes are needed but also spoke their own individual disagreement with the content or methods of the CFC.



Approximately 2-3% spoke their deep concerns or alarm at the use of their personal data for the mass emailing that went out from the CFC.



1% (one person) thanked the Board for their decision to take a non-disorder stance for the treatment of Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual and Transgendered populations.

The 2009 Annual AAMFT Business Meeting concluded just after 10 pm.

A note from Shelley: I have tried to write these highlights in such a manner that you can draw your own conclusions to the process of the work within AAMFT versus to express my own opinion of what I witnessed or to focus heavily on the content. I hope you find this helpful to you.

I will offer you these few opinions: a) this organization is filled with smart, caring, wonderful persons who care deeply for the mft profession and this organization and b) we are a systems-thinking organization so therefore we, as a system, are shifting and adapting to change (which often comes through conflict) and will be stronger and better for it.