

The SaveCAMFT candidates all understand what happened last year and what is still at stake with our organization. They recognize that there are currently members of the board, candidates, as well as staff, who are still determined to change our professional organization into a generic mental health organization. The SaveCAMFT candidates are all committed to maintaining CAMFT as a trade organization exclusively focused on the advocacy and advancement of the Marriage and Family Therapist profession in California. They also believe that the organization exists for the members, not the board or the staff and therefore understand the need to return to transparency and accountability by the leadership.

Watch out for what may sound like reasonable arguments! Those who want to turn CAMFT into a generic mental health professional organization will tell you that CAMFT needs to be more inclusive. We already are very inclusive - Psychologists, Social Workers and LPCs can now join our organization as associate members and receive all the benefits of clinical members, particularly free and unlimited legal advice. Why should they be dictating our policy when their trade organizations are already obstructing our inclusion in programs and the law?

They will also talk about the baby boomers retiring and consequently there will be a drop in membership. Baby boomers are practicing well into their seventies, some into their eighties and a few into their nineties. If membership goes down, then they will need to tighten our belts like all companies and families experiencing a downturn in income. CAMFT was successful when there were 5,000 members, when there was 10,000 members and so on. CAMFT has been very successful because its leaders have been exclusively focused on advancing our profession.

They will talk about schools preferring to matriculate LPCCs rather than MFTs. There is no evidence of this occurring. And if a school was contemplating such a move, it is the role of our leaders to convince them otherwise or respond accordingly. If anyone believes we are a dying profession, maybe they should look at the California State Department of Employment Development's projections for the most needed professions in the next ten years. MFTs made the top ten of the fastest growing occupations in California (<http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/OccGuides/FastGrowingOcc.aspx>).

Focusing on the needs of other licenses is not only duplicative (they are also getting advocacy from their own trade associations), but it will take resources away from MFT advocacy. Although there is overlap in our work, we are very different professions that have different needs. It is inevitable that a multidisciplinary organization is going to encounter conflicts between the various professions and the MFT's will have to be a lower priority than pleasing the psychologists or social workers. We already have opposition from their trade associations; do we really want this in our association too?

They will also point to the demise of MFTs in other states. However, this phenomenon is not because of the reasons they state. LPCCs were first to become licensed in other states well before MFTs. The LPCCs were in our position; they were the powerful associations in their respective states. When MFTs came on the scene, the LPCCs did everything they could to thwart MFT advancement. AAMFT was unable or unwilling to allocate enough resources to fight for MFTs in every state where this was occurring. In California, LPCCs are unlikely to take over in the way

they did in other states (unless CAMFT gives away that power). Right now, only about 500 LPCCs are licensed in California and most of those are MFTs who were grandfathered. IF, LPCCs become a threat to our profession, we can cross that bridge, but at this moment in time or the foreseeable future, that is not likely to happen.

I can't vote for candidates who either don't fully understand what happened last year or who are unwilling to clearly express their position on whether or not they are committed to maintaining our MFT trade association.

Victoria Campbell states in her candidate statement that she values member communication and input; and yet she served on the board that failed to inform members of one the most major structural changes to our trade association in fifty years. She has yet to explain her role in the crafting of the 2013 bylaws. There is no mention in her statement of what happened last year, the landslide vote to restore the former bylaws and what she has learned from the experience. Is she in favor of creating a multidisciplinary organization or maintaining our MFT trade association?

Gayaneh Karapetian states in her candidate statement that she was on the board that voted unanimously to change our bylaws and turn CAMFT into a generic mental health organization. She stated that the reason for the vote was to make CAMFT more "inclusive." She implies that the reason for the bylaws fiasco was that there was insufficient communication between members and the board. There wasn't "*insufficient communication*" there was **NO** communication. And there was a deceptive and misleading executive summary of the bylaw changes put forth by the board that she was a member.

Bindu Khurana and Katheryn Whittaker make no mention of the bylaws fiasco so we have no idea what they think or how they voted in the May and December elections, and most importantly what they think about what happened last year! However, Bindu was president of the San Diego CAMFT chapter - one of the chapters that refused to distribute SaveCAMFT educational information (about the bylaws controversy) to its members.

Jondra Pennington also makes no mention of her stand on the issue and she was on the board when this all occurred! At the September 2013 board meeting when the Board voted to repeal the ill-conceived bylaws, Jondra was one of the four people who voted to have CAMFT remain a generic mental health organization.

Ronald Mah has echoed the belief that the MFT profession will become a dying profession in California because of the LPCC/MFT dynamic in other states. He does so over absolutely no evidence that there is going to be a similar experience here. His statements of concern reflect a lack of understanding of the history of MFTs (vis-a-vis LPCCs) outside of California and how the tables are reversed here - we are the dominant master's level mental health profession. We need leaders who are committed to our maintaining that strong position, not handing it over to other professions. During the bylaws debacle Ronald appeared in favor of the change of our organization and somewhat critical of the SaveCAMFT efforts to return to the former purposes. In hindsight, this makes sense since he recently disclosed that he knowingly and willingly voted to change CAMFT into

a generic mental health profession organization (to his credit, he also stated that he voted to return to the 2009 bylaws). Like, Gayaneh, he concedes that there could have been more transparency, however, in the end, Ronald, Gayaneh and Jondra were each completely willing to end CAMFT as we know it! And had it not been for SaveCAMFT, we'd be in that situation right now! I have a great deal of respect for Ronald's work as a colleague and his contribution to the profession has been invaluable, however I don't think he is right for the board at this point in time.

We need members on the board who completely understand what occurred in 2013. We need board members who are unquestionably committed to maintaining and protecting our MFT trade association. We need board members who are committed to transparency and member input. We need people who we can trust. That's why I am voting for:

**Laura Strom for President-Elect**  
**Jürgen Braungardt for Chief Financial Officer**  
**Bob Casanova for Director-at-Large**  
**Patricia Ravitz for Director-at-Large**  
**Chris Trailer for Director-at-Large**

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