

AFCC TEXAS CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday, October 3, 2008, at 5:30 p.m.

South Texas College of Law, 1303 San Jacinto Street, Houston, Texas

AGENDA

- I. MEETING CALL TO ORDER – Martha J. Musselman, President, AFCC Texas Chapter
The AFCC Texas Chapter Annual meeting was held on Friday, October 3, 2008, at South Texas College of Law, 1303 San Jacinto Street, Houston, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Martha J. Musselman, President, AFCC Texas Chapter.
- II. INTRODUCTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 - A. Martha J. Musselman, President, AFCC Texas Chapter, introduced the 2008 AFCC Texas Chapter Board of Directors
 1. In attendance were 2008 Executive Committee members: President, Martha J. Musselman, Attorney at Law and Mediator in private practice in Harris and Montgomery Counties; President-Elect, Louise Lee, Attorney at Law in private practice in Houston. Louise will take over as Board President on January 1, 2009; Board Secretary is Mardi Winder-Adams, M.Ed., a parenting coordinator, parent educator and mediator living in Naples, Texas, but who serves families and Courts in an area encompassing several counties in East Texas; Board Treasurer is Patricia Barrett, who is a Certified Financial Planner, a Certified Divorce Financial Analyst, a Mediator, and runs Lifetime Planning LLC in Houston; Immediate Past President is Aaron Robb M.Ed., NCC, LPC, who is a mental health professional in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area who does primarily forensic counseling, custody evaluations and parenting coordination in Tarrant County and the Dallas/Ft. Worth area.
 2. 2008 At-Large Directors present:
 - a. 2008 AT-LARGE DIRECTORS (with Terms ending 12/31/2009)
Jack Bannin, MS, LPC, LMFT, a mental health professional in Bexar County who owns and runs Bexar Family Solutions in San Antonio, specializing in forensic counseling, parenting coordination, and custody evaluations;
David Eaker, Attorney at Law in private practice in Dallas and Rockwall, TX;

Stephanie J. Hall, an At-Large Director, who is an Attorney at Law and Mediator in private practice in Harris and Montgomery Counties

- b. AT-LARGE DIRECTORS (with Terms ending 12/31/2008)

Gilda Bowen, LMSW, who owns and runs Bowen Associates and is a mental health professional doing social studies and other work with families in the Rio Grande valley area;

Mary Fogel, MS, a social worker in the Travis County Domestic Relations Office; and

- c. At-Large Directors Not Present:

Alissa Sherry, Ph.D., an Assistant Professor of Counseling Psychology, Department of Education Psychology, University of Texas at Austin; and The Honorable Frank Rynd, Judge of the 309th Family District Court in Harris County.

- d. New Board Members for 2008: Stephanie J. Hall, JD and Patricia Barrett, CFP, CDFA, Treasurer.

III. Treasurer Summary - Patricia Barrett, CDFA, CFP, AFCC Texas Chapter Treasurer

Patricia Barrett reported that all expenses have been paid as of this date. Patricia Barrett reported that the AFCC Texas Chapter has \$22,607.40 in the bank for use as desired by the Chapter in 2009. There are still some catering and small expenses outstanding that will need to be deducted as they are processed.

- A. Form 990N, Electronic postcard filing, accepted by IRS on or about May 9, 2008.
- B. AFCC Texas Chapter Bank account moved to Wells Fargo Bank.
- C. Discussed the proceeds to AFCC Texas Chapter from the AFCC regional training in Dallas.
- D. Change of date for filing of TX Chapter of AFCC Annual Report: March 1st of each year.
- E. In June 2008 the Board of Directors amended the AFCC Texas Chapter Financial Policies and Procedures as follows:

“The President and Treasurer shall submit a Chapter Annual Report and Budget to the Board of Directors no later January 31st of each year.

The AFCC Texas Chapter Annual Report and Budget must be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors by February 28th of each year.”

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Committee Reports - Martha J. Musselman, President, AFCC Texas Chapter, requested members to join various committees of the State Chapter
1. Finance/Audit – Trevor Townes, Chair
AFCC Texas Chapter Financial Policies and Procedures require that every three (3) years AFCC Texas Chapter conduct an internal financial review (not an external audit conducted by a CPA or accounting firm) directed by someone other than the president or treasurer. The AFCC parent organization is recommending an internal financial review annually and an external audit every three (3) years for new chapters or if earnings increase. This would be part of the Chapter Annual Report as per future requirements. Trevor Townes, MA, former member of the AFCC Texas Chapter BOD and Director of the Harris County Domestic Relations Office, will Chair the internal financial review for 2008. Audit due December 1, 2008.
 2. Conference Planning Coordination Committee – Martha J. Musselman, President, AFCC Texas Chapter, announced her appreciation to various members for their contribution to the 2008 Conference.
 3. Membership/Education – Louise Lee, President-Elect, AFCC Texas Chapter, and David Eaker, At-Large Director, AFCC Texas Chapter
In February 2008, many of our members helped to host and attended AFCC regional trainings on *Advanced Issues in Parenting Coordination: Functional Co-Parenting for High Conflict Families*, featuring presenter, Matthew J. Sullivan, Ph.D., and *The Battle Between Abuse and Alienation: Assessment, Diagnosis and Interventions*, featuring presenter, Leslie M. Drozd, Ph.D., in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. Discussed the proceeds to AFCC Texas Chapter from the AFCC regional training in Dallas and possibility of doing future regional trainings.
 4. Publications - Jack Bannin, At-Large Director, AFCC Texas Chapter
 - a. AFCC Texas Chapter Newsletter to go out at least twice a year. First issue went out in April, second issue went out in August, another Newsletter publication planned in

December. Jack Bannin announced that he is looking for articles and information, legislation upcoming or other topics. Deadline for information for the newsletter to be emailed to Jack Bannin by November 15th. Martha Musselman announced that the AFCC Texas Chapter Newsletter was highly regarded and recognized at the AFCC parent organization Conference in Vancouver in May.

- b. Chapter Membership Website and Listserv opportunities - Jack Bannin, At-Large Director
Jack Bannin, At-Large Director reported on the creation of the listserv for AFCC Texas Chapter members and encouraged members to take advantage of this networking opportunity and encouraged members to take a look at the AFCC Texas Chapter webpage.
5. AFCC Chapter Council Representatives - Louise Lee, President-Elect, AFCC Texas Chapter, (07/01/08 through 06/30/09) and David Eaker from July 1, 2009 - December 31, 2009. Louise Lee expressed her interest in meeting the challenges of establishing communication and continuity between counties throughout the state.
6. Nominations Committee - The Honorable Frank Rynd, At-Large Director, AFCC Texas Chapter - no report
7. Parenting Coordination Taskforce - Aaron Robb, Immediate Past President, AFCC Texas Chapter
PCs reporting to Aaron Robb that they enjoy state wide forum specific to Texas. Aaron Robb will continue to maintain the PC taskforce as an email group. The Family Law Foundation and Council are in agreement with the AFCC Parenting Coordination guidelines. Changes to the current Parenting Coordination statute in compliance with AFCC guidelines will be forwarded to the family Bar, then will become proposed legislation for the 2009 legislative session.
8. Policy on Political Activity Committee - David Eaker, At-Large Director, AFCC Texas Chapter, and Martha J. Musselman, President, AFCC Texas Chapter
The Committee developed a policy to be adopted by the AFCC Texas Chapter BOD to ensure that the AFCC Texas Chapter and/or the AFCC parent organization's 501(C)3 status is not being jeopardized by political activity. In February 2008 the Board of Directors adopted two new policies:

- a. The first pertains to political activities by the AFCC Texas Chapter and its members. It affirms that the organization does not endorse or sponsor legislation, and does not lobby for changes in Texas statutes. Because the Texas Chapter is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the IRS imposes strict limits on these sorts of activities. This does not prevent members from making their **individual** views known to the state legislature and other rule-making bodies.
- b. The second policy addresses public representation by Texas AFCC members. This two-line policy states:

“Individual members of AFCC Texas Chapter may identify themselves as members of AFCC Texas Chapter, however they may not represent that they speak for or act on behalf of AFCC Texas Chapter as a whole. The President of AFCC Texas Chapter is solely authorized to speak for or act on behalf of AFCC Texas Chapter as a whole provided they have consulted with the AFCC Texas Chapter Executive Committee.”

You can find links to both of these policies at:
www.texasafcc.org/board_info.html

- B. In June 2008 the Board of Directors amended the AFCC Texas Chapter Financial Policies and Procedures as follows:

“The President and Treasurer shall submit a Chapter Annual Report and Budget to the Board of Directors no later January 31st of each year.

The AFCC Texas Chapter Annual Report and Budget must be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors by February 28th of each year.”

- C. Chapter Leadership Institute - Louise Lee, President-Elect and David Eaker, At-Large Director

The first bi-annual AFCC Chapter Leadership Institute was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on September 25, 2008. The AFCC parent organization asked every Chapter to nominate 1-2 leaders from each Chapter to attend. The AFCC parent organization paid for one night hotel and the registration to the Regional Training being held the following two (2) days. The AFCC Texas Chapter BOD

nominated Louise Lee and David Eaker in June to represent the Texas Chapter at the AFCC Chapter Leadership Institute. The AFCC Texas Chapter BOD voted in June for the AFCC Texas Chapter to pay travel expenses of up to Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.) per person for the two (2) nominated AFCC Texas Chapter representatives to the bi-annual AFCC Chapter Leadership Institute. Electronic vote by general AFCC Texas Chapter membership followed by email on August 28, 2008. On Friday, September 12, 2008, the travel expenses for the two (2) nominated TX AFCC Chapter representatives to the bi-annual AFCC Chapter Leadership Institute were approved as stated. Louise Lee indicated that the AFCC Leadership Conference in New Mexico was very helpful and she expressed her gratitude, as did David Eaker, for being able to attend. Both indicated ongoing issues of focus being increasing membership and increasing focus on how the AFCC can help individual members and identifying the needs for the organization within the state.

- D. AFCC Texas Chapter Support of the UNIFORM REPRESENTATION OF CHILDREN IN ABUSE, NEGLECT, AND CUSTODY PROCEEDINGS ACT - Aaron Robb, Immediate Past President

The AFCC Texas Chapter Board reviewed the UNIFORM REPRESENTATION OF CHILDREN IN ABUSE, NEGLECT, AND CUSTODY PROCEEDINGS ACT - Drafted by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (Last Revised or Amended in 2007). The Board voted in June to draft a letter in support of the Act.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Amendment to AFCC Texas Chapter By-Laws (**VOTING ITEM**) - Martha J. Musselman, President, AFCC Texas Chapter, reported that the AFCC Texas Chapter Board of Directors approved the following Proposed Amendment to the Texas Chapter of the AFCC By-Laws on or about 02/08/08:

Proposed Amendment to the Duties of the President of TX AFCC (as below):

As principal executive officer of the Chapter, the President is solely authorized to speak on behalf of the Chapter as a whole after obtaining approval of a majority of the Board of Directors, or if not practical, after consultation with the Executive Committee.

Motion: Aaron Robb, Second: David Eaker
Vote: Motion carried unanimously

"3. Officer Titles and Duties

The officers of the Chapter shall be:

- A. *President – The President is the principal executive officer of the Chapter, charged with the general direction, supervision, and management of the offices and operation of the Chapter. The President shall preside at all meetings of the membership and Board of Directors. The President shall prepare an agenda for all meetings. The duties of the President shall be those usually pertaining to the office, including appointment of committees, serving as an ex officio member of all committees, and the preparation of an annual report to the membership for publication in the Chapter newsletter. The President shall keep the President-Elect advised of all activities to facilitate an informed continuity of administration. "*
- B. The 2009 AFCC Texas Chapter Board of Directors Slate
The 2009 AFCC Texas Chapter BOD slate was presented by Martha Musselman and will be mailed out via e-mail in ballot form in the next Newsletter.

Proposed 2009 Slate:

2009 Executive Committee members:

President: Louise Lee, Attorney at Law in private practice in Houston;

President-Elect: David Eaker, Attorney at Law in private practice in Dallas and Rockwall, TX;

Secretary: Mardi Winder-Adams, M.Ed., a parenting coordinator, parent educator and mediator living in Naples, Texas, but who serves families and Courts in an area encompassing several counties in East Texas;

Treasurer: Patricia Barrett, who is a Certified Financial Planner, a Certified Divorce Financial Analyst, mediator, and runs Lifetime Planning LLC in Houston;

Immediate Past President: is Martha J. Musselman, Attorney at Law and mediator in private practice in Harris and Montgomery Counties.

2009 AT-LARGE DIRECTORS (with Terms ending 12/31/2009)

Jack Bannin, MS, LPC, LMFT, a mental health professional in Bexar County who owns and runs Bexar Family Solutions in San Antonio,

specializing in forensic counseling, parenting coordination, and custody evaluations;

Alissa Sherry, Ph.D., an Assistant Professor of Counseling Psychology, Department of Education Psychology, University of Texas at Austin;

Stephanie J. Hall, an At-Large Director, who is an Attorney at Law and Mediator in private practice in Harris and Montgomery Counties; and Trevor Townes, MA, Director of the Harris County Domestic Relations Office, Houston, Texas

AT-LARGE DIRECTORS (with Terms ending 12/31/2010)

Mary Fogel, MS, a social worker and Guardian Ad Litem in the Travis County Domestic Relations Office; and Stephanie J. Hall, an At-Large Director, who is an Attorney at Law and Mediator in private practice in Harris and Montgomery Counties;

The Honorable Kathleen Hamilton, Judge of the 359th District Court in Montgomery County, Texas;

Anita Stuckey, Shared Parenting Projects Coordinator for the Office of the Attorney General, Austin, Texas; and

Janet Heppard, Clinical Director and Professor of Law at the University of Houston Law Center, Houston, Texas.

C. Future AFCC Trainings

1. Martha J. Musselman, President, AFCC Texas Chapter, announced the following AFCC Regional Trainings:
 - a. Parenting Coordination *Matthew Sullivan, Ph.D.* October 23-24, 2008, Kansas City, Missouri
 - b. Parenting Coordination *Christine Coates, J.D.* December 8-9, 2008, Baltimore, Maryland
 - c. Fathers Parent Differently Than Mothers *Marsha Kline Pruett, Ph.D.* December 10-11, 2008, Baltimore, Maryland
 - d. Parenting Coordination *Robin M. Deutsch, Ph.D.* February 9-10, 2009, New Orleans, Louisiana
 - e. Attachment, Alienation and Access *Arnold Shienvold, Ph.D.* February 11-12, 2009 New Orleans, Louisiana
2. AFCC Parent Organization 2009 Annual Conference - Martha J. Musselman, President, AFCC Texas Chapter, announced that the 46th Annual AFCC Conference, *Children, Courts and Custody: Back to the Future or Full Steam Ahead?* May 27-30, 2009, in New Orleans, LA. Last year's conference featured 190 presenters, 80 conference sessions and more than 1,000

delegates in attendance. She encouraged all who can afford it should attend – it is a great learning experience.

- G. Open Forum for Questions - Martha J. Musselman, President, AFCC Texas Chapter and Louise Lee, President-Elect, AFCC Texas Chapter
- H. TX AFCC Membership Meeting Door Prize Drawings

- 1. Free AFCC Membership from parent organization was won by:

Anita Stucky
Office of the Attorney General
Shared Parenting Projects Coordinator
PO Box 12017, Mail Code 039
Austin, TX 78711-2017
512 460-6437 (phone)
512 460-6040 (fax)

- 2. Free scholarship from the High Conflict Institute, LLC to the *Understanding & Managing High Conflict Personalities in Legal Disputes* seminar was won by:

Jim W. Fowler, M.Ed.
Licensed Professional Counselor
Crossroads Counseling
P.O. Box 875
Waxahachie, Texas 75168
(972) 938-8550

VI. MEETING ADJOURNED

The AFCC Texas Chapter Annual Meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m. by Martha J. Musselman, President, AFCC Texas Chapter.