



Minnesota Council on Family Relations 2012 Presidents Report by San Ha, M.Ed.

MCFR Annual Meeting – November 16, 2012
Vadnais Commons, Vadnais Heights, MN

MCFR's Mission: *The Minnesota Council on Family Relations strengthens all families by educating and supporting family professionals and promoting connections among those involved in research, policy, and practice.*

The exemplary work of MCFR during 2012 inspired many family professionals to light up the lives of all families in Minnesota.

Annual Board of Directors Retreat

The retreat was held at Mary Jo Czaplewski's home on January 20 to make plans for and discuss about our activities and projects for 2012. Board members also shared their stories about what inspired them to become who they are and what they do.

Spring Conference

Same-Sex Couples and their Families: Connecting Policy, Research, and Practice.

The Spring Conference was held at the Como Park Center in St. Paul, MN on June 11. The Spring Conference Committee Co-Chairs were Glen Palm and Sharon Powell. Morning speakers were Bill D. Allen and Maureen Ittig. Afternoon breakout sessions on a variety of related topics were presented by Eric Hansen, Kathy Itzin, Michele Abbott, Tiffany Lane, Jason Bucklin, Mike Huggins, Catherine Emmanuelle, and Denny Smith. Conference reflections were given by Jack Schaffer and Linda Roberts. A theatrical presentation was performed by The Project 515.

Fall Annual Conference

It wasn't supposed to be like this: Families living with unexpected permanent illness, disability, death, and other losses.

The Fall Conference was held at Vadnais Commons in Vadnais Heights, MN on November 16. The Fall Conference Committee Chair was Susan S. Meyers. The keynote speaker was Pauline Boss. Wide choices of breakout sessions in the afternoon were presented by Ted Bowman, Korie DeBruin, Chris Dooley-Harrington, Leah Hanson, Robin Whitebird, Max Zubatsky, and Stephanie Trudeau-Hem.

Awards

The **Ruth Hathaway Jewson Distinguished Service to Families Award** given to a professional in the family field who is recognized for outstanding work on behalf of families was presented to **Beth Yokom**, and the **Friend of the Family Award** given to a professional or organization who may or may not be in the family field but who has made significant contributions to the quality of family life in Minnesota was presented to **Pauline Boss** at the Fall Annual Conference.

Ethics Workshop Training

Mary Maher, Beth Gausman, and Bill Allen trained the trainers on April 27 and they worked with NCFR to plan a webinar.

Ethics Workshop Webinar

An Introduction to Ethical Thinking and Practice for Family Professionals: A Case Study Approach. Mary Maher, Beth Gausman, and Bill Allen, supported by Betty Cooke, Ada Alden, and Glen Palm, completed the webinar on September 6 with over 300 people registered and 161 attended, all of whom stayed to the end. Jason Samuels and Dawn Cassidy at NCFR also helped us with technology. A certificate of attendance that can be used for CFLE CEUs and be submitted to other professional licensing boards was offered to the attendees.

Newsletter: Family Forum

Ron Pitzer and Linda Vukelich edit a variety of contributions and useful information from and for family professionals. The newsletter is published and distributed three times a year by MCFR listserv and posted on the MCFR website as well.

Website (www.mcfr.net) and MinneNews

San Ha edits and posts information from and for family professionals on the MCFR website. Linda Vukelich edits and distributes current information to all MCFR members weekly by the MCFR listserv. She also created MCFR postcards to remind MCFR members to renew their membership.

Discussion Listserv

San Ha and Linda Vukelich have been working on another listserv with Jason Samuels, Director of Innovation and Technology at NCFR, for all MCFR members to be able to communicate one another through this discussion listserv.

Student/New Professional (S/NP) Section

Chun Zhang became the chair of the S/NP Section in 2012. She hosted an S/NP event about the role of family tradition in family education with a Chinese tea ceremony on November 9 at the University of Minnesota. She also posted her academic work at the Fall Annual Conference.

Nominating Committee

Ada Alden, Betty Cooke, and San Ha recruited excellent candidates for the MCFR Board. We have a wonderful roster of officers and members joining or continuing on the Board for 2013.

The 2013 MCFR Board officers: Mary Maher (President), Beth Gausman (President-Elect), San Ha (Past President), Gail Peavey (Secretary), and Sharon Powell (Treasurer).

Newly Elected Board Members At Large: Jan Hayne, Renee Sawyer, and Morgan Streeter.

Returning Board members: Ada Alden, Glen Palm, Ronald Pitzer, Michael Brown, Colleen Clements, Alisha Hardman, Lisa Krause, Raelene Ostberg, Chun Zhang, Rose Allen, Minnell Tralle, and Betty Cooke.

MCFR Membership

Current MCFR membership as of November 13, 2012 stands at **232 total members**. It includes 58 members who pay dues to MCFR and 174 affiliate members who pay dues to NCFR with a rebate to MCFR.

MCFR Financial Status

We have maintained a relatively stable financial status. Beth Yokom (2012 Treasurer) reported that MCFR had a balance of **\$9,223.49** as of October 31, 2012.

Relationship with National Council on Family Relations (NCFR)

Minnell Tralle became the president of the NCFR Affiliate Board in 2012 and sits on the NCFR Board of Directors. Rose Allen became the president-elect of the NCFR Affiliate Board and presented the history and activities of MCFR at the NCFR Annual Conference in Phoenix, Arizona in 2012.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Linda Vukelich and Tammy Dunrud for their excellent administrative support, Mary Jo Czaplewski for hosting our annual retreat at her home for many years, Mary Maher for hosting our social event at her home in July, and all those who have served the Board for their tremendous contributions to the MCFR Board, family professionals, and families in Minnesota and beyond.

It has been an enormous privilege and a great honor to be president of MCFR during 2012. It was a very important election year that we together made invaluable contributions to educating and supporting family professionals to help all families in Minnesota strengthen their family relations. I look forward to continued involvement with MCFR to make the world a better place for all families.

Respectfully,

**San Ha, M.Ed.
2012 MCFR President**