

Minnesota Council on Family Relations
President's Year End Report
12-5-14

While the autumn days of less sunlight and colder temps may cause one to snuggle into a quieter routine, the days of fall only bring excitement to the work of MCFR. As the board and membership head into the fourth quarter of our year we are busy with the opportunities that challenges that reward each of us.

The strategic plan established at the start of our year continues to be the framework for motivation and growth. We have three committees that are making significant progress in establishing practices that will increase our affiliate's ability to meet the needs of professionals within and outside our membership.

The Policy Committee is strengthening relationships with professionals by considering the question of how MCFR can advocate more broadly within and outside professional groups. In addition, a sub group of this committee has established a reciprocal partnership with MNAFEE, MNAEYC and MFFN to act as allies in advocacy work.

The Communications Committee continues to work on strengthening our technology outreach to professionals. We have entered into a partnership with NCFR to sustain our website with their support. Our new website is address is <http://mn.ncfr.org> Check us out!

Fall Conference Committee has been working diligently to offer a powerful conference on *Mental Health: Understanding and Supporting Families Through the Lifespan* on December 5, 8:00-4:00 at the New Brighton Community Center. Go to our website for registration information.

We continue to weave membership into all areas of committee work but plan to re-engage membership into its own specific committee early next year.

Our board welcomed a new member at our September meeting. Ashley Landers will now be serving as our student representative. Ashley is a second year PhD student at the University of Minnesota with a focus in the Family Social Science Department-Couple and Family Therapy Program. She is enthused to introduce MCFR and the benefits of membership to students throughout our state.

As our Forum details with its pages, we have four new board candidates who we are honored to present for consideration of board membership. I encourage you to read their profile and consider how you might support their work as they prepare to dedicate service within our board structure.

Finally, we are into our fall membership campaign. This is a time to renew your membership or join MCFR for the first time. I welcome you to do so and look forward to getting to know you through MCFR events.

As this is my final Presidents Report, I'd like to thank the MCFR membership for this opportunity to serve. I have been honored to do so and consider my work this past year to be a check off on my bucket list of professional desires.

Beth Gausman
MCFR Board President