

Jan Mellinger's 2017 CAMFT Presidential Nominee Statement

I'm honored to be nominated for the position of president-elect of CAMFT. As a thirty year member and past-president (1995-1996), I have seen the organization grow and change in an ongoing effort to move towards parity for MFTs in the workplace, knowing that a great deal more needs to be accomplished. Prior to my term, the CAMFT office was operated with antiquated technology and operating out of a rented space. It was during my term that the office became computerized and the 800 number was added for members' convenience. As technology has advanced, members now have access to EBSCO and the ability to market their practices on CAMFT's CounselingCalifornia.com. While I was on the Board, CAMFT purchased an office building which has proven to be a valuable asset on the organization's balance sheet. Since then, we have grown by 8,000 members and we have witnessed important legislation enacted to benefit the membership and improve the viability of our profession. Moreover, staff has grown from one attorney to five plus one paralegal. Leadership has changed and a more collegial atmosphere seems to be present compared to my first experience on the Board.

I bring to the position of president-elect experience with the organization and a unique perspective on what has worked well and what needs improvement. It is my hope that my service on the board will allow me to bring forward the same dynamic vision I once used to serve the hopes and aspirations of our members. It is my firm belief that CAMFT must continue to work for Medicare reimbursement for California MFTs. We are entitled to have parity with other Masters Degree mental health practitioners. I want to ensure that the diversity in our membership and clients is respected. I will emphasize that interns and trainees receive the attention they need to become ethical and proficient therapists . I bring significant prior experience in how to run a board meeting to ensure that every voice has an opportunity to be heard and that a respectful and collaborative environment prevails. In addition to CAMFT, I have served as President of the Chula Vista Rotary Club and three terms as President of the San Diego Cat Fanciers. I feel that it is the responsibility of the president to keep the meeting focused and emotionally safe.

I have worked primarily for non-profit organizations. For the last 20 years, I have been doing psychological evaluations in the Emergency Department in a large medical hospital system. This has not been a role traditionally filled by Marriage and Family Therapists and the opportunity exists to expand our employment opportunities into other arenas.

I invite you to go to my website, www.janmellinger.com, for more information. You may communicate with me there. I encourage you to vote when you receive

your CAMFT ballot. I would appreciate your vote for President-Elect so that my enthusiasm and experience will continue to move CAMFT forward.

See the original statement here:

[http://www.camft.org/IAS/COS/About CAMFT/Board of Directors-Committees/Elections2017/Jan Mellinger.aspx](http://www.camft.org/IAS/COS/About_CAMFT/Board_of_Directors-Committees/Elections2017/Jan_Mellinger.aspx)