

Richard Leslie Explains His Not Being at CAMFT 50th Annual Conference

In the event that there is member misunderstanding about why Richard Leslie may not have been invited to CAMFT's 50th Annual Conference, Daniel Sonkin received the below emails from Richard Leslie this week. The first is the email to Daniel. The second is Richard's response to Jill Epstein's invitation vis-a-vis the CAMFT 50th anniversary celebration at the conference. Richard gave Daniel permission to post them both on the SaveCAMFT discussion group. This is timely since there has been quite a bit discussion about his not being invited to the CAMFT Conference this year. I think this will answer many of your questions.

Daniel Sonkin
Marin Chapter CAMFT Member

Daniel: There have been a number of inquiries and comments, yours included, around the fact that I have not been invited to attend the 50th Anniversary reception at the CAMFT Annual Conference in early May. So that you and others may be more fully informed, I am sending you my response (4/7/14) to Jill's invitation (4/4/14) for me to send a 1-2 minute video greeting (sharing fondest memories/accomplishments) that they could show at the reception. I was also invited to submit a written testimonial (up to 1000 words, which may need to be edited if space is limited) about my memories of CAMFT to include in an upcoming issue of The Therapist.

My response to the invitation is attached.

Richard

4/7/14

Jill:

Thank you for your multiple emails regarding your thoughts and concerns for Stacey and our family. The personal outreach is very much appreciated by our family and will continue to be appreciated.

Also, thanks for your email of 4/4 inviting me to do a video greeting for CAMFT's 50th Anniversary reception and for inviting me to submit a written testimonial about my memories of CAMFT - to be included in an upcoming issue of The Therapist.

This response is not written in anger, but I want to be, as always, direct and sincere. I hope my response is received willingly, openly and thoughtfully. I care deeply about the MFT profession and the role that CAMFT has played as the trade group for MFTs in California. CAMFT has been and should continue to be the independent professional association in California representing the interests of LMFTs and those pursuing the license.

Respectfully, I cannot accept your invitation. With respect to the written testimonial for publication in The Therapist, I have apparently been taken off of the mailing list and have not received the magazine since the March/April 2013 issue - notwithstanding my contributions to

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and involvement with the Association, my decades of advocacy for the profession and the membership that the Association represents, and my Honorary Distinguished Member status. It just doesn't feel right to contribute to the magazine under these circumstances, and I do not feel comfortable filming a greeting for an anniversary celebration that I am not invited to attend.

I sincerely hope that you and each member of the Board of Directors, whether before or after the election results are announced, are committed to the proposition that CAMFT is and will remain the trade association (special interest group) for MFTs and the marriage and family therapy profession in California. I believe that this simple statement, sincerely uttered, would go a long way to re-establish trust with and among the membership, and to allow the Association to move forward in unity, perhaps with some healing.

Again, thanks for asking, thanks for inviting, and thank you for caring about our daughter and her health. All are appreciated!

Richard