



NEWSLETTER

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts

An international association of judges, counselors, court evaluators, mediators, and lawyers

Volume 4, Number 1
January, 1985

Co-Editors, Stanley N. Cohen
Liz Hoffman

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Association enjoyed an excellent conference in Scottsdale, Arizona in December and looks forward to the 1985 Annual Conference in Vancouver, B.C. in May.

During the Scottsdale conference, the Board of Directors undertook a number of actions designed to strengthen the committee structure through clarification of goals, broaden the base of membership participation and provide the resources needed to achieve committee objectives.

- The goals and purposes of the Conference Planning Committee chaired by Jeanne Ames (California) and Dr. Russ Schoneman (Arizona) were redefined and the task of compiling a manual to guide future conference planning was initiated. The Committee will have responsibility for future conference site selection, coordination of educational program development and provide direction and support to local host committees. A primary objective will be to conduct conferences in regions where no adjunct court services currently exist or where the development of services is being newly considered.

- W. Patrick Phear (Massachusetts) and Dr. Sarah Gaughan-Feeny (New Mexico) agreed to coordinate a comprehensive effort to enhance and restructure the technical assistance programs and capabilities of AFCC. The initial goals are to (1) collect written materials and develop consulting and training outlines for specific court-connected services, (2) create a reference brochure outlining and summarizing the resources, materials and expertise available through AFCC, (3) develop guidelines for responding to requests for technical assistance including identification of consultants and costs, and (4) direct requests for technical assistance to appropriate court services or members in the region who could serve as potential resources. A long range goal would be to obtain federal or foundation funds to subsidize the efforts of existing court service programs in the various areas which could serve as program models and provide the capability of undertaking "missionary" efforts in areas where services are not available. Pat and Sarah have already begun

the effort to identify all of the various service programs and resources available in the organization and will need the help of everyone to maximize our technical assistance potentials.

- The Membership Committee under the leadership of Judge June Rose Galvin (Ohio), Patricia Wallace (Ontario) and Lee Parker (Arizona) has developed a number of creative initiatives intended to promote continuity of effort and a true interdisciplinary design in the approach to membership expansion.

The resolve of the Board to revitalize and actively support all committees will continue through and beyond the Vancouver Conference. It is important that the goals, activities and frustrations of all committees be examined over the course of the next year and that changes in direction, organization and resources be made wherever necessary. Chairpersons are urged to call upon the considerable expertise and energy within the organization to help create a structure that is responsive to the concerns and interests of the membership.

A number of bylaws amendments were proposed at

Message . . . continued

Scottsdale directed at examination of the administrative structure of the organization. The resultant self-evaluation will be important to insure that the structure is responsive to contemporary needs and compatible with emerging trends and changing growth patterns. Issues concerning the size and composition of the Board, the executive structure and standards for regional and state chapters will be considered at Vancouver and it is vital that all members give some thought to these matters and share concerns and ideas with board members in your region prior to the meeting.

I urge each of you to attend the Annual Conference in Vancouver as the strength of the organization lies in the interdisciplinary nature of the membership and the opportunity for interaction with colleagues in allied professions. All members are encouraged to discuss your interest in committee participation or serving on the Board of Directors with an Officer or Board Member. It is important that the committees as well as the Board represent a broad cross-section of the membership both geographically and professionally. This is difficult to achieve without knowledge of your interests.

Anthony J. "Tim" Salius
President

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND
TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

AFCC has responded to many requests for technical assistance in developing court-connected family and divorce conciliation and mediation services. Training has been provided in Michigan, North Carolina, New Mexico, and most recently in Illinois. Our president, Tim Salius, has asked Patrick Phear of Massachusetts and Sara Feeney of New Mexico to co-chair a technical assistance committee geared to assist court jurisdictions in implementing conciliation and mediation services. Please contact our office if you wish AFCC assistance in this area. We have a publication, Guidelines For Establishing Court-Connected Conciliation and Mediation Services, that can be helpful in initiating such services.

In our last newsletter, a list of AFCC members who provide mediation training and workshops was published. Information about such training can be obtained by contacting the following individuals and/or groups:

Center for Dispute Resolution
(Chris Moore, PhD.)
430 West 9th Avenue
Denver, CO 80204
(303) 629-1204

Family Mediation Center
(Lois Gold)
3434 S.W. Kelly
Portland, OR 97201
(503) 248-9684

Mediation Training Institute
(John Haynes, Virginia
Stafford and Stephen
Erickson)
4139 Rosalie St., Suite 100
Winston-Salem, NC 27104

Mediation and Counseling
Specialties

(Taylor and Taylor)
Country Square Building
Lake Oswego, OR 97034
(503) 293-3440 (ans. service)

The New Family Center
(Isolina Ricci)
210 California Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94306
(415) 328-3218

New Jersey Council on
Divorce Mediation
51 Upper Montclair Plaza, #27
Montclair, NJ 07043
(201) 744-7632 or
(609) 234-0145

Northern California
Mediation Center
(Joan Kelly, PhD.)
300 Tama! Plaza, #175
Corte Madero, CA 94915
(415) 927-1422

Divorce Mediation Institute
(Dr. Carl D. Schneider)
1580 N. Northwest Highway
Suite 111
Park Ridge, IL 60068
(312) 6965-6023

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Hugh McIsaac, Director of the Los Angeles Conciliation Court is accepting applications for Senior Family Mediator positions to be available in the spring of 1985. Those interested please send a resume to Mr. McIsaac, c/o 141 N. Hill Street, Rm 241, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

Please let us communicate to our members any employment opportunities that are available.

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts

Publication Order Form

FILMS/VIDEO TAPES

Custody Resolution Counseling: Designed for training counselors in mediation techniques for family disputes concerning custody and visitation. Color, 45 minutes. Rental-\$40/5 days; Purchase-\$130.

A Family Affair: Designed to inform judges and other professionals of the legal remedies and implications regarding child abuse. This film is a gold medal winner. New York International Film and Television Festival (1982), First Prize winner, American Film Festival (1982) in its category. Gold Medal, National Council Family Relations (1983). Available in 16 mm or video cassette through VISUCOM Productions, Inc., 1255 Veterans Blvd., Redwood City, CA 94063. Rental-\$60/3 days; Purchase-\$450.

You're Still Mom and Dad: A sensitive portrayal of the issues of Joint Custody. Designed for parents, professionals, and others who wish to understand and implement this post-divorce parenting plan. Color, 38 minutes. Video Cassette: Rental-\$40/5 days; Purchase-\$100.

From This Day Forward: Three successfully mediated couples from a variety of backgrounds participate in an intensely personal discussion about their expectations, anxieties, resentments and misconceptions about divorce mediation. Each couple examines its past relationship, their modification during mediation and the rearranged parental relationship with their children.

For use in mediation orientation for clients and mediation training for family therapists, judges, lawyers and social workers. Previewed at the 1984 AFCC mid-Winter conference - Scottsdale. Color, 31 minutes; various video-tape formats. Available through Dr. Robert Klein, 120 Vassar SE, Suite 1-B, Albuquerque, NM., 87106. (505) 268-0022.

PUBLICATIONS

Joint Custody and Shared Parenting: Edited by Jay Folberg, Past President AFCC and Professor of Law at Lewis and Clark College, this book provides the reader with a compilation of writings that cut across the disciplines of law, social work, family therapy, and psychology. It presents a balanced debate on a sometimes volatile and difficult issue. The book's interdisciplinary approach enables judges, social workers and family therapists to benefit from its material. Royalty proceeds have been donated to AFCC by Jay Folberg. This book ordinarily is \$25. AFCC has a limited number available for purchase @ a 10% discount (\$22.50).

Guidelines for Establishing a Court Connected Counseling Service: A manual written for courts and individuals with helpful information regarding how to establish a court connected counseling service. \$2.00.

My Mom and Dad Are Getting a Divorce: Written by Florence Bienenfeld, an AFCC member and conciliation court counselor in Los Angeles, this colorfully illustrated book appeals to children whose parents are going through divorce and assists parents in understanding their children's feelings. Available for \$3.95 plus \$1.25 postage and handling from Changing Times Education Service, Division of EMC Publishing, 180 E. 6th Street, St. Paul, MN 55101, (800)328-1452.

Divorce and Family Mediation: History, Review, Future Considerations: A monograph, published in the December, 1982 issue Conciliation Courts Review. This 45 page article presents a well researched history of the development of mediation in the field of divorce. \$2.00 each. Orders of ten or more, \$1.50 each.

Divorce Mediation Final Report: The findings of this AFCC sponsored project is now available in a bound volume. The project was under the direction of Dr. Jessica Pearson. The findings are presented in eleven extensive reports and is an important contribution to the field. Copies are available for \$25.00 by contacting Dr. Jessica Pearson, 1720 Emerson Street, Denver, CO 80218; (503) 387-1555.

THE FOLLOWING MATERIAL IS AVAILABLE DIRECTLY THROUGH AFCC

	<u>Cost @</u>	<u>Total Number</u>	<u>Price</u>
<u>VIDEO TAPES</u>			
Custody Resolution Counseling: Rental-\$40/5 days Purchase-\$130		_____	_____
You're Still Mom and Dad: Rental-\$40/5 days Purchase-\$100		_____	_____
Joint Custody and Shared Parenting/Folberg	\$22.50	_____	_____
Guidelines for Establishing Court-Connected Conciliation and Mediation Services	2.00	_____	_____
Divorce and Family Mediation: History, Review and Future/Brown	2.00	_____	_____
1984 AFCC Annual Conference Syllabus (Denver)	8.00	_____	_____
1984 AFCC Mid-winter Conference Syllabus (Scottsdale)	8.00	_____	_____

PAMPHLETS

"Parents are Forever"	\$.20	_____	_____
"An Important Message to Step Parents"	.20	_____	_____
"Twenty Questions Divorcing Parents Ask About Their Children"	.20	_____	_____
"Joint Custody: A New Way of Being Related"	.20	_____	_____
(Pamphlet Orders over 1,000 -- \$.15 each)			

POSTAGE INCLUDED IF ORDERS ARE PREPAID

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 PHONE _____

Checks payable to:
 ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY AND
 CONCILIATION COURTS
 c/o OHSU, Dept. of Psychiatry
 Gaines Hall, Room 149
 3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Road
 Portland, OR 97201

(503) 220-5651

CONFERENCES

The AFCC Winter conference held in Scottsdale attracted over 200 attendees. It was acknowledged as both a professional and recreational success. The conference committee spearheaded by Phil Bushard's leadership deserves a thank you from the Association membership.

Vancouver, B.C.

Time is drawing near for our 23rd Annual meeting. The dates are May 23-26, 1985; the place is Vancouver, B.C.; the conference site is the Bayshore Hotel. The conference theme is A MOSAIC OF FAMILIES -- THE CHALLENGE OF MULTICULTURISM IN THE COURTS. Additional conference information can be obtained from the conference chairperson, Don Moir, P.O. Box 10051, Vancouver, B.C., V7Y 1B6, Canada. (604) 687-0038

A post-Vancouver educational tour of New Zealand has been arranged. This event is scheduled from May 26 through June 6. An extended tour to Australia also is available. For further details, please contact Ms. Jane Grafton, 3262 West 1st Avenue, Vancouver, B.C., V6K 1H5, Canada. (604) 733-4021

Future Conferences

Our winter meeting for 1985 will be held in San Diego, California, at the Vacation Village Hotel. The conference chairperson is Murray Bloom. Information can be obtained by contacting Murray, c/o Conciliation Court, 210 W. Ash Street, San Diego, CA 92101. (619) 236-2681.

MEMBERSHIP

1985 membership dues statements were mailed January 21. This year we have initiated a computerized system for mailing statements. We anticipate this procedure will facilitate the collection of dues. We intend mailing only one statement in order to reduce mounting mailing and administrative costs. Your co-operation in this matter is appreciated.

Dues statements have been mailed based upon our record of your membership status as of January 15, 1985. Statements have not been mailed to members where our records reflect dues payment for 1985. There will be instances where you may have paid your dues and were mailed a statement. While our records will be updated regularly, please mail our office a copy of your remittance so we can maintain accurate records.

Please note that an annual AFCC individual membership is \$50.00 (U.S. Funds). California memberships are: \$75.00 for individual, \$150.00 for institutional, and \$20.00 for student. Arizona members should remit \$70.00 for their dues. California and Arizona chapter fees will be rebated to their Chapter offices on a quarterly basis.

Implementing our computerized membership dues statements inadvertently delayed their mailing. Now that our system is operative, next year's statement will be sent out earlier.

MODEL STANDARDS OF PRACTICE RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

The Model Standards of Practice for Family and Divorce Mediators was completed and approved by delegates attending the May 1984 Symposium on Standards and Practices. AFCC served as the convener of the three symposia on the subject. The Standards have been distributed to other professional organizations for their endorsement, approval and subscription. The Standards are also available for organizations to use as a resource document for the development of compatible and more specific standards. The American Bar Association has now approved Standards of Practice for Lawyer Mediators and formally noted the complete compatibility with the Model Standards. The American Arbitration Association approved the Model Standards as drafted and they have been published in AAA's newsletter. The national Association of Social Workers featured a story about the Standards in the NASW News and approved the formation of a committee to study standards of practice for social work mediators. The Model Standards will come before the Board of AFCC for approval at the May 1985 meeting in Vancouver.

Anne Milne

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

California

The 1984 legislature passed AB 2445 - a bill that provides funds for:

- 1) state wide coordination of the mandatory mediation law;
- 2) development of uniform state statistical reporting system;
- 3) development of education and training for court-connected services; and
- 4) research and demonstration projects.

Approximately \$300,000-\$600,000 are expected to be raised for the above purposes by assessing \$3.00 for copies of final decrees and marriage licenses. The California State Judicial Council will administrate the project.

Please send us any legislative information occurring in your state so we can report it in the newsletter on a regular basis.

DIRECTORY

The annual membership directory is scheduled to be sent to the printer by April 1, 1985. All members in good standing as of March 1, 1985, will be listed in the directory. The directory format has been changed.

The listings will be alphabetical according to state/province and country. Each entry will include member's name, primary title, address, and phone number.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

In order to increase our international visibility, we want to call on our members who have affiliation with other international organizations to be our liaison with that group. Our aim is to increase awareness of each other's goals and purpose, to share solutions to mutual problems. A beginning has been

made with the Inter-American Bar Association. We are in the process of preparing a joint discussion on the topic of inter-jurisdictional custody disputes, including enforcement of orders, for one of their future meetings.

There are many other organizations throughout the world with areas of interest overlapping ours. However, we need your help in letting us know of these groups, their format, membership, and future preferences. I urge you to get in touch with me about your connections with other international organizations.

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Chicago, IL 60602
(312) 443-7914

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