

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who can form a topical special interest group? Any AAMFT member may choose to form a special interest group. They will follow the procedure outlined in your packet. Division boards do not have to approve these or take part in forming these groups. Division board members can be a resource for members interested in taking this on. AAMFT will also work with people interested in forming topical special interest groups.
2. What happens to our money? AAMFT will hold these funds for advocacy efforts for our state.
3. What happens to our intellectual property and other belongings? This is something that we do not know yet. Kellie is researching whether videos, training tapes, etc... will go to AAMFT. Books and other items may be sold or donated before the transition takes place. Kellie is researching what will be done with items of historical and/or sentimental value.
4. Will a geographic network be able to hire staff? Not at this time. Officers of the network and AAMFT staff will handle administrative duties associated with new geographic networks.
5. How many groups can a member join? Paying your AAMFT dues will make you a member of AAMFT. You may then choose to join as many groups as you wish. Different groups will have different membership dues. You are not required to join any additional groups and may just be a member of AAMFT. Membership in special interest groups are meant to add value to your membership in AAMFT.
6. How much will my dues be? While AAMFT may increase the baseline dues by a small amount it is likely that almost everyone will pay less in dues than they currently do.
7. What about statewide advocacy and legislative needs? AAMFT plans to identify members charged with monitoring and addressing advocacy issues within the state. These people may also work with members of the Family Team to address any issues that arise.
8. How will a SC Geographic Special Interest Group differ from a division? In some ways things may remain the same but there will be differences. We will no longer hire an executive director. Most of the work associated with the group's activities will be done by officers and/or members of the group.

TOWN HALL REPORTS & FEEDBACK

Upstate Report:

The feedback from the meeting seemed to be that people want something in place to address SC members' needs. Members are looking for networking and CEU opportunities. Laura is already getting things together to start a regular opportunity for Upstate members to connect.

Midlands Report:

1. Those present voiced concern about the ability to maintain a geographic special interest group without involving surrounding states. A Board Retreat was suggested; to connect the SCAMFT Board with those in Georgia and North Carolina (possibly Florida) and to explore future partnership. Members want to investigate the option of creating an Informal Network among LMFTs in SC if a geographic interest group in our state is not feasible. Regional conferences are a priority; specifically training opportunities that meet AAMFT standards.
2. What is the SC state licensing board's involvement/knowledge of the restructuring? How will we fill future licensing board positions and remain a "voice at the table" within our state?
3. How will lobbying, both nationally and at the state level work? Who will be involved in the decisions made and what accountability measures will be in place?
4. There was interest in creating a forum for brainstorming and/or discussing the options both before and after the vote that is accessible to members.

Low Country Report:

1. Advocacy/lobbying with state legislature and the licensing board for clarification of a LPC license vs. a LMFT license and for protection of the title
2. A network of like-minded professionals to know and connect with face-to-face
3. An avenue for addressing diversity needs within the state/providing care for minority communities