



## **Ways to Activate Your Local Membership**

### **1. Set Up a Local Listserv (Google Group, Yahoo Group, etc.)**

AFCC members in your state, province, or country can be an invaluable resource for one another. Information can be posted about relevant legislation, conferences, training programs, local networking opportunities, policy development, news, etc.

### **2. Early-Riser Breakfasts, Monthly Brown Bag Lunches, Wine & Cheese Receptions**

Hold informal get-togethers regularly. Pick a discussion topic for each session and designate a person to lead the group or invite a guest speaker to lead discussion. Find related readings and keep the group up to date on findings. This is a great way to learn about your colleagues' work and personal interests as well as develop collaborative working relationships.

### **3. Host a Local AFCC Training Program**

Contact AFCC to set up a training session on a topic of local interest such as mediation or custody evaluation. AFCC can provide advice and help identify trainers and topics.

### **4. Honor a Local AFCC Member**

AFCC members are always doing something noteworthy for the community. Set up a luncheon or awards reception to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of members in your community.

### **5. Honor a Potential AFCC Member**

If a person is not an AFCC member, then they are a potential member! Is there a local professional who has done something noteworthy for the field? An acknowledgment from the local chapter will foster goodwill, help spread the word about AFCC, and provide a networking opportunity for members and potential members.

### **6. Organize a Fundraising Event and Invite Potential AFCC Members**

Let people know what AFCC stands for. Organize a fun-run, auction, or concert-in-the-park to introduce people to AFCC as well as to recruit potential members while raising money for your chapter or the AFCC Scholarship Fund. Auctions, golf outings, wine tastings or an annual appeal can increase local involvement.

### **7. Affiliate with an Existing Local Conference or Seminar**

Propose organizing an AFCC-style interdisciplinary workshop at a conference sponsored by a local organization such as a bar association, collaborative group or mental health group. The workshop will enrich their program and provide an opportunity to mention AFCC at the session and recruit potential members.

## **8. Collaborate with Colleagues on an Article for the *AFCC eNEWS* or *Family Court Review***

The *AFCC eNEWS* is always interested in learning about new programs and local initiatives. Consider getting together with local colleagues to put together an article about what is going on in your region to share with AFCC members worldwide. *Family Court Review* publishes articles on research, policy issues, and practice and program development. Collaborating on an article for the *Review* can lead to other projects, conference presentations and more!

## **9. Launch an AFCC Mentorship Program**

Pair local established members with colleagues new to the field. Try partnering with graduate schools social work and psychology departments and law schools. This relationship can lead to numerous networking opportunities, invaluable lessons and professional relationships.

## **10. Hold a Mini-Conference**

Consult with local members and choose a topic that needs to be addressed. Hold a half-day or full-day conference. Begin with a group meeting, followed by afternoon workshops. Include an evening reception or happy hour to encourage networking and socializing. Invite a well-known leader in the field who is an AFCC member to speak on the topic.

## **11. Attend an AFCC Conference as a Group**

Traveling with a group makes the experience much more memorable and is a nice opportunity to get to know your colleagues better. Chapter members can go to dinner together, site see, and sit together at AFCC functions.

## **12. Each One-Bring One Dinner**

Organize a dinner to introduce a colleague to AFCC and vice versa. Each member brings a potential member. This is a great method of recruitment as well as a wonderful opportunity to socialize and make connections with those in the community you might not otherwise meet!

## **13. Start an AFCC Book Club**

Bring members together to discuss recently published books or articles from *Family Court Review*. Incorporate dinner or wine and cheese into the discussion.

## **14. Start a Local Newsletter**

Keep local members up-to-date on what is happening with AFCC and related organizations in your area, as well as nationally, by putting together a print or electronic newsletter. Involve members in writing and distribution.

## **15. Organize an Informal Community Referral Network of AFCC Members or a Local Resource Center for Divorcing Parents**

Compile resources and referral lists for distribution by the local courts and community agencies highlighting resources like AFCC pamphlets, educational videos, community services, pro bono or low bono services for mediation and legal services, crisis intervention programs, and law clinics to help families through separation and divorce.

## **16. Collaborate with Colleagues on an AFCC Conference Workshop Proposal**

Broaden the knowledge of fellow members by presenting on a local program or initiative recently instituted in your community at an AFCC International conference.

## **17. Virtual Lunch and Learns**

Use Skype or Google Hangout to connect with members on a topic, discuss an article, or hear a talk from the convenient comfort of your desk over lunch hour.

## **18. Form an AFCC Speakers' Bureau**

Develop and promote a list of AFCC members in your area who are available to speak on topics like mediation, domestic violence, child development, child support and innovations in family law. Share this list with related local groups.

## **19. Follow AFCC on Facebook and Twitter**

Use the power of social networking to make new contacts and stay in touch with colleagues. Like the AFCC page on Facebook by searching "Association of Family and Conciliation Courts" and click the "Like" button. You will to see the latest AFCC news and articles of interest in your Facebook newsfeed; comment and share to interact with colleagues and friends. Follow @AFCCTweets on Twitter and be sure to find the hashtags for AFCC conferences and events.

## **20. Schedule Programs Related to Commemorative Months**

Use a designated or observed commemorative month to hold a program related to that theme. Local news outlets may provide opportunities for promotion. Here are a few suggestions:

- January is National Mentoring Month (US). Your chapter could launch a mentorship program for young family law professionals.
- Valentine's Day is also the V-Day the Global Day to End Violence against Women. Host a speaker on a topic related to domestic violence.
- March is Social Work Month, a good time to collaborate with the social work department at a college or university.

## **21. Social Media**

Set up social media accounts for your chapter. Use your chapter's Facebook page or group to share events, articles of interest, photos from events, and to keep in touch with other members. Use Twitter to live tweet your events, share articles, and updates. Follow similar organizations and AFCC International and share/retweet posts. Encourage chapter members to connect with each other on LinkedIn and create a LinkedIn Group. Each network tends to reach different people.