

AFTA

AMERICAN FAMILY THERAPY ASSOCIATION, INC.

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June 15, 1978

Dear Family Therapist:

Your name was among those I submitted for Charter Membership in the American Family Therapy Association. The Board of Directors has been laboring over a year, each one paying his own expenses, to work out preliminary criteria for membership and training standards. There are numerous complex issues. We have made considerable progress in defining broad issues. Each member of the Board of Directors has submitted names of senior and well established therapists who are being offered Charter Membership.

The first large meeting of the Board of Directors and the Charter Members will be held in Chicago on April 20-21, 1979. There will be some professional presentations but the primary goal is to present the work of the Board of Directors to the Charter Membership for discussion and for whatever modification seems indicated. The various Committees propose to have completed their homework, to have formulated the By-laws, and to do an orderly presentation of their effort to find a way through the complex issues. Those of you who choose to become Charter Members will be invited to that meeting. Within a reasonable length of time after the Charter Membership meeting, we plan to open membership to those who wish to apply. By the Spring of 1980 we hope to begin annual meetings for the total membership.

The past year has been a laborious and expensive "labor of love" by the Board of Directors. Each has contributed \$400 toward legal fees and other essential expenses for establishing the association. Now Charter Members are asked to contribute \$100 to help establish a central office that can assume the task of functioning as the headquarters of a national organization. We anticipate an annual membership fee of \$50 when general membership is opened.

The future looks promising for the establishment of a sound national organization that gets beyond emotional bias and self interest groups and that can serve the common goals of all the various disciplines and professional viewpoints represented by family therapists.

Murray Bowen, M.D.