SFBTA Annual Members Meeting 2026 – Minutes

Date: Saturday, November 7, 2026

Time: 11:45 AM – 1:05 PM EST

1. Welcome & Acknowledgments

- **Opening Remarks:** Members were welcomed to the 2026 Annual Members Meeting.
- **Acknowledgments:**
    - Thanks were extended to the SFBTA membership for connecting throughout the year, getting involved, and sharing their expertise.
    - Special recognition was given to Michelle Lasky and Nate Guyton for planning the conference.
    - Gratitude was expressed to conference sponsors: the **University of North Florida** and **Sacred Rising Yoga and Healing**.
- **2026 Board Recognition:** The current Board of Directors was thanked for their service:
    - **Officers:** Vicky Essebag (President, Advisory Council, Member Communication), Nate Guyton (President-Elect, Conference Liaison, Research Committee), Cecile Dietrich (Secretary, Membership & Outreach Committee), and Tom Fraire (Treasurer & Finance Committee).
    - **Members-at-Large:** Toya Brown (Membership & Outreach), Dr. Katharine Davis (Archives), Tara Gretton (Member Communications), Dr. Mo Yee Lee (Research), Dr. Olivia Wedel (Professional Development), and Marsha Wichmann (Board Development).
- **Outgoing Board Recognition:** Special appreciation was given to **Marsha Wichmann**, who completed her full 3-year term on the Board of Directors as a Member-at-Large and Chair of the Board Development Committee.

2. Featured Charity

- The featured charity - Edwins - was recognized for its tuition-free, six-month program certified by the Ohio State Board of Career Colleges and Schools.

- The organization's mission is to teach skilled trades in the culinary and hospitality arts to returning citizens, providing wraparound support to empower students and prepare them for a positive transition home.
- Attendees were encouraged to donate.

3. President-Elect's Report (Nate Guyton)

- **Continuing Education (CE) Milestone:** For the first time in SFBTA history, NBCC-approved CEUs were offered at scale for the *Bridging Conversations 2026* conference, providing 19 CE hours across weekend sessions.
- **Co-Sponsorship:** SFBTA partnered with **Strong Blossom** as a CE co-sponsor to avoid high administrative costs. Strong Blossom has agreed to continue this partnership going forward to ensure sustainable, annual CE offerings.
- **2027 Presidential Vision:** Nate Guyton noted he will formally step into the role of President in 2027, focusing on three key areas:
    1. Making CEUs a consistent, year-round member benefit beyond the annual conference.
    2. Serving Solution-Focused practitioners globally through virtual participation and year-round engagement.
    3. Strengthening research, outreach, and member benefits by linking the Research Committee to everyday practice.

4. Annual Association Awards

- **2026 SFBTA Research Award (Presented by Dr. Mo Yee Lee):** Awarded to **Jeeyeon Hong, LCSW** (PhD candidate, University of Texas at Austin, School of Social Work) for the study: *Pilot Test of "Hope in Connection": A Solution-Focused Group Therapy in a High School Setting to Address Youth Mental Health Crisis*.
- **Steve de Shazer Award:** Recognizes significant contributions to Solution-Focused practice across therapeutic/organizational settings, research, and scholarship (selected by member nominations). *(Note: Winner name not listed in slide text).* **Mo Yee Lee** was recognized.
- **Insoo Kim Berg Award:** Recognizes outstanding contributions to Solution-Focused training, teaching, and supervision (2 winners selected by nominations). **Anne Bodmer Lutz** and **Olivia Wedel** were recognized.

5. Financial Report (Tom Fraire)

- The 2026 Financial Report was presented.

6. Committee Reports

- **Conference Committee:**
    - Thanked sponsors, volunteers, and planners, and celebrated the successful launch of CEUs.
    - **Financials:** Current projected conference cost is **$13,614.07** against **$20,000** in total generated conference revenue.
    - **Goal:** Generate sufficient profit to offer scholarships and additional attendee discounts in the future.
- **Member Communications Committee:**
    - Tara Gretton continues to develop the SFBTA newsletter alongside Vicky Essebag and Cyan Verzosa.
    - Vicky Essebag updates the SFBTA website
    - **Motion/Appreciation:** A formal motion was noted in the speaker notes to express appreciation on behalf of the SFBTA membership to Cyan Verzosa (IT) for creating the SFBTA and conference websites and generating/sending communications to our membership (newsletter, email, social media)
- **Research Committee:**
    - Facilitated the registration of SFBT as a **Promising Practice** at the Prevention Services Clearinghouse (as of March 2026).
    - Continues to act as a research clearinghouse, provide fidelity measures/ consultation, maintain and translate the SFBTA Treatment Manual, oversee Research Award guidelines, and coordinate conference research presentations.
- **Professional Development Committee:**
    - Thanked 2026 committee members (Dina Bednar, Carol Buchholz Holland, John Coumbe-Lilley, Harneet Kaur, Cecile Dietrich, Joel Simon, Olivia Wedel, and Michelle Lasky).

    - **2026 Highlights:** Hosted two Town Hall events—an April SF Master Class on *ReflAct* (with Dr. Astrid Dobmeier & Dr. Veronika Sweet) and a September *Bridging Conversations Panel* (moderated by Dr. Haesun Moon with Dr. Cynthia Franklin, Guy Shennan, Dr. Mark McKergow, Dr. Peter De Jong, Dr. Mo Yee Lee, and Dr. Anne Lutz).
    - **Upcoming Initiatives:** Planning affinity groups, monthly Zoom *Graduate Student Fireside Chats*, and continued Town Halls. Volunteers are needed (1–2 hours/month; contact Dr. Olivia Wedel at droliviaw@oliviawedelcounseling.com).
- **Membership & Outreach Committee:**
    - **Current Membership:** 244 members.
    - Compiled online materials by Insoo Kim Berg and Steve de Shazer for the website.
    - Conducted a membership survey indicating that accessible CEUs and clearer ties to the founders' methods drive recruitment.
    - Focusing recruitment efforts on graduate students and early-career clinicians, supported by grassroots outreach via the monthly newsletter.
- **Archives Committee:**
    - Received archival materials from Benjamin Evans at the University of Louisiana at Monroe and is reviewing them for online publication.
    - **Current Priority:** Producing an edited video oral history via Zoom interviews covering the founding of SFBTA and the Purdue meeting, targeted for completion by the **2027 25th Anniversary Conference**.
    - **Long-Term Goal:** Developing a larger-scale SFBT documentary.

7. Call for Volunteers & Website Contributions

- **Volunteering:** Members were encouraged to join committees (outreach, archives, professional learning) and assist in planning the 2027 25th Anniversary Conference by emailing board@sfbta.org.
- **Website Content:** Members were invited to submit publications, articles, resources, *News of the Difference* updates, and conference photos to board@sfbta.org.

8. Proposed Bylaw Amendments (2026)

Three bylaw amendments with vote in favour of the following:

1. **Article 5 – Committees (Renaming & Duties):** Rename "Outreach Committee" to **Membership and Outreach Committee** and add duties to welcome new members (welcome email, FAQ, resources), build membership, and track membership data/needs.
2. **Article 5 – Committees (New Committee):** Add **(i) Professional Learning Committee**, dedicated to designing and delivering inclusive professional learning opportunities for Solution-Focused learners ranging from novices to leaders.
3. **Article 4 – Board of Directors (#3. Board Terms):** Effective January 1, 2027, SFBTA Presidential terms will span three years: **President-Elect (1 year), President (1 year), and Past-President (1 year)**. Outgoing Presidents may opt to serve as Past-President, automatically extending their Board tenure by one year if their standard 3-year term has expired (optional for current President and President-Elect based on availability).

9. Board Elections (Member-at-Large)

- **Position:** 3-year term as Member-at-Large (minimum commitment of 4 hours/ month; must be an SFBTA member).
- **Online Nominees (submitted prior to October 31, 2026):**
    - Heather Floyd
    - Michelle Lasky
    - Jacqueline Moreno
- **Nominations from the Floor:** The floor was opened for additional self-nominations or peer nominations, with nominees invited to speak for 1–2 minutes regarding their background and interest in SFBTA.

10. Voting & Next Steps

- **Voting Procedure:** Members accessed the digital ballot via QR code to vote on the bylaw amendments and select one Member-at-Large candidate. Nate Guyton served as Voting Coordinator.
- Membership voted in favor of **Michelle Lasky** as new Member-at-Large

11. Closing & Conference 2027

- An announcement regarding **Conference 2027** (celebrating SFBTA's 25th anniversary) was featured on the agenda. Conference will take place in Milwaukee Wisconsin.
- The 2026 Board thanked members for their participation. The meeting adjourned at 1:05 PM EST, followed by a group photo.