



NARHA/EFMHA INTEGRATION FAQs

1. How will the integration of NARHA and EFMHA affect me?

Your association will be stronger as a result of the integration. The full integration presents a far broader and more inclusive network of professionals from which one will be able to draw wisdom, ideas and solutions.

2. What will happen to the EFMHA membership fee?

Effective January 1, 2011, there will no longer be an EFMHA section membership fee. All EFMHA and NARHA benefits will be available to all full members of the association.

3. As an EFMHA member why should I remain a NARHA member after the integration? What member benefits will I have once EFMHA and NARHA are fully integrated?

- NARHA is recognized the world over for the volunteer standards it has created for the EAAT industry. Funders, academics and practitioners in the field look to NARHA for its commitment to safety, ethics and professionalism. NARHA's standards encompass all equine-assisted activities regardless of discipline. NARHA standards do not prescribe the methods and approaches used by practitioners. There is a home within the association, no matter whether the EAAT approach is traditional therapeutic horsemanship or newer approaches targeted to leadership and team development or whether a program's participants are youth or seniors, whether the experience is offered mounted or unmounted.
- The integration of NARHA and EFMHA reflects the recognition that equine facilitated learning and equine facilitated mental health and wellness achievements take place in every situation in which humans and horses are partnered. This step forward is a commitment by the association to approach the equine-assisted activities and therapies environment in a manner in which the whole person is being served through partnering with the whole horse.
- All EFP/EFL members will receive all association benefits. Additionally all association members will benefit by the incorporation of EFP/EFL content into all association publications. All association members will have access to discounts on EFP/EFL presentations at national and regional conferences. In this manner, all association members have access to a comprehensive amount of information and educational opportunities to facilitate a whole person approach to EAAT.

4. What will happen to EFMHA representation within NARHA and how will EFP/EFL representation be addressed long-term?

- EFL and EFP representatives are now fully integrated within the current NARHA organization volunteer structure. (See volunteer organization chart on page 4.) If you have a question about EFP or EFL please contact the appropriate EFP/EFL committee or task force representative or a NARHA staff member who can direct you to the appropriate committee representative depending on your question. EFP/EFL representatives, working with committee chairs, will work on succession plans as terms are up to ensure continuing EFP/EFL representation.
- The NARHA Board of Trustees through its governance committee ensures an appropriate number of program EFP/EFL representatives are nominated each year along with nominees from other program disciplines (riding, driving, vaulting, hippotherapy) as well as individuals with other needed board skills (legal, fund development, accounting, etc.)
- Already EFP/EFL committee members are having an influence on the integrated work of the association. See page 3 in this document for a progress report on EFP/EFL impact.





5. What will happen to the EFMHA pre-conference and mental health conference topics?

EFP and EFL topics are integrated in to the 2010 conference session line-up. The “integrative programming” track offers a heavy emphasis on EFP and EFL. The abstract solicitation request will continue to include a call for EFP and EFL topics. Preconference EFP/EFL session ideas are always welcome as abstract submission takes place. Region conference chairs are, as always, encouraged to identify and include EFP/EFL session topics in region conferences.

6. How will NARHA change because of this integration?

- Over recent years, all NARHA staff members have supported EFMHA in its work in some capacity or another. As EFP/EFL activities are fully integrated into the association’s work, staff members will continue to support these activities within the association framework as opposed to working in parallel on EFP/EFL activities.
- The association, with the integration, has made a commitment to incorporate EFP/EFL thinking in to association-wide planning and decision making.

7. What’s going to happen to the EFMHA ListServ?

The existing EFMHA electronic message board will be managed by the EFP/EFL Membership Work Group. The work group is currently accepting ideas, thoughts or comments from members regarding the electronic message board and its transformation as we move through the stages of integration. Please email Leif Halberg at lhalberg1@hotmail.com with any questions or comments.

8. Is a new association name being researched to better reflect the integration of the services being provided by it members?

Yes, the research process is well underway and progressing. A work-group of marketing professionals has analyzed the data received from NARHA/EFMHA members through electronic and in-person discussions. The group used that data to build a survey which will be disseminated in the very near future to the all association members, a large number of medical professionals and mass consumers. Once the results are in, the new data set will be analyzed and reported back to the membership. Stay tuned!

9. How can I get more information about the integration?

If you are interested in hearing more about the integration or the future association plans as it relates to EFP/EFL please contact the appropriate EFP/EFL committee or task force representative or a NARHA staff member who can direct you to the appropriate committee representative depending on your question. In addition, feel free to contact the EFP/EFL representatives on the NARHA Board of Trustees

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2010 EFP/EFL Contributions on NARHA Committees

Certification Oversight and Programs and Standards Oversight Committees recommended Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Certification to NARHA Board of Trustees.

Programs and Standards Oversight Committee established a standards development task force to manage the process of the development of Equine Facilitated Learning Standards – from the discovery process, through the drafting stages to the final presentation for board approval and subsequent distribution to the NARHA membership as field test standards.



Equine Specialist Certification finalized Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Certification.

Equine Facilitated Standards Development Task Force established.

Health and Education Advisory incorporated an “integrative programming” track in the 2010 NARHA National Conference with particular emphasis on sessions that showcase the whole person being served through partnering with the whole horse.

Education Business Model Task Force evaluates incorporating basic horse mastership knowledge requiring an awareness of equine behavior and how the behavior might enhance participation in equine assisted activities and therapies.

Equine Welfare Task Force raises awareness of horse well being through abstracts submitted and approved for NARHA National Conference.

Equine Welfare Task Force is developing a proposal to make the task force a permanent standing committee in order that there is brighter spotlight on equines as partners throughout all association activities.

Equine Welfare Task Force appointed as standards development task force for two standards regarding the welfare of the horse. Both standards were recommended by Programs & Standards Oversight and approved for field test by the NARHA BOT.

Membership Oversight Committee evaluated and approved a proposal submitted by its EFP/EFL advisor to establish a work group to develop a multi-tiered action plan that supports the full integration of mental health, education and coaching professionals into NARHA membership.

EFP/EFL Membership Work Group established.