



## IACP Whole Group Membership Megan Yates

One of the important items that the CLI Board has been exploring and discussing this year is whether to require our members to also be members of the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals (IACP).

By being “whole group members” of IACP, many opportunities—both from an educational standpoint as well as a connection standpoint—will become available to CLI members. For those of you who are not yet members of IACP, you may be asking yourself “Yeah, like what?” and “But are those opportunities really worth the added cost?”



Before responding to those questions, let’s step back and think about the Collaborative Movement as a whole. As all “good” Collaborative Professionals know, Collaborative Law has its roots in Minnesota. Our state is looked to as a place of creativity, innovation, and leadership. I believe, the CLI Board believes, and we hope you will all agree as well, that as Minnesotan Collaborators (a term I just now made up—trademark pending) we have a unique opportunity, perhaps even responsibility, to support and encourage the continued growth of Collaborative Practice on the global level. While we continue to “do the work” here at home, it’s also important for the collective “us” to contribute to the larger Collaborative Movement so that Collaborative can thrive in communities around the globe and for years to come.

Ok, now that I covered the moral reasons to join and support the work of IACP, I’ll address the questions above.

- IACP has for many, many years, offered amazing, content-rich educational opportunities through its annual Forum in October and the IACP Institute each spring. These trainings are put on by Collaborative Professionals from around the world with particular expertise in various topics related to the work we all do, day in and day out. I personally have attended nine annual Forums and am always immensely impressed by the variety of content offerings—I have never left a Forum thinking, “Well, that was a waste of time and I learned nothing.” Learning from other Collaborative Professionals

opens my eyes and mind to other ways of practicing and helps me improve the way I show up for clients.

- Additionally, in recent years, IACP has stepped up its virtual game (haven't we all!?) and now offers a multitude of free and/or low-cost webinars, on a variety of topics not only relating directly to Collaborative Practice, but also how we can bring more of our genuine selves to our Collaborative work. All that from the comfort of your home or office!
- In addition to the educational and training elements, being a member of IACP offers great networking opportunities. I know, I know...I don't like "networking" either, but hear me out. As probably goes without saying, being a member of an organization with like-minded professionals from all over the world, one has an automatic resource to tap into when one needs a referral for a family member in California or a friend in Virginia or that girl you knew in college that you didn't really like but has reached out to you to see if you know anyone to help her in Rio. If the recent events of Covid-19 have taught us anything, it's the value of community.

***So, for those of you who are still wondering if the annual IACP Whole Group membership dues of \$145 (only \$12 per month!) is worth it, the answer is YES!***

If you're reading this newsletter, I am going to assume Collaborative Practice is important to you. And assuming that to be true, membership in, support of, and active participation in IACP should be important as well. Stay tuned for more information!

2020 CLI Board Member,  
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**Links for more information on IACP benefits and Membership:**

**Website:** <https://www.collaborativepractice.com/>

**Membership:** <https://www.collaborativepractice.com/join-iacp>