

## Q12 Your comments are welcome!

Answered: 23 Skipped: 49

#	Responses	Date
1	About Karen Pence in question 6 -- I chose the option that I am open to AATA forming an alliance, but I wanted to clarify. I am open to AATA starting a conversation and educating Karen on the complexities of the art therapy and mental health field. I don't *necessarily* support an alliance if it means we have to compromise on our goals by agreeing with anything anti-mental health or anti-human rights that the Trump/Pence administration has to say. She is associated with the Trump/Pence admin by default which I do not support whatsoever, but there is also (usually) a more bipartisan and friendly tone to the causes that First Ladies take on during their time in the White House, so I am open to seeing what she says and what her agenda is first before I jump to any conclusions.	3/11/2017 8:18 PM
2	Question 9: I believe many will continue to be upset with AATA for accepting Karen Pence, not all. I personally abhor the Trump administration and understand the outrage. However, art therapists have been waiting for someone higher up to acknowledge our profession. I would like to know where K. Pence stands on human rights, poverty, marginalized populations, special education and access to mental health care when many in the administration have proven they could care less. She needs to prove herself worthy of our profession.	3/11/2017 6:54 PM
3	The phrasing of question 6 and choice of answers to question 6, both, read as too b&w for a situation that is showing up with many shades of grey, cool and warm. My first thought is hear from Karen Pence, HER VISION, for ATTA membership to respond to, as a way of supporting Karen Pence, clarifying ethical responsibility and commitment that is integral to the AATA mission. In her role as Second Lady, it is equally important, that Karen Pence experience the art therapy process, as well as meet with art therapists, before AATA considers welcoming a potential alliance.	3/11/2017 2:21 PM
4	Thank-you for your work!	3/10/2017 5:28 PM
5	I wish it didn't the current political climate to forward some of these agendas, but I am thankful that there is an awareness and that we are moving forward with action!	3/8/2017 8:15 PM
6	I am already active in our local chapter.	3/8/2017 11:39 AM
7	Am already active and being a volunteer to the cause of art therapy in Southern Cal chapter. Thank you for sending this out and your collaboration NorCATA.	3/7/2017 8:31 PM
8	My guess is that if AATA does not form an alliance with Mrs. Pence, she will find others who use art as therapy but are not well trained in it. This would not be good. Most people don't understand the issue - they think all art is therapy.	3/6/2017 9:26 PM
9	I am already active in my local chapter.	3/6/2017 9:04 PM
10	Does question #3 refer to Trump administration officials? I wasn't clear. I think it is important to establish relationship with our state officials. #6 - I'm not neutral about an alliance, but I need to know more about Karen Pence and her agenda, as well as AATA's plans before deciding.	3/6/2017 8:30 PM

11	<p>#2 SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE ALL OVER THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM &amp; OUT OF YOUR ELEMENT. STAY WITH LEGISLATIVE ISSUES RELATED TO ART THERAPY LEST YOU LOSE YOUR LUSTER. MAINSTREAM ACCEPTANCE, JOB CREATION, RESEARCH ARE NOT LEGISLATIVE ISSUES BUT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROFESSION. TITLE PROTECTION AND A REIMBURSABLE LICENSE WILL TAKE CARE OF MOST OTHER ISSUES BY STRENGTHENING THE PROFESSION. I'M CONFUSED WHAT YOU SEE AS ART THERAPIST'S 'LEGISLATIVE GOALS' AFTER READING THE LIST IN #2, BUT GETTING LEGISLATORS' SUPPORT FOR GOOD LICENSING AND TITLE SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL. #4 WHO KNOWS YET WHAT TRUMP WILL OR CAN DO BESIDES CREATE CHAOS? DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN PREDICT HIS FUTURE ACTIONS? I CAN'T SO I'LL WAIT TO SEE HIS RESULTS KNOWING THAT INDIVIDUAL M.H. &amp; D.D. NEEDS WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A.T. SERVICES. #9 KAREN PENCE'S PERSONAL POLITICS CAN'T CONTAMINATE OUR PROFESSION. NEITHER CAN TALWAR AN HER 'ECHOES' OR MAXINE JUNGES RESIGNATION CONTAMINATE OUR MEMBERS. THEY'RE FREE TO EXPRESS THEIR BELIEFS IN WHATEVER WAY THEY WISH BUT IT DOES NOT REQUIRE EVERYONE ELSE TO FOLLOW SUIT. THEY ARE AFTER ALL A MINORITY. I AGREE WITH THEIR DEMAND FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY BUT IN WHAT WAY DO THEY PROPOSE TO ACHIEVE IT? PROTESTS RARELY WORK. ACTIONS AND REAL SOLUTIONS DO. I DON'T HAVE TO LIKE PENCE TO LIKE HER WISE SUPPORT OF ART THERAPY. NOW...IN RE A LICENSE, IT MUST TRULY LEGITIMIZE A.T. AS A VALID AND RESPECTED TREATMENT THAT INSURERS WILL REIMBURSE OR A WEAK LICENSE IS WORTH NOTHING. EVEN THOUGH INSURANCE COMPANIES PAY POORLY, FACILITIES WILL HIRE A.TS. WHOSE WORK WILL BE PAID BY INSURANCE &amp; GOVERNMENT (V.A. &amp; MEDICARE) . I'M DONE VENTING BUT I BELIEVE YOU NOW KNOW WHERE I STAND. THE SURVEY IS HARD TO COMPLETE BECAUSE IT'S TOO POLITICALLY WIDESPREAD. I'M AN EXPERT A.T. WITH STRONG SOCIAL &amp; POLITICAL BELIEFS BUT A LOUSY POLITICIAN! (I SUSPECT THE SAME IS TRUE FOR YOU, TOO).</p>	3/6/2017 8:27 PM
12	<p>Thank you for conducting this survey. I am appalled that AATA chose to ally themselves with this administration and would like them to retract and denounce! Thank you.</p>	3/6/2017 4:46 PM
13	<p>Quoting what I wrote to Ms Hines (AATA ethics chair) regarding AATA providing support and resources to further Second Lady Pence's efforts, as a queer immigrant member of NorCATA, I am sorry to say that I need to register my disgust in AATA courting the wife of a politician who is blatantly bigoted against the kinds of client populations who I proudly serve as an art psychotherapist. I didn't move to this country with intentions of setting up an art therapy practice only to discover that the governing body of my chosen profession is considering associating itself with politicians who are actively discriminatory. I am shocked that AATA would even begin to engage the idea of having Pence's endorsement for our profession when she is married to a person who encourages the kinds of prejudice in his politics that create and exacerbate mental health issues. Clearly this is contrary to our ethics and, frankly, humanity. It's worth noting that Ms Hines, nor AATA, responded to my email. In regards to NorCATA, so far I have been reassured by our polite online resistance to the bigotry of the new administration, but I would like to see NorCATA strike out more as pioneers in refuting and legislating against the horror that is the government. I would love to see, and be involved with, Californian art therapists of the north and south chapters leading by example, standing together against this historically prejudiced government, and perhaps encourage other nationwide chapters to also work together, and not necessarily with AATA. Not that I encourage division or splitting off from the governing body, but if they don't heed our professional concerns then what is the point of AATA?</p>	3/6/2017 2:59 PM
14	<p>looking forward to partaking in some political action, keep up the good work team!</p>	3/6/2017 2:28 PM
15	<p>What are Pence's views personally is what we may not know. If she can be neutral, some assist may be helpful. Can help out once I have more time!!!</p>	3/6/2017 12:54 PM
16	<p>Question 6: I feel like the answer for me is I need more information, I suppose neutrality is my choice, however, I am weary in regards to the political discourse. If neutral was not there, I would say I was not in support of the alliance (if only given those options). However I feel I need more information in regards to the stake Karen Pence is taking about Art Therapy. I am weary but open to hearing more. I worry that Art therapy is being picked as just a wishy washy issue to just pick something for Ms. Pence and possibly something that "looks nice and pretty". And I feel that is a criticism that the field of Art Therapy has battled against. I believe in the power and empowerment that Karen Pence could hold for our profession and I hope that it can be utilized to support ALL people. And I hope her voice can be heard. Dismissing her to say that she is her husbands values or discourse would be wrong on our part, however I would not want Art Therapy to be utilized in a corrupt manner. I honor this profession for it's ethical considerations, however I ask that the board of AATA takes into consideration the history of visual art and political discourses that laid before us. Art has played a double edge sword through history and just to be mindful of the power of images and how images are created and utilized with all people. Like I said, I am open but weary and cautious.</p>	3/6/2017 12:27 PM
17	<p>I am also an LMFT #38682, who has done TV and Media in supportive of mental health.</p>	3/6/2017 12:11 PM

18	Thank you SO much for creating this survey, encouraging discussion from your membership, and initiating this collaboration between SoCal and NorCal ATA, to present a united, active force in the promotion/survival of our beloved Art Therapy. Membership, like citizenship in a democracy, requires participation. I believe art therapy is at a critical juncture, and requires active participation as never before. I have found many of my colleagues to be, sadly, complacent and/or hopeless and/or nihilistic on these issues. I am one of very few I know of here in LA who value the idea of state licensure and title protection. This is largely due to my work over the years in the private drug rehab world, where I am faced with art therapy poseurs on a weekly basis, many of whom I believe put clients at risk. Many I've spoken with would rather merge with Expressive Arts Therapies and/or Marriage and Family Therapy. I know many who have discontinued their AATA memberships over this Pence issue. I certainly do cringe at the thought of a collaboration with anyone from the current US administration, and distrust Mrs. Pence's motives re: religious extremism and stigma/abuse (conversion therapy) towards the LGBTQ members of our society. However, I do believe that a collaboration is possible, which simultaneously explicitly acknowledges our needs and concerns as the national art therapy community.	3/6/2017 11:59 AM
19	I am somewhat aware of Karen Pence's interest/support of art therapy but have not informed myself enough at this time to really weigh in on it. While I recognize the importance of national exposure, what I know of the Administration's stance on health care, human rights, mental health, and treatment of minorities is very concerning and largely against how I stand in support of these issues.	3/6/2017 10:10 AM
20	Re: my neutral response on #6. I can see both sides of the Pence situation -- An alliance brings attention to (and potentially better funding for?) our underappreciated and misunderstood profession, AND I also don't see the broader Trump/Pence agenda (conversion therapy, anti LGBTQ, etc) aligning AT ALL with a positive, supportive mental health climate in our country, so the trajectory of this pairing could go horribly wrong.	3/6/2017 9:08 AM
21	Re: Pence Rather than be reactionary, I prefer to wait and see her agenda re art therapy. She may become an advocate for mental health services as well as art therapy if we have the opportunity to encourage her via her affinity for art therapy.	3/6/2017 8:48 AM
22	Our ethical code states that we should not discriminate. I believe that we as a profession are discriminating against Karen Pence if we say she is equivalent to her husband and reject her support for the field of art therapy. She is her own person.	3/6/2017 8:09 AM
23	I can donate some time but I have limited funds.	3/6/2017 6:15 AM