

## C O N T R I B U T O R O F N O T E

**W. Michael Munion  
M.A., L.P.C.**

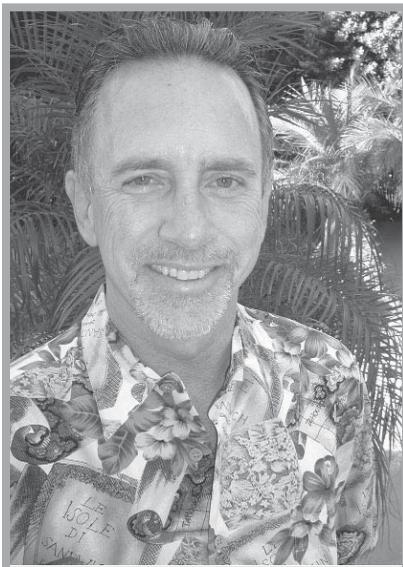
By Roxanna Erickson Klein R.N., Ph.D.

Michael Munion MA has been a steady contributor to Ericksonian movement for many years. His behind the scenes support give him a familiar presence though few are aware of the extent of his contributions.

Michael Munion dates his interest in Ericksonian approaches to the first Congress in 1980, where he was a volunteer. At that time, new to the field, he was looking to extend his clinical knowledge and skills. The first session he attended was led by Kay Thompson, DDS, who was well known for her exquisite creative use of language. During and subsequent to the Congress, Munion came to realize that he was already Ericksonian in his thinking although he had not really appreciated this orientation prior to his experiences at the Congress. He continued to volunteer for other Congresses, including the Evolution of Psychotherapy Congress in 1985. The Evolution Congress had a dramatic effect on the field of therapy, as well as on many who attended including Munion.

Following the Evolution Congress, Munion was stimulated to better understand the interfaces, differences and commonalities among widely known approaches to therapy. As a result of that inquiry, Munion and Jeffrey Zeig collaborated to edit the book, *What is Psychotherapy? Contemporary Perspectives* (Jossey Bass, 1990). The book looked at broad questions relevant to students of the field and brought together eighty one original commentaries from well-known practitioners. It offered an important summary guide to students who wish to have a clearer perspective of similarities and differences among psychotherapeutic approaches.

Zeig and Munion continued their collaboration with a second book, *Milton H. Erickson* (Sage, London, 1999). This book is part of a Sage publication series on key figures in counseling and psychotherapy. It is intended to give students a perspec-



tive on the unique contributions of Erickson, and how Ericksonian approaches fit with the larger field. The book has been translated into both Japanese and Polish. Royalties generated from both books are part of Munion's ongoing contributions to the Milton H. Erickson Foundation.

Munion has presented at a number of Congresses, and has been selected as faculty for the upcoming Tenth International Congress on Ericksonian Approaches to Hypnosis

and Psychotherapy this December in Phoenix. He is also a training affiliate of the Phoenix Institute for Ericksonian Therapy.

Munion maintains a private practice with offices in Gold Canyon and Mesa, Arizona. His focus on private practice allows him the flexibility to pursue more teaching, workshops, and professional writing. Munion describes his approach to individual, marital and family therapy as brief and solution focused treatment that utilizes many Ericksonian techniques including hypnotherapy. He maintains an interest in cognitive behavioral approaches; treatment of the adolescent; substance abuse; and domestic violence. Having spent 20 years as clinical director at Superstition Mountain Mental Health Center, a multi-faceted facility offering a growing and broad range mental health services to six communities, Munion has a solid background of expertise. He teaches at Ottawa University, and recently has given workshops dealing with methamphetamine issues as they relate to child abuse and neglect.

The ideology of change holds a

fascination for Munion, and ongoing inquiry into the process of generating healthy change has continued to guide his thinking. Munion's basic philosophy focuses on the importance of people becoming more health oriented. He aspires to sweep away the illusion of mind body divisions that interfere with people mobilizing their own internal resources to facilitate their health and well being. This is an extension of the principles by which hypnosis provides relief from pain. Intentionality is key in this process. Munion is committed to the perspective that individuals can take an active role in their own healing (both psychological and physical), and become more intentional in interactions of all kinds.

Michael Munion is a dedicated contributor who has helped carry forward the momentum of the Ericksonian approaches and the legacy of Milton Erickson. In his own quiet way, he sets a standard of contribution to the healing arts that is admirable and appreciated.

To learn more about his work go to [www.michaelmunion.com](http://www.michaelmunion.com)

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