



Southwest Region

Michigan Family Support Council

27th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Greetings from the Southwest Michigan Family Support Council! On behalf of myself and my fabulous board, I hope everyone has an enlightening and enjoyable conference at Boyne Highlands.

Southwest's annual conference was held Thursday, May 21, 2009, at the Kellogg Biological Station in Hickory Corners, Michigan. It was a wonderful day to be near Gull Lake and the beautiful gardens that surround the area. This year we had 75 attendees. We kicked off an informative and well received program with Judges Van Allsburg and Hulsing from Ottawa County presenting Legislative Updates. Both Judges were asked back to speak this year by popular demand and continue to present their respective topics to an entertained and receptive audience. Marilyn Stephen, Director of the Office of Child Support presented a session on "The State of Child Support In Michigan." Marilyn was followed by Pam Sala (our own MFSC President) with an educational session on Member Merge. After lunch, Wendy Gramza from Lexis Nexis gave a presentation on Accurant and Tammy Warner from the Office of Child Support presented a session on Parent Locate Service. We concluded the afternoon with Sherry VanBemmelen from Ottawa County presenting "Let The Good Times Roll" where some of us learned how flimsy a house of cards can be!!! There were prizes and a lot of smiling as we closed out the day.

Our site coordinator, Kori Rolison, did a fantastic job of making sure everything went smoothly and the food was awesome and plentiful. We were treated to a grill buffet, complete with soup and salad bar. The board worked very hard to make this an enjoyable and instructional day with a variety of topics, and judging by the overwhelmingly positive evaluations we received, it certainly was a successful day.

New this year was our Silent Auction where we raised money for the purpose of offering scholarships to those in our region who may not be able to attend future conferences due to budget cuts. Matt Schmid was the Silent Auction Chair and did an outstanding job obtaining items for bidding and getting everything in place. Jo Ann Madsen did an awesome job as co-chair.

I would like to thank my fabulous board for all the hard work they do throughout the year and the wonderful support I have received during my tenure as President. The board continues to amaze me with their dedication to the organization and the wonderful ideas they bring to each meeting. Thanks to Mollie, Kori, Sheila, Terri, Jeff R, Jennifer, Jeff K, Matt, Sherry, Nancy, and Jo Ann.

The Board of Director's for 2008/2009 are as follows: Monica Morris-Moats (President), Calhoun County PA, Jeff Radike (Vice-President/FOC representative to State Board), Ionia County FOC, Sheila Waldrop (Treasurer), Berrien County FOC, and Nancy Schultz (Secretary), St. Joseph County FOC. Jeff Koteles is our OCS representative to State Board and Jennifer Granzow (Kalamazoo County PA) is our PA representative. I was also pleased to welcome our newest member, Jo Ann Madsen, Kent County FOC.

Have a great time at Boyne!!

Sincerely,

Monica A. Morris-Moats
President, Southwest Region
Michigan Family Support Council