

SOUTHWEST
MICHIGAN FAMILY SUPPORT COUNCIL

28TH FALL CONFERENCE

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

Southwest's annual conference was held Thursday, May 20, 2010, 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 50 attendees. Back by popular demand, Judges Van Allsburg and Hulsing from Ottawa County presented Legislative Updates. As always they were engaging and well received. Marilyn Stephen, Director of the Office of Child Support presented a session on "The State of Child Support In Michigan." Marilyn was followed by Steve Morse of the Attorney General's Office with a session on Criminal Non Support. The board's own Sheila Waldrop (Berrien County FOC) gave a short blurb acquainting us with the Intergovernmental WIT. After lunch Bianca Lawson from OCS presented a brief session on Parent Locate, which was followed by Coessa Kenney from the Calhoun County PA with an informative session on UIFSA. We finished out the day with Leslie Kenney presenting stress relief tips from a physical therapist's point of view.

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 evaluations we received, it certainly was a successful day.

Our Silent Auction was very successful and quite cutthroat at times, however we raised a great deal of money for our scholarship fund as well as our chosen charity, CHEFF Therapeutic Riding Center. Matt Schmid as the Silent Auction Chair did an outstanding job obtaining items for bidding and getting everything in place. Jo Ann Madsen did an awesome job as co-chair. And a HUGE thank you to all who donated items from around the region.

I would like to thank the 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 2009/2010 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.

Have a great time at Boyne!!

Sincerely,

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