



Southwest Region

Michigan Family Support Council

29th ANNUAL 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 19, 2011, at the Fetzer Center on Western Michigan University's Campus. Although the weather was a bit dodgy throughout the day, the venue was beautiful and the food wonderful. This year we had 61 attendees. The day began with Legislative Updates presented by Ottawa County Judges Jon Van Allsburg and Kent Engle. Marilyn Stephen, Director of the Office of Child Support presented a session on "The State of Child Support In Michigan." Marilyn was followed by a session on Alternative Enforcement: Vehicle Immobilization and Demonstration presented by our own Matt Schmid and co-hosts from Ottawa County: Barb Cherry, Deputy Matt Van Liere and Josh Wise. This session garnered many favorable reviews and Ottawa County's "booting" program is being adopted by other counties throughout the state. After a delicious lunch we were treated to a presentation by Ellen Wood and Nancy Ruonavaara on MAHI and Bridges, followed by COOP/NON COOP as presented by Michael Grisinger and Judy Golden.

Our venue was amazing and we were treated very well by our hosts at Fetzer Center. The board worked very hard to make this an enjoyable and instructional day with a variety of topics, and judging by the positive evaluations we received, it certainly was a successful day.

Our Silent Auction enjoyed another successful year. Last fall it was my honor and pleasure to present a donation, along with Matt Schmid, to our chosen charity, CHEFF Therapeutic Riding Center in Augusta, Michigan. Matt Schmid as the Silent Auction Chair, along with Jo Ann Madsen, co-chair, did an outstanding job obtaining donations for bidding and organizing the presentation of biddable items. And a HUGE Thank You to all who donated items from around the region.

As always, 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 Directors for 2010/2011 are as follows: Monica Morris-Moats (President), Calhoun County PA, Jeff Radike (Vice-President/FOC representative to the 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 the 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