



Southwest Region

Michigan Family Support Council

30th 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 celebrating the MFSC's 30th Anniversary!

Southwest's annual conference was held Thursday, May 17, 2012, at the beautiful Camp Algonquin, Barry County YMCA. The weather was perfect and the view spectacular. This year we had 56 attendees. The day began with Legislative Updates presented by Ottawa County Judges Jon Van Allsburg and Kent Engle. SW's very own Sheila Waldrop was next up with a session on "Gray Areas of Income". Marilyn Stephen, Director of the Office of Child Support presented a session on "The State of Child Support In Michigan." After a delicious and fun "taco bar" lunch, we were treated to session(s) on Data Warehouse and Locate with Chuck Spring and Eric Hewitt. To wrap up the day we brought back a popular session from last year's conference, "Alternative Enforcement: Vehicle Immobilization and Demonstration" presented by our own Matt Schmid and co-horts from Ottawa County: Barb Cherry, Deputy Matt Van Liere and Josh Wise.

Our venue was amazing and we were treated very well by our hosts at Camp Algonquin. 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. Our chosen charity was a collaborative effort by Kori Rolison with Barry County DHS and other agencies to purchase backpacks and other needed supplies for children in Foster Care situations. Also included was a "pillow case" drive wherein volunteers created amazing and fun pillowcases to be given to children placed in emergency placement situations. 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 sometimes happens, SW had a board member of many years say her Farewell in the Fall. Mollie Radtke, a board member who served many terms as Allegan County's Representative bid us adieu to pursue her dream of a little more free time!! Mollie gave us the gift of her replacement, Brenda Knapp who jumped in with both feet by becoming our secretary this year! And Thank You to Mollie for your years of service!

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 Brenda, Kori, Sheila, Terri, Jeff R, Jennifer, Jeff K, Matt, Sherry, Nancy, and Jo Ann.

The Board of Director's for 2011/2012 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 Brenda Knapp (Secretary), Allegan County FOC. Jeff Koteles is our OCS representative to State Board and Jennifer Granzow (Kalamazoo County PA) is our PA representative. Here's hoping everyone has a wonderful time and enjoys the 30th Anniversary celebration the MFSC board has put together this year. Have a great time at Boyne!!

Sincerely,

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