



Northern Region

Michigan Family Support Council

26th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Northern Region in 2008 experienced another year of continued professional growth, offering what has become our annual training session in Traverse City. This year's session registrants numbered 27.

The Spring Conference was held on May 21, 2008 at the Waterfront Inn. The program started with a presentation by Mark Jasonowicz, Deputy Director of the Office of Child Support, leading a discussion on Central Office issues and a MiCSES update. Next on the agenda, was a session by Ed Nausieda titled Putting the "E" in E-learning, an examination of how E-learning impacts performance and how it is being designed to supplement our educational needs. Finally, our keynote speaker, Dr. William Donohue, noted Professor of Communication at Michigan State University and Court consultant for many years, provided a light-hearted yet very informative look at the increasing diversity in the Court system, specifically with regard to age, and what is needed to successfully team build across generational lines. The lunch, which was buffet-style featuring beef tenderloin tips and whitefish almandine, as usual was outstanding. This year's presentations were excellent and were very well received.

There has been a change to the Region Board this year. Ward Staffeld, new Friend of the Court in Newaygo County, has graciously accepted the role as F.O.C. rep. Amy Gilmore remains our O.C.S. rep. Unfortunately, our P.A. rep position still remains unfilled. Therefore, anyone with an interest and the ability to attend our State Board meetings the second Tuesday of each month from 10am until approximately noon is encouraged to contact me to discuss this matter further. Here's hoping this year's State conference is enjoyable as well as productive for you.

Respectfully,

Al Crocker
President, Northern Region
Michigan Family Support Council