



Southwest Region

Michigan Family Support Council

31st ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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

Our annual conference was held Thursday, May 16, 2013, at the Decatur VFW. The weather was perfect and the grounds were lovely for walking. This year we had 65 attendees. Our morning presentations began with Legislative Updates presented by Ottawa County Judges Jon Van Allsburg and Kent Engle. Next up was OCS Director Erin Frisch to give an overview on happenings in the Child Support arena. Deputy Matt Van Liere of Ottawa County Friend of Court/Sheriff gave a quick update on Ottawa's vehicle immobilization program. The lovely and engaging Kirsten Thompson wrapped up our morning sessions with a MiCase presentation. The ladies of the VFW provided a delicious home cooked luncheon complete with delicious pie(s) for dessert. Everything was enjoyable and well received. After our outstanding lunch, our own Jennifer Granzow of the Kalamazoo County Prosecutor's Office educated us on the Paternity Revocation Act and the resulting ramifications in our respective office(s). Due to illness, the gracious Patty Buskirk stepped in for us for a presentation on Non Cooperation and the fun that ensues!! Wrapping up the day was Sherry VanBemmelen who came out of retirement to give an uplifting and fun demonstration in the art of listening and working together.

As always we were treated very well by our hosts at the VFW. 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. For 2013, the Decatur Food Pantry was our chosen charity recipient. Thanks to attendee participation and generosity, we were able to make a large monetary donation as well as several food items donated by attendees. 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.

This year our own Kori Rolison has left us to take a job in zoning and planning in Barry County. We wish her well but will miss her much!!

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

The Board of Director's for 2012/2013 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 Kori Rolison (Secretary/PA representative to State Board), Barry County FOC, and Jeff Koteles is our OCS representative to State Board.

Have a great time at Boyne!!

Sincerely,

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