



# Southwest Region

## Michigan Family Support Council

### 35<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Welcome attendees to the 35th annual Fall Conference at beautiful Boyne Highlands!

Southwest's annual conference was held Thursday, May 18, 2017, at the Gilmore Car Museum in Hickory Corners, Michigan. Our venue was their beautiful conference center complete with over 300 vintage automobiles outside the meeting room, and in the surrounding buildings. In all we had 88 guests, inclusive of speakers. We commenced the program with Fred Colgren, Education Director at Gilmore, who gave an overview of all the programs Gilmore has for youth involvement. Next up was the ever popular Legislative Updates presented by Ottawa County Judges Jon Van Allsburg and Kent Engle. The Judges never fail to captivate the audience with their respective wealth of knowledge. Following the Judges was our lovely IV-D Director Erin Frisch with an update on the child support scene. Erin was vivacious as ever. Kirsten Thompson then presented on "The State of Child Support Training", which was both informative and interactively fun! Mr. Don Trail, Berrien County Enforcement Specialist, gave a brief summary of Berrien's tether program. This was well received and attendees expressed interest in a longer presentation in the future. We took a break for lunch which was a grill buffet. We had beautiful weather and attendees were able to enjoy a stroll among the grounds viewing several generations of cars while enjoying a hand-dipped ice cream treat from the Blue Moon Diner. After strolling through history, Kerry Page, Stephen Schwitzer, and Petra-Garcia Castillo from OCS presented "Bridges: Getting In-Sync! Assignment Update and Medical Recoupment". Closing out the day was Keegan Malone, PAL (Prosecuting Attorney Liaison) still wearing his OCS Departmental Specialist hat, with his informative Security and Confidentiality presentation. Keegan brought surprise guest, Liz Stomski from SCAO, to wow the crowd!! We had an awesome day with fabulous presentations and our evaluations were overwhelmingly positive. As always, we welcome ideas for future conferences to meet the needs of our members in the Southwest region and farther afield. Upon the conclusion of the conference, attendees were able to take a self-guided tour of the museum and I encountered many folks who took advantage of this opportunity.

Our Silent Auction recipient this year was the Gilmore Car Museum's Distracted Driving program. The museum works with local school districts to educate youth on the dangers of distracted driving. They have many wonderful programs for kids, and I encourage everyone to visit their website for more information. ([gilmorecarmuseum.org](http://gilmorecarmuseum.org)). Thanks to Matt Schmid, Kyle Wilke-Bedore and JoAnn Madsen, our Silent Auction committee, for their hard work and dedication in obtaining donations and organizing the auction itself. I can never express enough our gratitude to everyone who participated and donated to the Silent Auction.

This year the SW Board was cohesive and intact from the previous year. We continue our efforts to recruit representatives for our openings for Hillsdale and Muskegon Counties.

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 continually amazes me with their dedication to the organization and the wonderful ideas they bring to each meeting. Thanks to Sheila, Terri (who still participates from afar), Erin, Jennifer Granzow, Jeff, Matt, Sherry, Nancy, Donnella, Tami, Kyle, Jennifer Galloway, Lona and Jo Ann.

Southwest's Board of Directors for 2016/2017 are as follows: Monica Morris-Moats (President), Calhoun County PA; Jeff Koteles (Vice-President/OCS representative to State Board), OCS; Sheila Waldrop (Treasurer/FOC representative to State Board), Berrien County FOC; Nancy Schultz (Secretary), St. Joseph County FOC; and Jennifer Granzow (PA representative to State Board), Kalamazoo County PA.

My wish for everyone is to have a fun and informative conference!

Sincerely,

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