



Northern Region

Michigan Family Support Council

27th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Northern Region in 2009 experienced another year of continued professional growth, offering what has become our annual training session in Traverse City. This year's session registrants numbered a record setting 55.

The Spring Conference was held on May 20, 2009 at the Waterfront Inn. The program started with a presentation by Marilyn Stephen, 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 Michael Adrian titled Getting with the (IV-D) Program!!, which provided an overview of OCS's new and improved online manual approach to releasing policy. After that, Ed Nausieda and Nancy Ruonavaara conducted a session providing a comprehensive overview of the process for locating missing litigants. After lunch, which this year was an outstanding buffet featuring beef tenderloin tips and whitefish almandine, Bill Bartels presented on the topic Child Support Formula 2009, a discussion of the changes in the revised support formula from the elimination of abatements to the effect the poverty threshold has on calculations. Finally, Chris Bott, a local CPA, presented a session on Understanding Tax Returns, focusing on analyzing the out of the ordinary tax return, which included the self employed, schedule C, corporate returns, etc. This year's presentations were excellent and were very well received.

This year, the Northern Board remains the same, with Ward Staffeld, Friend of the Court in Newaygo County as F.O.C. rep. and Amy Gilmore continuing as 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