



Southwest Region

Michigan Family Support Council

33rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Welcome to beautiful Boyne Highlands! Enjoy the beauty that abounds in this Northern Michigan setting and take advantage of what promises to be an amazing conference.

Southwest's annual conference was held Thursday, May 14, 2015, at the Spring Lake Holiday Inn. The weather was cooperative and attendees were able to take advantage of the beautiful view of Lake Michigan afforded by the shores of Grand Haven. For the first time in my tenure as President, and a board member for that matter, we had an attendance of 91 people to feed and water. What a great turnout!! After a brief presentation/Thank You from our 2014 charity recipient, Katty Shack, we kicked off the day with Legislative Updates presented by Ottawa County Judges Jon Van Allsburg and Kent Engle. This was followed by our own lovely and talented Jennifer Granzow with Legislative Changes--Combining PA/FOC. Next up was OCS Director Erin Frisch to give an overview on happenings in the Child Support arena. Ms. Frisch was dazzling as always. For lunch we enjoyed Backyard Barbeque with outstanding brownies for dessert. Leading off our afternoon sessions was William Thistlethwaite from the St. Joseph County FOC presenting USO changes, Deviation and Emancipation. Next up was the always enjoyable Kim Lubbers, with her co-presenter Dustin Wright, to talk to us about MiChildSupport. Rounding out the day was Sean Bodell from OCS rocking the crowd with his presentation on COOP/NON COOP and Administrative Hearings. As always, our speakers were engaging and enlightening.

We were truly blessed to have an over-abundance of ideas to present at the conference and it was tough narrowing it down! We received very positive evaluations and will strive to continue to meet the needs of our members in the South West region and beyond!

Our Silent Auction enjoyed another successful year. For 2015, our chosen charity recipients were the Katty Shack/Domestic Violence Coalition, and Grand Haven Foster Care Pantry. Thanks to attendee participation and generosity, we were able to make two monetary donations this year. Matt Schmid as the Silent Auction Chair, along with Kyle Wilke-Bedore, our newest board member, once again 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 the SW Board was cohesive and intact from the previous year. As mentioned, we welcomed aboard Kyle Wilke-Bedore from Ottawa County FOC! Kyle has contributed in truly amazing ways to the success of our Board and is a fabulous addition.

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 Sheila, Terri (who still participates from afar), Erin, Jennifer, Jeff K, Matt, Sherry, Nancy, Donnella, Tami, Kyle and Jo Ann.

The Board of Director's for 2014/2015 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, and Nancy Schultz (Secretary), St. Joseph County FOC, and Jennifer Granzow (PA representative to State Board), Kalamazoo County PA.

Have a great time at Boyne!!

Sincerely,

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