



Southwest Region

Michigan Family Support Council

36th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Welcome everyone to the 36th annual Michigan Family Support Council's Fall Conference at Boyne Mountain Resort!

Southwest's annual conference was held Thursday, May 17, 2018, at the Gilmore Car Museum in Hickory Corners, Michigan. Our venue was their beautiful conference center featuring vintage automobiles. This year's featured exhibit was the A.J. Foyt collection. In all, we had 98 guests, inclusive of speakers. We began our morning program with the ever popular Legislative Updates presented by Ottawa County Judges Jon Van Allsburg and Kent Engle. As always, the Judges shared timely information in an interesting and informative manner. Following the Judges was IV-D Director Erin Frisch with an update on the child support scene. The child support arena is facing some big changes and requirements throughout the partnership and Erin touched on many aspects of our future in the program. Next up was Amy Rebideaux who donned a different hat in the child support partnership last year when she became the Staff Attorney for Muskegon County Friend of the Court. Amy gave a presentation on Case Clean Up and Performance Measures. This provided a perspective of what some offices are doing to get the "clutter" out of the system. We broke 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 frozen custard from the Blue Moon Diner. Starting out our afternoon sessions, Jennifer Granzow did a quick, but thorough, presentation on Contract Performance Standards. This was informative and timely given that all partners are looking at new challenges and requirements. Coessa Kenney and Reyna Masko presented on the new Intergovernmental forms which are causing some confusion and frustration as evidenced by numerous email exchanges on our partner forum website. Closing out the day was Don Trail with his presentation on Berrien County's Tether Program. Don graciously agreed to come back this year and give an extended presentation due to popular demand from our previous conference. 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). 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 able to snag a representative from Barry County in the form of Rebecca Hawkins. Rebecca has been a welcome addition to our board and we are glad to have her. We continue our efforts to recruit representatives for our openings for Hillsdale and Muskegon Counties (I'm looking at you Amy Rebideaux).

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, Erin, Jennifer Granzow, Jeff, Matt, Sherry, Nancy, Donnell, Tami, Kyle, Jennifer Galloway, Rebecca, and Jo Ann.

Southwest's Board of Directors for 2017/2018 are as follows: Monica Morris-Moats (President), Calhoun County PA; Jeff Koteles (Vice-President/OCS representative to State Board), OCS; Sheila Waldrop (Treasurer), OCS; Nancy Schultz (Secretary), St. Joseph County FOC; Matt Schmid (FOC representative to State Board), Ottawa County FOC; and Tami Hewitt (PA representative to State Board), Ionia County PA.

My wish for everyone is to check out our new, exciting venue and experience what the Mountain has to offer. Have a fun and informative conference!

Sincerely,

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