



Southwest Region

Michigan Family Support Council

26th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Greetings from the Southwest Michigan Family Support Council! On behalf of myself and my fabulous board, I hope everyone has an enlightening and enjoyable conference at Boyne Highlands.

Southwest's annual conference was held Thursday, May 15, 2008, at the VFW 6248 in Decatur Michigan. It was a beautiful day and we had 66 attendees! We kicked off an informative and well received program with Judges Van Allsburg and Hulsing from Ottawa County presenting Legislative Updates. Both Judges were asked back to speak this year by popular demand. Marilyn Stephen, Director of the Office of Child Support presented a session on "What Is Happening In The World Of Child Support." Marilyn also very kindly stepped in and presented a session on the Deficit Reduction Act. After lunch, LynnAnn Bullard from Van Buren County Friend of the Court presented information regarding the 2008 FOCA proposed legislation. We closed our conference with Craig Tornquist and his amazing presentation of "Laughter Is The Shortest Distance Between Two People". He was very entertaining and engaged everyone with his positive and family oriented humor.

As usual our site coordinator, Sherry DeLoach, did a fantastic job of making sure everything went smoothly and the food was awesome (especially the Presidentially requested Chocolate Cream Pie). The board worked very hard to make this an enjoyable and informative day and it certainly was both.

I would like to thank my fabulous board for all the hard work they do throughout the year and the wonderful support I have received during my tenure as President, inclusive of learning to "let go" and delegate. It's rough being a Type-A and for those who have to deal with us. Thanks to Mollie, Kori, Sheila, Terri, Jeff R, Jennifer, Jeff K, Matt, Sherry and Nancy. Thanks also to John Carpenter and Barb Armitage who continue to attend meetings as they can and offer valuable experience and guidance. Both have retired from the Child Support field but continue to stay involved as time allows.

The Board of Director's for 2007/2008 is 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 Terri McCraner (Secretary), Cass County PA. Jeff Koteles is our OCS representative to State Board and Jennifer Granzow (Kalamazoo County PA) is our PA representative.

I was also pleased to welcome our two newest members, Kori Rolison, Barry County PA, and Nancy Schultz, St. Joseph County FOC. Both members hit the ground running and were a great help in planning the conference.

Have a great time at Boyne!!

Sincerely,

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