



NEWSLETTER

Immediate Past President - Tracy Wohlgemuth

Happy 2018 from the 8th Circuit!

Here we are, in the middle of winter, or the beginning of spring, nope, back in winter in our 41st year of MCSEA, and I, in my new role, as Immediate Past President. I write in the hopes that each and everyone reading this had a safe and renewing holiday season.

I had a small accident at work right before Christmas, and found myself laid up for a few days. What does one do when one is not working, and cannot simply walk around to do the usual tasks around the home? Well, in addition to spending far too much time with Facebook and Netflix, I reflected over the events of the last year. While my year was full of “big” events with family and friends, our MCSEA conference ranked as one of the biggest.

I am so proud of my 2017 board of regional directors for bringing together such an amazing event. Not only did we recognize 40 years of pursuing excellence, and raise \$1800 for our charity, we partnered with the Focus on Fatherhood Network to bring another level of training and insight. We welcome them back this year, and expect an even larger turnout. We are well on our way to being a Central States training conference! I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of such an event.

On a personal level, I have to say I had enjoyed every minute. I managed to face my fear of public speaking, and learned so much. While I don't think we had any bad sessions, I admit my favorite experience was in the Active Shooter session, because my assistant prosecutor and I sat together. He and I had a personal competition during the quiz. Yes, I won. He is not allowed to forget it, either.

Looking forward as MCSEA enters (gulp) middle age, I hope to see an era of growth and exploration. We say “goodbye” to Stoney Creek and “hello” to our new temporary home at The Oasis, in Springfield. The Focus on Fatherhood Network will be joining us again for their only conference in Missouri this year. We are working to expand our offerings for Circuit Clerks and Guardian Ad Litem.

Stay tuned for information regarding Town Halls in your area. We are planning more informative and accessible sessions for our one-day meetings. If you have a topic that you would like to see covered at Town Hall or Conference, contact me or your region director. We'd love to hear from you!

President - Donna Jo Prather-Rhoads

I sometimes struggle to get things started. I am by nature a procrastinator, a Libra...just saying. Every time I feel it happening, I begin an internal dialogue about why I need to just sit down and do it, to start writing or reviewing or baking or whatever “It” is. This leads me to reminding myself why it is smart to work ahead, why putting things off generally results in unnecessary stress and how it might make achieving a goal less likely. This thought process transports me back to my college days, to times when my procrastination nearly caused me to be late turning in a project and I experience again that pang of fear associated to those near misses.

I comfort myself with thoughts like, “but you work better under pressure, you are much more creative with a deadline breathing down your neck”still, I am pretty sure all that angst isn't good for a person, not to

mention the loss of sleep that usually results. What I can say for sure is this, while I still suffer from the negative aspects of my birth sign, I have made improvements, I have, insert my mother's voice "grown up" I have, insert Dr. Phil's voice "developed coping skills to offset my true nature", a nature which insists that I think over everything, **A LOT**, to internally debate the merits of making one particular choice over another and what the results of those choices might be. When I am done debating though, I know where I am headed, secure that I have considered each "what if" and I have, shall we say, *charted my course*.....apparently I just need to think faster!

It is foolish to think we can plan for everything but there are merits to giving considerable thought to where you want to end up. To avoid making plans means letting the waves of life toss you about, to ending up wherever the tide takes you, or to the possibility of running aground. As members of the MCSEA board we think about where the organization needs to end up, about how to avoid the rocky outcroppings that can leave even an experienced sailor stranded, and we try to *chart a course* that leads to success for our organization. By investing in our membership, by being fiscally sound, by always facing starboard, and by being prepared to "batten down the hatches" should the need arise, we are ensuring that MCSEA has the ability to set sail each year for new destinations. Won't you join us for this year's journey? We would love to have you as part of the Crew! Just in case you haven't already guessed this year's conference theme, let me introduce....."MCSEA.....Charting New Courses". We plan to set sail Nov 6th for a week of training and team building so be sure to join MCSEA and make plans to be there!

We have lots of exciting things coming, please stay tuned for announcements. The Town Hall schedule and speaker list will be out in April. Conference speakers and events will be added to the website so be sure to check www.mcseonline.org regularly! Watch your email for regular newsletters, they will be loaded with new features and we hope you find them informative as well as entertaining!

As you can tell, there has been no procrastination this year, the wind is at our back, pushing us to new adventure~

Vice President – Sylvia Harper

Serving Missouri's Children

In 2017, MCSEA raised \$1800 to support "Care to Learn", a charity headquartered in Springfield, MO. If you are not familiar with one of their 32 chapters around Missouri, the Mission of Care to Learn is to provide immediate funding to meet emergent needs in the areas of health, hunger and hygiene so every student can be successful in school.

Thank you to all the donors and sponsors. During our October 24th - 27th, 2017 Professional Training Conference, we held two days of charity raffles. They were well supported by conference attendees who won great prizes, baskets and tickets that week.

Linda Carey, Region III Director, organized a number of MCSEA members, friends and family volunteers to work at Six Flags St. Louis in 2017. This added additional funds to the money raised during conference. Thank you to those people and we look forward to doing this again in 2018.

We are now pleased to announce our charity for 2018. Coyote Hill Christian Children's Home, Harrisburg, MO., is "A safe place to be a child". Coyote Hill provides a professional but traditional home environment for hard to place children due to health or behavioral issues, abused and neglected kids, and for siblings where one or more cannot be placed together in a traditional foster care situation. MCSEA has always recognized the needs of foster

care children. This charity is a good fit with our mission. Coyote Hill is a 501c3 organization. Please visit their website at <https://coyotehill.org/>.

Watch for more information on our efforts on behalf of Coyote Hill during 2018. We will work with them to get information out to you if they have a special request. There will be opportunities to volunteer work at Six Flags again in 2018. And, your Region Directors will accept donations for this year's Development Conference raffles at any time during the year. No item is too large or too small. We hold multi-day raffles of larger items and we include smaller items in coordinated gift baskets for raffle.

Contact your Region Director with questions or suggestions, or contact me direct at harper1957@gmail.com. We are looking forward to another great year.

Treasurer - Donald Stream

Over past four years, we've made significant progress financially. Our account looks better than it has in a while. Membership has grown, registration has increased and we're doing our best to watch every penny. We're thankful for the additional vendors and money we received from the State for training. As your treasurer, my goal is to help the board make responsible financial decisions. We do our best to be good stewards of MCSEA's money. Thank you for your dedication.

President Elect - Kerensa Morrow-Kempf

Knowledge is having the right answer. Intelligence is asking the right question. During my service on the board of MCSEA, I quickly realized that our speakers and attendees have a tremendous amount of both knowledge and intelligence. Together we challenge each other. At the end of each conference, we are all a bit more perspicacious.

In searching for a conference theme, several concepts resonated: charting new courses, conquering a path of continued enrichment, quench your thirst for knowledge, 41 and still having fun! Forty years of seeking wisdom... and we make it fun. This year is no different. In fact, I had so much fun during my MCSEA Presidency; I decided to do it all over again. As President Elect in 2018, it's my duty to find speakers and sessions to "quench your thirst for knowledge."

I'm in the process of reaching out to some of your favorite speakers and discover new ones. If you or someone you know has a topic they would love to share with attendees, please contact me via email, Kerensa.M.Morrow-Kempf@dss.mo.gov.

While we don't have confirmation on speakers yet, I thought I'd provide a sample of tentative sessions:

- Fatherhood Forum plans to join us again with interesting speakers and topics.
- Child support training unit will offer a variety of subjects.
- Active Shooter is back by popular demand.
- Requests for a repeat of Re-Entry Simulation were received.
- Domestic violence and/or poverty simulation.
- Management Training Rule Credit (MTRC)
- Continuing Legal Education (CLE)
- Past President, Dan Pingelton always provides a lively IV-D Case Law Update.

- Circuit Clerks sessions – confidentiality clarification what can/cannot be released
- Sovereign Citizen
- The Changing Family Structure and Its Impact on Child Support
- Visitation and Custody Issues.

Each year we invite speakers and attendees from our surrounding states. (*Missouri* loves company.) When other states participate, we build valuable relationships, gain insight and prove that Missouri is the “Show Me” state.

Town Hall meeting plans are almost complete. They will take place in May and June of this year. Check our website www.mcseaonline.org anytime for updates or contact a board member. The board works harder each year to make the MCSEA training conference paramount. If you love MCSEA, like MCSEA or this is the first you’ve heard of MCSEA, I hope you come to a town hall meeting in your area and then make plans to attend conference in November. I look forward to meeting new members and visiting with friends I’ve met over the years.

Secretary - Dori Moore

Life is full of challenges. From the time we come into this world until the time we leave. The challenges we face throughout our lives, make us who we are today. How we deal with those adversities is what gives us the ability to cope with reality or let reality bite us, and sometimes it’s a little of both!

We try and control everything we do, yet we find obstacles along the way where we must explore other options and seek a solution to what we want by obtaining a significant goal. As I look back on the sunshine and the rain in my life, I find there are many opportunities that have come my way to bring me to where I am today.

MCSEA has been a place of opportunity. A place to gain knowledge and grow in my job functions. A place of meeting people and gaining friendships to last a lifetime. Missouri Child Support Enforcement Association left me with a thirst for wanting more and to be part of the crew that was setting out into an oasis of fun and dedication to an organization that really cares about what they do. I so wanted to set sail; conquering a path of continued enrichment.

I became a part of MCSEA first as a member then as a Region Director. Being a shipmate wherever the board needed me and seeing the tide come in and go out. Taking the good with the bad and growing our organization to be better. Now the time has come for me to ride a new wave and move forward to a new platform. As **Secretary of MCSEA** it is my goal to keep our organization on track and moving forward by keeping true and accurate minutes of all meetings, create and disperse our newsletter. To be the best first mate I can be to make our organization succeed.

I look forward to seeing the many faces I have met through the years and meeting new faces and welcoming you to MCSEA. Lots of action is underway in preparing for the 2018 year. Stay tuned. ~