

# Missouri Child Support Education Association Newsletter

OCTOBER - DECEMBER



2025



## MCSEA 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

Thank you to all that attended the Missouri Child Support Education Association's 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference this year! Conference is an amazing opportunity to expand your knowledge in child support, learn about new ways we can serve Missourians, and meet new people.

This year, we had over 250 attendees which included (approximatley and pre-registered numbers): 31 Circuit Clerk/OSCA staff, 59 Prosecuting Attorney staff, 99 Family Support Division staff, 4 Division of Legal Service staff, various vendors, and other miscellaneous staff that didn't pre-register, but signed up to attend in person.

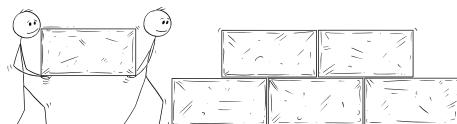
This year's conference had a wide variety of speakers, some of which were great for our Prosecuting Attorney staff and Circuit Clerks to earn Continuing Legal Education Credits (CLE) and training. This year, we were able to give out 19.8 CLE credits.

Please consider joining us next year, and spread the word!

49<sup>th</sup> Annual Missouri Child Support Education Association Conference 2026

Stoney Creek Hotel, 2601 S Providence Rd, Columbia, MO. 65203  
October 20-23, 2026

"Building the Future Together"



In this newsletter  
you can expect:

2025 Conference  
Conclusion

2026 Conference  
Details

2025 Charity  
Donation

2026 Golf  
Tournament

Updates

And More!

## Child Support Training Unit

A special thank-you also goes to the Child Support Training Unit for their creativity, dedication, and the generous gift of their time in preparing and presenting at MCSEA. Their efforts continue to enrich the conference experience and strengthen the knowledge and skills of Missouri's Child Support professionals. Together, these partnerships make the MCSEA Conference a success year after year, fostering learning, connection, and excellence in service to Missouri families.



### Learning Time



## Welcoming Our New DSS/FSD Directors – Jess Bax and Mandi Adams!

The Missouri Child Support Education Association (MCSEA) was proud to welcome Department Director Jess Bax to her first MCSEA Conference. ....MCSEA was also proud to welcome another first-time attendee, the brand-new Director of the Family Support Division, Mandi Adams! It was an honor to have them join this year's event, and we hope she will return to be part of future conferences. MCSEA extends sincere appreciation to the Department of Social Services and Family Support Division for its ongoing support. The Department's financial contributions make it possible for Child Support staff to attend the conference each year, ensuring continued professional growth and collaboration across the state. In addition, the approval of administrative leave with pay for Family Support Division (FSD) attendees highlights the Department's strong commitment to both the professional and personal development of its staff.

## Welcoming Our New Deputy Director - Carrie Broniec!

I am honored to introduce myself as the new Deputy Director of Child Support for the Family Support Division—though for many of you, I am a familiar face. I began my career 34 years ago as a technician in the Columbia office, and over the years I've had the privilege of serving in a variety of roles that have shaped both my professional journey and my deep respect for the work we do.

After seven years as a supervisor, I moved into the role of Contract Manager for the Intake Center. In 2015 I was promoted to Assistant Deputy Director for Field Operations, a position I was proud to hold until my promotion to Deputy Director this past August. Each role has given me a broader perspective and a continued appreciation for the dedication and expertise of CS staff across the state.

MCSEA is near and dear to my heart. I have been fortunate to serve the association as a Region Director, Vice President, and President, and I truly believe in what this organization stands for. The training, professional development and networking opportunities MCSEA provides are invaluable.

As we close out the year, I want to wish each of you a safe and wonderful holiday season. Merry Christmas to everyone, and may you have a blessed and joyful New Year.

JESS BAX



MANDI ADAMS



CARRIE BRONIEC



## New Legacy Scholarship Award in Dedication of Michael Shortridge

MCSEA past president, Dan Pingleton, chose to honor the legacy of Michael Leigh Shortridge, a lifelong supporter of MCSEA and the child support program, by sponsoring a new annual scholarship in his name. Michael "Mike" Shortridge was an attorney who served for a number of years as Child Support's General Counsel and spent his time fighting for the wellbeing of the program and the citizens of Missouri who counted on our Division to deliver those services. Mike was a brilliant legal mind, a fierce litigator, and an even better friend. A mentor to many, Mike encouraged, supported, and promoted many employees by investing in them both professionally and personally; there are several of us who have Mike to thank for our perspective if not our careers. Mike's wife, Elaine Shortridge, was on hand for the celebration; she is also a retiree from the Child Support Program having served in many roles over the years, but most notably as the Office Manager of the CS Interstate Unit. The couple's love story began at an MCSEA conference, you see, you just never know what is going to happen at an MCSEA Conference, it could change the course of your whole life!

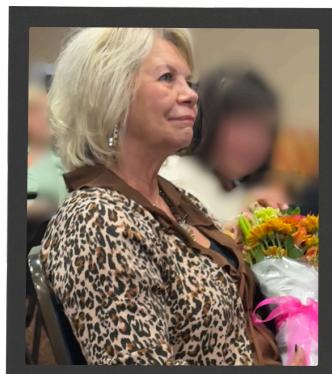
### *The Award description reads:*

The Michael Shortridge Legacy Award honors the memory of Michael Shortridge, a man known for his integrity, sharp wit, and unwavering commitment to doing the right thing through the law. Mike was never pretentious—he approached his work and his colleagues with humility, humor, and a deep sense of purpose. His legacy continues to inspire those who share his dedication to justice, fairness, and service. The recipient of the Michael Shortridge Legacy Scholarship will receive a full ride to the following year's Conference which includes registration and hotel accommodations and is given to award and honor someone doing work in the legal field and who embodies the qualities for which Mr. Shortridge was known. The first winner of the new Michael Shortridge Legacy Award was Karen Haley of the Union PA Project.

### *Said of Ms. Haley in her nomination:*

This year's recipient embodies the very qualities that made Mike so respected and admired. In her work ethic, her approach to child support work, and her personality, she reminds us of Mike's enduring influence. She demonstrates the same steadfast commitment to doing what is right, guided by both compassion and the law. Her professionalism, integrity, and quick wit reflect the spirit that Mike brought to every challenge and every conversation. She may not be an attorney, but she was chosen as the winner of the first Michael Shortridge Legacy Award For her dedication to her work and her colleagues which exemplifies the values that the was created to celebrate. Through her actions and attitude, she carries forward Mike's legacy—proving that integrity, humility, and a good sense of humor remain the foundation of meaningful public service.

Congratulations Karen!



## 2026 Board Members

### Board of Directors for 2026 -

President - Nikki Hartley

President Elect - Grant Kelly

Vice President - Donna Jo Prather-Rhoads

Secretary - Kyla Iler

Treasurer - Kerensa Morrow-Kempf

Immediate Past President - Danielle Earls

Region I Director - Katie Lanfersieck

Region II Director - Tammy Whitney

Region III Director - Tammy Wamble

Region IV Director - Monica Wilson

Region V Director - Daryk Gunderson

Region VI Director - Whitney Rogers

Region VII Director - Ashley Flood

Region VIII Director - Vacant

Region IX Director - Sonya Maddox

Region X Director - Michelle Rivera

Region XI Director - Taylor Kratz

Region XII Director - Suzann Lindley

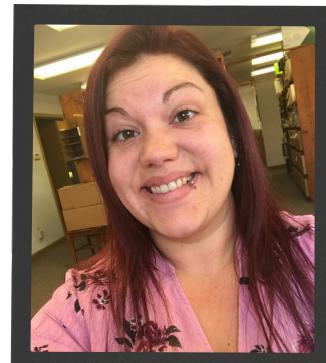
## A Message from the President

What a whirlwind! This year's conference was such that I'm still reeling! 😊

You all brought with you such passion for the work you do, the connections and sparks flying around the rooms was so contagious!

With every year that comes and goes, we learn more of what we can do again and what we can do better. Thank you for your feedback!

Our only purpose is to serve our community, you. Thank you for the blessing to serve you again and again!



## Helpful Information

### What is MCSEA?

The Missouri Child Support Education Association (MCSEA) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that promotes the advancement and education of its members and others involved in the administration of child support programs and the delivery of their services.

### How Can I Become a Member?

To be a member you must be:

- A current or retired employee of the Family Support Division Child Support;
- A current or retired employee of a contract partner of Child Support; or
- A current or retired employee of a circuit clerk office doing the work of child support.

Visit the MCSEA website (listed at the bottom of the page), go to the Membership tab, and sign up for a one year membership for \$10.

### Consider Attending Townhall in your Area

MCSEA Townhalls are a one-day event where you can meet your regional members and listen to speakers talk about child support related topics. There is an opportunity to buy raffle tickets and MCSEA apparel. Anyone who is a current MCSEA member or joins MCSEA the day they are attending their local townhall will be entered to win an all-inclusive MCSEA Conference registration!

## 2025 Charity - Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation

The Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation is a nonprofit, charitable organization that helps meet financial needs placed on natural resource conservation and conservation-related outdoor recreation. Since our founding in 1997, we have allocated over \$27 million for conservation funding statewide, plus \$13.3 million to the Johnny Morris Institute of Fisheries, Wetlands and Aquatic Systems.



### Nathan's Catch



#### Help Families Fish with Nathan's Catch

Nathan's passion was fishing. He loved spending time outdoors with his family and friends. After Nathan was killed in an automobile accident in 2016 at the age of 18, Nathan's parents turned tragedy into joy. Through the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation (MCHF), they set up Nathan's Catch, a fund honoring and memorializing Nathan to help families connect with nature. Over the years, Nathan's Catch has given away more than 600 fishing poles at the Get MO Wild Event each fall. Nathan's Catch hopes to give away more fishing poles and tackle boxes to children this year and needs your help.

In addition to this year's charity raffle to benefit MCHS, MCSEA wants to highlight Nathan's Catch, a program sponsored by MCHE. Visit the MCSEA Fishing Pond at Stoney Creek and drop off Fishing Poles, tackle boxes, and tackle supplies to directly benefit Nathan's Catch! Enable more Missouri children and teens to enjoy the benefits of fishing by providing them with the supplies they need to become great fisher boys and girls!

## Our Contribution

With your help, MCSEA was able to donate \$4,000 to the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation, and LOTS of fishing supplies such as tackle boxes, fishing poles, and more! Thank you for your help!



## 2026 Golf Tournament

MCSEA is driving for success with our 2nd Annual Golf Tournament at Eagle Knoll Golf Course!

### Location

Eagle Knoll Golf Course 5757 E. Eagle knoll Dr.  
Hartsburg, MO. 65039

### When

Saturday, June 27, 2026

### Website

[www.eagleknoll.com](http://www.eagleknoll.com)

Click [here](#) to sign up to register yourself or a team.

Click [here](#) to become a sponsor.

This event helps raise money for MCSEA to send our dedicated child support workers to Conference.

Check out our photos below from last year. We had a professional golfer from Pin High Golf come out and give our players some competition!

Raffle Items, 50/50 Drawing, Door Prizes

Pin High Golf will have a long drive professional who will offer a drive from hole 17 for a donation.

Check out what they do:  
<https://www.golfpinhigh.com/>

Lunch, refreshments, and beer will be provided.

### Want to Play?

To be a sponsor or register yourself or a team, visit the MCSEA website, click the "Events" tab, and "2025 Golf Tournament".

### Know Someone Who Would Want to Sponsor?

Title Sponsor - \$1,500

Sponsor a Hole - \$200

Booth Sponsor - \$300

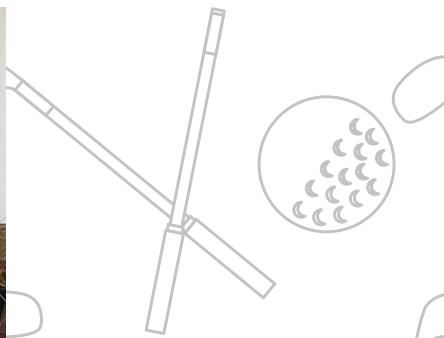
Team + Hole Sponsor \$500.00

Drink Sponsor \$1,000.00

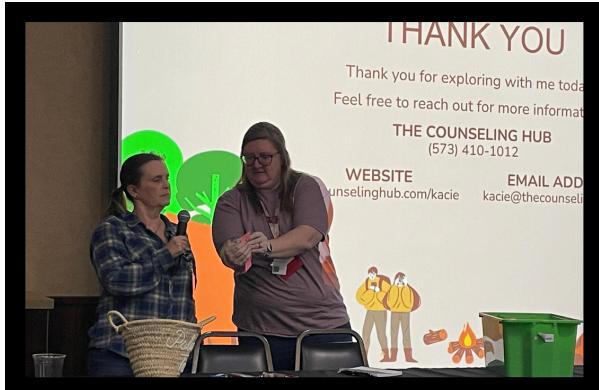
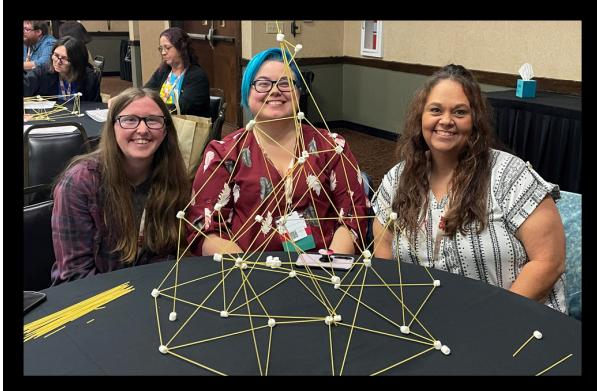
Lunch Sponsor \$1,200.00

Closest to Pin Sponsor \$50.00

Longest Drive Sponsor \$50.00



## Conference Photos 2025



## 2025 MCSEA Board of Directors

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**Vice President** - Donna Jo Prather-Rhoads

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**Region VIII Director** - Vacant

**Region IX Director** - Sharyl Hyerstay

**Region X Director** - Michelle Rivera

**Region XI Director** - Vacant

**Region XII Director** - Suzann Lindley

**Advisory Board** - Sylvia Harper, Donald Stream

### Contact Us

#### MCSEA

Missouri Child Support  
Education Association

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**NOTE TO  
SELF:**

**Join MCSEA!**

**"If you can dream it, you can do it."  
- Walt Disney**

