

Missouri Child Support Education Association Newsletter

JANUARY - MARCH



2026



MCSEA 49th Annual Conference

MCSEA invites you to join!

Meet new people, network, and expand your knowledge by attending.

49th Annual Missouri Child Support Education Association
Conference 2026

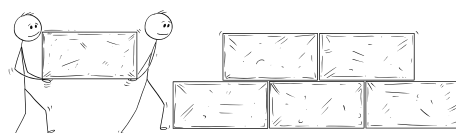
Stoney Creek Hotel, 2601 S Providence Rd, Columbia, MO.
65203

October 20-23, 2026

Topic and Speaker Suggestions

Do you have a topic or speaker you want to see at conference this year? Let us know! Please send your ideas to Donna Jo Prather-Rhoads or Nikki Hartley.

"Building the Future Together"



In this newsletter
you can expect:

2026 Conference
Details

2026 Board
Members

Introduction from
the New Board
Members

A Message from
the Board

Upcoming Events
2026

And More!

2026 Board Members

<u>President</u>	<u>Region I Director</u>	<u>Region VII Director</u>
Nikki Hartley	Katie Lanfersieck	Ashley Flood
<u>President Elect</u>	<u>Region II Director</u>	<u>Region VIII Director</u>
Grant Kelly	Vacant	Vacant
<u>Vice President</u>	<u>Region III Director</u>	<u>Region IX Director</u>
Donna Jo Prather-Rhoads	Tammy Wamble	Sonya Maddox
<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Region IV Director</u>	<u>Region X Director</u>
Kyla Iler	Monica Wilson	Michelle Rivera
<u>Treasurer</u>	<u>Region V Director</u>	<u>Region XI Director</u>
Kerensa Morrow-Kempf	Daryk Gunderson	Taylor Kratz
<u>Immediate Past President</u>	<u>Region VI Director</u>	<u>Region XII Director</u>
Danielle Earls	Whitney Rogers	Suzann Lindley

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!

An Introduction from the New Members of the Board

Daryk Gunderson - Region V Director Region V Director

My name is Daryk Gunderson, and I serve as a Program Specialist for the State of Missouri, where I have contributed since 2024. In my current role, I work with child support contracts, including MARCH, genetic testing, and process serving, ensuring effective service delivery and strong partner collaboration. In my free time you can find me kayaking or watching the game. I am beyond excited to join MCSEA! I am passionate about the wellbeing of Missouri families and MCSEA showcases some incredible resources and information that improves the lives of everyday Missourians.



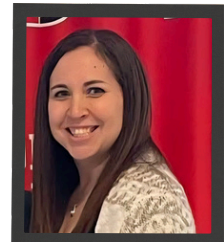
Sonya Maddox - Region IX Director

I have 3 children and 2 grandchildren. When not spending time with them I love to travel with my husband of 31 years. Our favorite place to travel is Disney. I've been with Child Support for 21 years. I started a Child Support Specialist in St. Louis County and moved to Jefferson County as a worker. Promoted to a Supervisor and moved back to St. Louis County - Page. Then Later went back to Jefferson County where I have been for years. I joined MCSEA to learn more and to get to know more staff around the state. And have loved the things I have learned being a part of MCSEA.



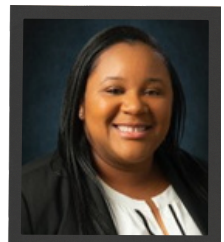
Taylor Kratz - Region XI Director

My name is Taylor Kratz and I have worked in child support for almost nine years out of the Warrensburg office. I have been married to my husband Kiefer for nine years and we have two little boys, Koda and Fisher. We also have a lab/blue heeler mix named Piper. My "free time" is usually spent at a ball field, soccer field or basketball court. On the off chance none of that is going on, I enjoy gardening and watching Law & Order SVU or Friends. I decided to join MCSEA because I was interested in learning more and sharing the information to my co-workers. I am a firm believer in passing along information to others so we can all do the job as best we can with the resources we have available.



Ashley Flood - Region VII Director

My name is Ashley Flood, and I am honored to serve as the Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for the Child Support Division in Clay County, a role I began in August 2024. I earned my Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Westminster College before continuing my education at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where I received both my Juris Doctor and Master's degree in Political Science. Throughout my legal career, I have worked extensively in domestic law, including divorce, custody matters, and disability issues involving children. Those experiences ultimately led me to child support work, a field that closely aligns with my heart for service. What continues to draw me to this work is my passion for advocating for children. They are often placed in circumstances they did not create and cannot control. Being in a position where I can help ensure they are supported and cared for is something I do not take lightly. Even in my short time in this role, I have learned so much and have seen how meaningful and life-changing this work can be for families. I joined the MCSEA Board because I truly believe in its mission and wanted to play a greater role in advancing it. I found myself thinking how much I would love to help further the passion and purpose behind the organization. Serving on the Board is a way for me to give back on a broader level, collaborate with dedicated professionals across the state, and contribute to thoughtful decisions that strengthen services for families. Being part of a group that is so deeply committed to making a difference is both humbling and inspiring. I am genuinely excited for the opportunity to serve, to support MCSEA's continued growth, and to help further its impact, starting in my own county and extending across Missouri.



A Message from the President

Happy New Year, MCSEA Members!

As we roll into a fresh start, I can't help but think of 2026 as a brand-new construction site—full of opportunity, growth, and the promise of something great. Together, we are laying the foundation for a strong and successful year. Each of you is an essential part of this build, bringing the skills, ideas, and dedication that keep our association standing strong.

This year, we're focused on learning, growing, and networking together. Just like any solid structure, progress takes teamwork and a shared vision. I'm excited about the connections we'll strengthen and the new ones we'll build along the way.

Be sure to mark your calendars:

- 🏗️ Town Halls will be coming up in June and July, these are great opportunities to connect and collaborate.
- 🏌️ Our Golf Tournament is June 27, 2026 – if you know someone who would like to sponsor a hole, please reach out to a board member. Your support helps us continue building momentum.
- 🎉 And we're already looking ahead to our 49th Annual Conference in October – a cornerstone event you won't want to miss!

Let's keep building something great together this year—one project, one partnership, and one success at a time.

Here's to a strong foundation and an even stronger year ahead!



A Message from the President - Elect

My name is Grant Kelley. For the last 10 years I have been part of the incredible team at the Clay County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and this year, I am President Elect of the Missouri Child Support Education Association.

If you don't mind I would like to take a moment to talk about something other than child support, or this great organization. I want to say something about advice. It is everywhere. It is in articles, on social media. Your friends have it. Your family has it. Sometimes you want it, many times you may not. Sometimes you need it. Sometimes you don't. The vast majority of the good advice that I've received had very little to do with what I do professionally. A wise man once told me, "There is no reason why you should ever be driving in fourth gear in a parking lot." Excellent observation, and I discovered firsthand that he was absolutely correct. I was also advised, "Be sure to thoroughly wash your hands after you cook with hot sauce." This is also some excellent advice, that I made the mistake of not following once.

As I said, extremely helpful, but not necessarily applicable to my professional role.

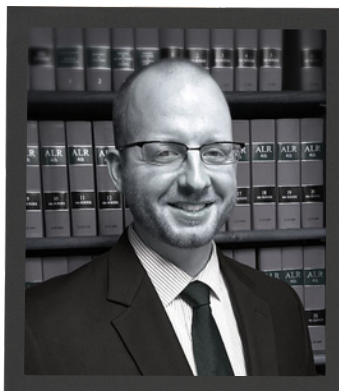
I don't have any advice for you, except for the two pieces of advice that I wrote in the last paragraph, but I didn't come up with those. I will say this: the thing about advice, even the best, most perfect, amazing, and life-improving advice... it won't help unless you are ready for it.

If you are open, accepting, and willing to use it, good advice can change your life.

Changing lives, that is what we get to do professionally. Together we help folks in our communities live safe, healthy, and productive lives. We give them more than words. In a world that is offering words everywhere they turn, we give people something more. We give people support. Together, we help them build a future.

I don't have to tell you that helping people build something is hard work. I don't have to tell you that it is not easy. I don't have to tell you that it can be incredibly frustrating. And I know this kind of work is not for everyone, and there is nothing wrong with that. So, maybe I do have some advice for you. It is because, if this is what you choose to do, you are going to have hard days. Remember that every single day you are making a difference. It is hard to remember that. A number of the folks that you help are not going to thank you for your hard work. Many of them may not even recognize that you are making things better, better for their families, and better for their children.

You are an important part of a great team. I'm glad you are here. I'm glad that we are building the future together. And thank you not only for what you do, but for taking the time out of your busy day to read this.



Do You Know Your Region?

Region I – St. Louis City;

Region II – Bollinger, Butler, Cape Girardeau, Dunklin, Mississippi, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Scott, Stoddard, and Wayne;

Region III – Lincoln, Pike, St. Charles, St. Louis County, and Warren;

Region IV – Adair, Clark, Knox, Lewis, Linn, Macon, Marion, Putnam, Schuyler, Scotland, Shelby, and Sullivan;

Region V – Camden, Cole, Crawford, Gasconade, Laclede, Maries, Miller, Moniteau, Morgan, Phelps, Pulaski and Osage;

Region VI – Barton, Cedar, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Hickory, Jasper, Lawrence, McDonald, Newton, Polk, Stone, Taney, Vernon, and Webster;

Region VII – Clay, Jackson, and Platte;

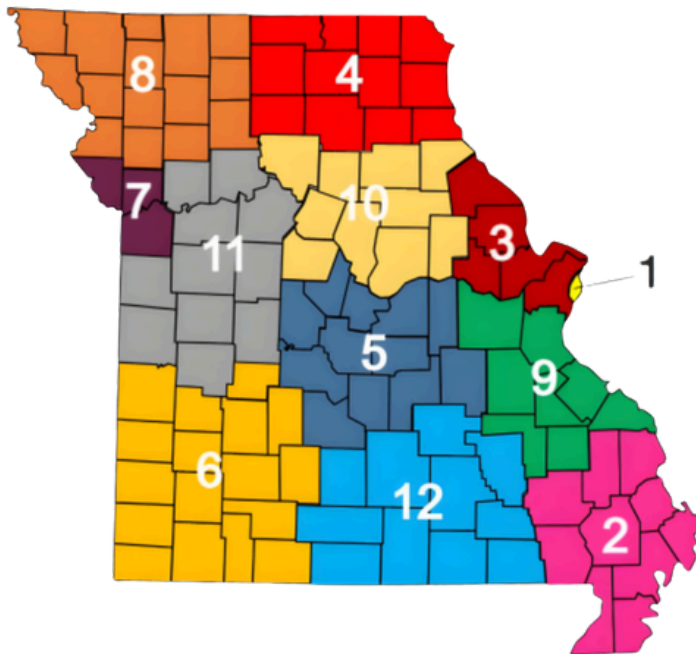
Region VIII – Andrew, Atchison, Buchanan, Caldwell, Clinton, Daviess, DeKalb, Gentry, Grundy, Harrison, Holt, Livingston, Mercer, Nodaway, and Worth;

Region IX – Franklin, Iron, Jefferson, Madison, Perry, St. Francois, St. Genevieve, and Washington;

Region X – Audrain, Boone, Callaway, Chariton, Cooper, Howard, Monroe, Montgomery, Ralls, and Randolph

Region XI – Bates, Benton, Carroll, Cass, Henry, Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis, Ray, Saline, and St. Clair

Region XII – Carter, Dent, Douglas, Howell, Oregon, Ozark, Reynolds, Ripley, Shannon, Texas, and Wright.



MCSEA Townhall
dates and
locations coming
soon!

NOTE TO
SELF:

Join MCSEA!

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

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



2025 MCSEA Board of Directors

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
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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

Advisory Board - Sylvia Harper, Donald Stream

Contact Us

MCSEA
 Missouri Child Support
 Education Association

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 Jefferson City, MO 65110

Email

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Website:

www.mcseaonline.org



"You're braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."

—Winnie the Pooh

