

NEWSLETTER

**46th Annual Conference
The Missouri Child Support Education
Association**

Shining Brighter Together

“Stars do not pull each other down to be more visible; they shine brighter.” This quote describes the atmosphere of the annual Missouri Child Support Education Association Conference. This year, we’re Shining Brighter Together. If you have never attended a conference you may wonder, “What do these stars do all week, besides twinkle and shine?” We attend sessions, hold elections for board members, have MCSEA merchandise for sale and host a raffle for a children’s charity, Every Child’s Hope. Purchase raffle tickets in the vendor hall and win some fantastic items! Opening session of Conference begins on

Below is a sample of our sessions, a complete list can be found on our [website](#) under the events tab.

- **Inside Out Program**
David Hartsfield and Outreach Unit Team
- **Helpful MACSS and Common Area Screens**
Nikki Hartley
- **Ethical Considerations Beyond the M.R.P.C (CLE)**
Chris Wray
- **Vocational Rehabilitation**
Cathy Kocian
- **IV-D Case Law Updates**
Dan Pingelton
- **Intergovernmental Communication Best Practices & Scenarios**
Lynda Dillard
- **CS Systems Are Shining Bright Like a Diamond**
Angela Terry
- **Uncommon Scenarios from Guardians of the Galaxy**
Nancy Crocker and the Policy Unit
- **Bureau of Vital Records**
Lani De La Garza
- **Big Potential – Let Your Light Shine**
Gwen Wood

We spend the daytime learning together and collaborating. Evenings are spent enjoying our time getting to know other staff from Child Support, Prosecuting Attorney, and Circuit Clerk offices; Vendors and Positive Parenting Initiatives. Conference is a spectacular way to spend a week working away from the office. I love every minute of it!

Kerensa Morrow-Kempf
MCSEA Treasurer and Past President



A Message from Our President

We have finished up our Town Halls for the year and they were spectacular! The speakers provided great information, interesting stories, and a lot of interaction with the attendees. We really want to thank every speaker for their time and effort to make the Town Halls such a success!

Some of the main session highlights: Rick Pierce and Brian Neal with the Basic Concepts of PA Actions, Nikki Hartley with Helpful MACSS Screens focusing on those in the PA offices, Donna Jo Prather-Rhoads & Kerensa Morrow-Kempf with a discussion on effective communication skills while handling a variety of behaviors, and Valerie Taylor, Carrie Broniec, and Jason Ford on Building from the Bench with encouragement of training our own team of workers to move up in the agency. We are so grateful for their willingness to travel town to town to speak. The Town Halls were held at Kansas City, Memphis, Cape Girardeau, St Louis, Jefferson City, and Springfield.

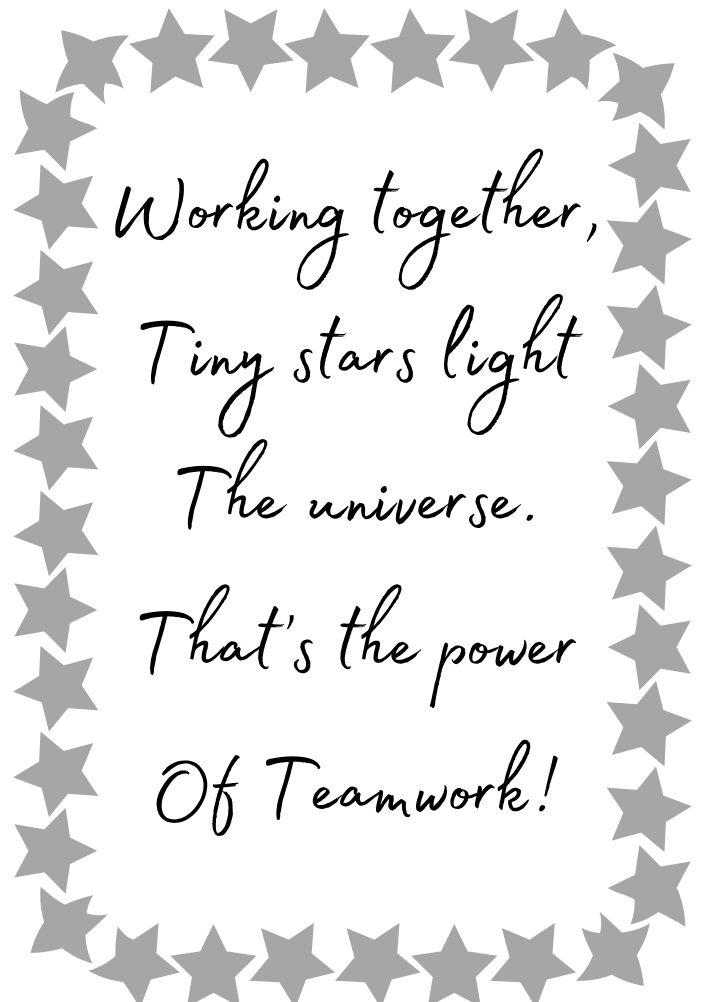
We were also fortunate to have local speakers Elsie Kiger, 2022 State Fair Queen, Anjenette Webster from Slate, Justice Kimberly Shaw with a Justice Spotlight, and trainer Ruth Eaker with wonderful insights on how thoughts & stories we tell ourselves can impact us. We are very thankful for their participation!

The attendance was excellent and we added many to the MCSEA family with several joining the organization. We had numerous raffles which is always fun, we had door prizes, and of course food.

As President, I really want to give a special shout out to the MCSEA board and all of their hard work in organizing the Town Halls!! This would not be possible without the assistance of each and every one of them.

It's always great to see a collaboration of FSD-CSE staff, PA offices, and Circuit Clerk personnel. The exchange of information is invaluable and this was just a taste of what conference is all about! So, we definitely want to encourage you to consider attending conference this year at the Oasis Convention Center in Springfield, October 17th-20th. Please review more details online at mcseonline.org. See you there!!

Vicky Randle
2023 MCSEA President



Our 2023 MCSEA conference is almost here! I am so excited to see everyone and am looking forward to my first conference as the Region IV director. In preparation for conference, I wanted to give out a little bit of advice.

- Conference is what you make it! Step outside of your comfort zone for the week and you will be surprised at how much more fun it can be!
- Introduce yourself to new people, make those connections that could result in a friendship that lasts long after conference has ended!
- Take part in the activities provided each evening. They allow you a chance to interact with other attendees in a more relaxed and stress-free environment.
- Be interactive in the sessions. If you have questions, ask them. The speakers want to hear from those attending their sessions.
- Wear your dancing shoes for the banquet Thursday night and don't be afraid to get out there and dance the night away. I promise, there is so much laughter and fun to be had!

While the training provided during conference is a major part of why people come every year, there is so much more that can be taken away from this event. You have the chance to leave with not only new knowledge but new connections with other workers across the state and a renewed sense of purpose for the work that we do on a daily basis. I cannot wait to see everyone next month!

Monica Wilson
Region IV Director

Do you know what Region you are in?



Join Us!

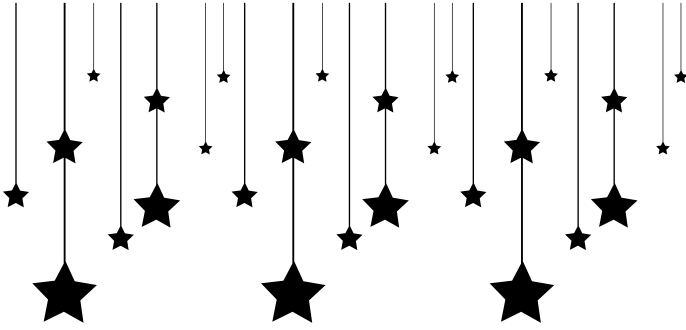
If you're waiting for an official invitation, here it is! Join MCSEA for Conference at the Oasis Hotel in Springfield, Missouri. We begin on Tuesday, October 17th and finish Friday, October 20th! Come celebrate Shining Brighter Together as we learn more of what makes FSD Child Support such an amazing agency and community of people, just like you! "Work" doesn't get any better than this folks!

This year we have so many wonderful and truly exciting features! You might've already seen the 'ducks' mascot for MCSEA that started a new trend last year. This year you'll find those ducks all over! Flying ducks in our fundraiser toss'em'up game! Stylish ducks on tumblers and t-shirts, with surprises for every pillar of Child Support. We've got you covered!

Maybe you're not a duck nerd like the rest of us, that's okay too! We have new merchandise available this year for everyone's taste and liking. MCSEA is excited to partner with Engrave Your Visions, by Amy Swingle in West Plains, to bring you many great options. From stylish stainless steel bracelets, elegant tumblers, and classy stone coasters! Some surprise door prizes to be given away throughout the week include unique merchandise pieces from this year's collection – don't miss your chance! As well as your time to Shine with a new ID badge reel, brought to you by Nikki Hartley!

You won't want to miss out on any of the fun this year! Best work week of the whole year, see you there!

Danielle Earls
Region XII Director



The North Star, whose real name is Polaris, is famously known for standing motionless in the night sky. While everything else in our solar system seems to move, that bright star has been a constant beacon of hope and guidance for generations of men. How is it possible for it to stay in the same place for thousands of years when we know everything in our universe is in constant motion? It is because of its proximity to the northern celestial pole, that imaginary line drawn from the North to the South Pole, what we like to call the Earth's axis. If you were standing on the North Pole and looked up, you would see the North Star and because the Earth is spinning from this position, everything in the sky would be in motion around Earth, Polaris' position would appear constant.

You might be thinking, this is interesting, but what does this have to do with MCSEA? By now I hope you've been introduced to this year's theme, Shining Brighter Together, and that we chose stars as the symbol of the event. But when you think about shining, there are a lot of ways that we could have gone with that. The sun shines, so does the moon, though not with its own light. Lights shine, diamonds, sometimes glass shines... so why stars? I believe there is a correlation between us, the child support workforce, and stars.

Individually we all have our own light, we don't just reflect someone else's. From a distance, some of us look like big stars, some like smaller stars, but no matter our job title, our end goal is the same, to shine our light as brightly as we can so someone else, our clients, can see. Sometimes we take a turn shining really brightly, other times we are a bit more dimly lit, and allow the star next to us to really shine and show out. Individually, there is nothing you or I could do to get done all that needs to be done in child support, any more than a single star could turn away the darkness of the night, but together, all the stars in the sky, now that is a different story. If you get enough stars to shine, they can truly light up the night and I believe that about us too! Together we are able to do great things!

Now, the North Star, it has been used as a navigational guide since the beginning of time. The three wise Kings from the East were inspired to follow the North Star and travel to Jerusalem to find a savior. Slave lore tells us that the North Star helped escaping slaves to find their way to the true north and their freedom. While I would never presume to associate the role of MCSEA with things and events as significant as those two examples, what I am hoping is that MCSEA has earned the place like the Northern Star in the hearts and minds of Missouri's child support workforce. MCSEA endeavors to be your guide, to help you orient yourself and find your way, to help you navigate a path through the policy, topics, and issues that is child support. Each one of us possesses something special, that our program needs, so join us at Conference this year and share your light so we can all Shine Brighter Together.

Donna Jo Prather Rhoads
MCSEA Vice President 2023

EASTERN REGIONAL INTERSTATE CHILD SUPPORT ASSOCIATION

In May, I had the honor and pleasure of attending the ERICSA (Eastern Regional Interstate Child Support Association) conference which was held in Savannah, GA this year. It was the first time I attended this particular conference and they did a fabulous job from the sessions, hotel, food, and events!

Similar to the MCSEA conference, they had multiple sessions to choose from with a variety of topics and some enjoyable plenaries. As the current MCSEA president, one that I found very interesting was called "A Past Presidents Conversation". This was the 60th year celebration for ERICSA and they had a panel of past presidents who shared all the changes the organization has gone through along with some entertaining stories. They have come a long way! A few examples of topics included tools in working an interstate cases, an exercise of living a month in poverty, customer service, and SSA information.

ERICSA is a national conference with over 500 in attendance. It was great to connect with those throughout the US in the Child Support field, but they also had an International Roundtable. I was able to enjoy the dinner cruise with new friends I made from Germany, Scotland, Sweden, United Kingdom, Brazil, and Canada. Savannah was one of the most gorgeous cities I've been to with a rich history. If you ever get a chance to visit, please do!

I am honored to have had this opportunity. It was quite an enjoyable experience and it made me so proud of our Child Support heritage here in Missouri! ERICSA has a lot of financial backing and it was an amazing conference, but it makes me realize how great our MCSEA conference is especially with the limited funds we have. Our sessions really do compete with the best of them. Now I'm even more excited for our MCSEA conference in October! Make sure you do everything you can to attend....you do not want to miss it!

Vicky Randle
2023 MCSEA President



Who's ready for the MCSEA Conference? I know I am! On top of the awesome training opportunities, we also like to have fun and create an atmosphere to Shine Brighter Together. We encourage everyone to take part in our after-hours events each evening; hope you will join us!

Oct 17th enjoy Hospitality in the Sahara Rm, located just above the indoor pool. Refreshments served 5:30 to 7pm, but don't scatter, thinking it ends there because that's when some real fun starts, our Searching for the Stars SCAVENGER HUNT! Gather in the area by the indoor pool at 6:30; rumor has it the Oasis will have a cash bar and a Starbucks available so you can enjoy a refreshment while we go over rules. Once we start, you will have one hour to mark off as many items on the list as you can. Start building your team now, with no more than 4, no less than 3 people per team! It will be a star gazing adventure with a prize for the winning team at the end. J

Oct 18th we will host GAME NIGHT! Life gets crazy and we have less and less time to sit down, relax, and play a game. We will have a ton of old and new games as well as decks of cards available to give you the opportunity to distress and enjoy one another's company. I know I'm looking for someone to challenge in a game of TWISTER! It will be a casual evening of fun with friends so plan to have dinner at Fire & Ice or another local eatery and come back for an evening of laughs!


Oct 19th everyone is invited to attend the Annual MCSEA President's Banquet. We have a delicious buffet meal planned with both a beef & chicken entrée; I know I am looking forward to it! Wear something that will light up the night and I suggest putting on your dancing shoes, warm up the vocal cords and be ready to be a STAR for the evening as you dance the night away!

We also plan to host our first Annual Duck Toss that evening! Be sure to bring some extra cash that week because MCSEA will be selling rubber versions of our unofficial mascot from our Duck t-shirt beginning Tuesday through the evening of banquet. Folks will have a chance to see who can toss their Duck and get him or her closest to the bullseye for a chance to win their share of the prize money!!!

There is so much to look forward to, so much to learn, do, and celebrate at Conference so join the Board of MCSEA and help us all Shine Brighter Together!

Whitney Rogers
Region VI Director

Words of Wisdom from the
Change Purse



August was child support awareness month and as Treasurer of MCSEA there are a couple items I'd like to share with you. In case you didn't hear, Missouri Department of Social Service, Child Support made the news! Good News, [The Department of Social Services Recognizes Child Support Awareness Month | Ozark Radio News](#). You + Me = Us for Kids is the CS Awareness Theme. We work hard and all year it shows when Governor Parsons recognizes us with a quote like this, "...all Missourians are encouraged to look to the future of our State and our children, and work together with child support professionals and community partners to improve lives for a brighter future." It's almost as if he knew our theme... ***Shining Brighter Together.***

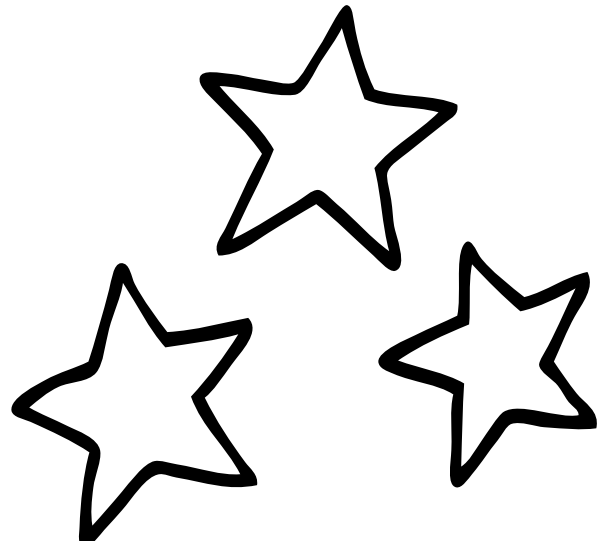
This year was full of changes, new board members, new executive board members, our website has a fresh new look, and a new treasurer, yes me, I am your new treasurer. Sylvia Harper has been my biggest asset so far. Helping me to understand the ins and outs, or credits and debits. I'm working to gently meld the tried and true pencil and paper methods with the high tech, instant gratification, no paper involved, online accounting world we live and work in today. While the "books" look good, I'm always cautious, "with great power, comes great responsibility." I am honored that the board nominated me when Donald stepped aside. It is my obligation to be responsible with the funds of the association and guide the board in making the most fiscally responsible decisions with the money that belongs to this non-profit organization. (Some days I feel I've doubled my weight.)

I will have a full report at conference. It may not capture your attention like the sparkle of a diamond but rest assured our speakers will shine as always. The events we have in store will be sure to amaze like stars in the night sky. Join us at the Oasis Hotel and Conference Center, in Springfield, October 17-20.

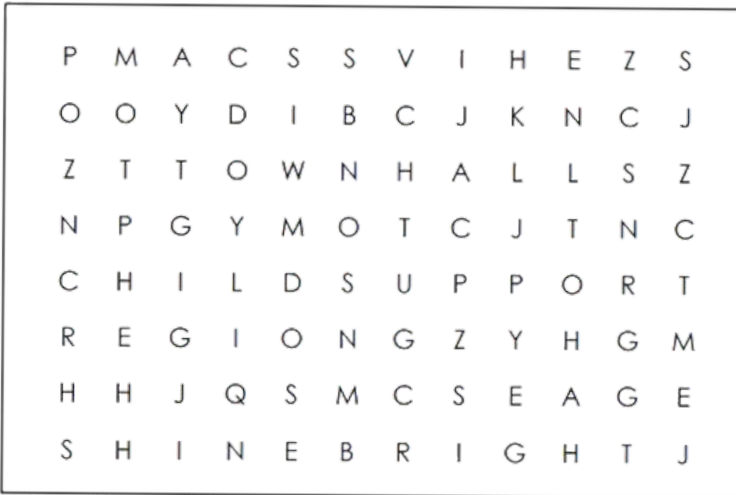
Kerensa Morrow-Kempf
MCSEA Treasurer
Change Purse

"Shoot for the Moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars!"

~ Les Brown



WORD SEARCH



Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden → and ↓ .

MCSEA
CHILD SUPPORT
MACSS
REGION
SHINE BRIGHT
TOWN HALL

CONTACT US

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2023 MCSEA Board

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Sylvia Harper

Donald Stream

