

Family forum

Annual MCFR Elections!

Please find enclosed the 2005 MCFR Ballot and Candidate Statements. This is your organization, and we need your input by October 30, so please complete the enclosed ballot and mail it right back!

Candidate for President Elect

Peg Lindlof, CFLE, Licensed Parent Educator,

Peg Lindlof currently works for North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale Schools as Family Education Outreach Facilitator. She coordinates the District's Parent and Family Education program as well as the Parents Forever Collaborative in Washington and Ramsey Counties. She also facilitates outreach and volunteer efforts for the ECFE program in the District. Previously she was a Work/Family Specialist for Working Family Resource Center in the St. Paul Public Schools, where she was co-editor of **Life Balance Digest**, and where she continues to volunteer on the Advisory Council. She taught Home Economics for 12 years after graduating from

college, and established a child development program within the high school. She is a member of NCFR, and served on the Local Arrangements Committee for the conference held in Minneapolis in 1999. While a Member-at-Large of the MCFR Board, she has served on conference committees in 2002 and 2004, and as Chair of the Nominations Committee. She is passionate about parent and family education, and believes that MCFR provides leadership to help professionals access research-based information that supports their work. Peg is a current member of NCFR, MCFR, and MNAFEE. She and her husband, Mike, have two young adult children.

Candidate for Secretary

Tammy Dunrud, MEd Family Education

Tammy is the assistant coordinator at the Forest Lake Family Center. She has been working in the family education field as a parent educator since 1989. Over the years, Tammy has written several published articles about families as well as developed curriculum. She has also been successful at writing and securing grant funds for a variety of projects.

Tammy has served on the board for nearly two

years as a member at large and has been the Board Secretary for the last year. She has been a MCFR member for many years attending most conferences.

Tammy is busy with three daughters ages 16, 13, and 6 and couldn't do it all without her wonderful husband. She has been a 4-H leader for eight years, teaches Sunday school and loves to sew as her "therapy".

Candidate for Treasurer

Beth Mediger, MS

Beth Mediger is a Work-Family Education Specialist, who coordinates educational programs for the Working Family Resource Center, a business-education partnership of the Saint Paul Public Schools. She has a B.S. in K-6 Education from Mankato State University and an M.S. in Educational Leadership from Minnesota State University, Mankato. She is also pursuing licensure as a Community Education Director. She has worked extensively with early childhood programs and before-and-after school programs as an educator, manager,

and educational trainer. Beth was recognized as a National Honor Teacher in 1990 and 1991. In 1994, she was awarded the Director of the Year Award for supporting and implementing quality early childhood programming. She also received an Education Leadership Award in 1998, for encouraging and obtaining accreditation through the National Association for the Education of Young Children in all of her early childhood, before-and-after school program locations. She recently completed her

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Minnesota Council on Family Relations

State Affiliate
of the
National Council on
Family Relations

Fall 2004

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A Note from the MCFR President

Linda Rodgers
MCFR President



Linda Rodgers

Minnesota
Council on Family Relations
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Linde Getahun 651-638-6299

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MCFR Members Caught Voting Multiple Times!

MCFR spokesperson hurries to explain, "but just once per election"

You get the point. MCFR members have opportunities to vote at least three times this fall. Primaries have already happened. The general election will be held on Tuesday, November 2nd. And MCFR's annual election of board members and officer takes place, with mail-in ballots due by October 30.

Cast your valuable vote in MCFR's election! Your nominations committee has recruited a stellar list of candidates. At-large board positions are being contested with 9 highly qualified candidates vying for six seats. Read through their bios (be ready to be impressed) to see which candidates will best represent you and your interests. Your vote also matters to those candidates running uncontested for offices, because they gain a sense of support through votes cast.

This election season is a prime opportunity for family professionals to use our rights as American citizens "to the max".

~We can use freedom of speech to raise the level of conversation around governmental elections— putting aside empty, mean-spirited personal attacks on candidates— and instead promoting an exciting exchange of information and perspectives *on the issues*, and discovering candidates' stands on those issues. When city council candidates come to the door we can ask, "What's your vision for families in our city? What's the relationship of city government to families? What do you think the city does well regarding families? What needs to be done better? What is your action plan regarding families?" Similar questions can spur conversation with candidates for county, state and national offices.

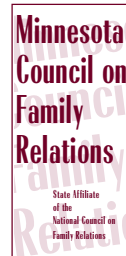
Within MCFR we can engage in conversations about our organization's priorities. If you know of cutting-edge practices in the family field, if you have come upon meaningful research, if you have ideas for conferences or other exchanges of information among members, seek out one of your MCFR board representatives and let them know! That raises the level of conversation within our own professional organization, and helps create board action responsive to members' interests.

~We use freedom of assembly in joining together in MCFR. Our coalescence around family research and practice informs and influences decision-making in other arenas. Many of us are in other professional organizations as well, assembling around other important work, themes and issues.

~ Finally, we must exercise every opportunity to vote. The last presidential election taught us that every vote has value. Cast your valuable vote in governmental and MCFR elections! I think of voting with a sense of connectedness. If I vote, I am connected to millions of others who are voting, and we are collectively a powerful force. If I don't vote, I am connected to those who squander that precious right, a right purchased with people's lives. I'd rather be part of the first group. **VOTE.**

Candidate Statements

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masters program where she developed a resource guide for businesses to use for planning and coordinating "Take Our Children to Work Day" programs.

She is a member of the Minnesota Council on Family Relations and a co-chair for the fall 2004 MCFR Conference, *"The Experience of New Americans: Walking in Their Shoes."* She also belongs to the National Council on Family Relations, the Minnesota Community Education Association, the National Community Education Association, the Minnesota Association for Family and Early Education, and the Minnesota Fathers and Families Network.

Candidates for At-Large Board Member (6 positions open)

Dawn Cassidy, MEd

Dawn Cassidy has an M.Ed. in Work, Family and Community Education from the U of M, and is a Certified Family Life Educator. She has been Certification Director for the National Council on Family Relations since 1989 and a member of the Minnesota Council on Family Relations since 1995. She served on the Ethics Committee of MCFR from 1992 – 1999, which developed the "Tools for Ethical Thinking and Practice" publication. Dawn is co-author with Lane Powell, Ph.D., CFLE, of **Family Life Education: An Introduction**, published by McGraw Hill. She served as MELD Parent Facilitator and on the Southwest Family Room Collaborative Council. Dawn is married to Tom and has a stepson, Hamil, 23 and daughter, Elaina, 12.

Christine Fehst, PhD, LPE

Christine Fehst, PhD, LPE For over 30 years, Dr. Christine Fehst has been an educator in a variety of settings, including universities, schools, corporations and communities. She has delivered hundreds of education programs to parents, staff and administrators locally and nationally. In addition to teaching, she has been a contributing writer for several publications and an editorial consultant for professional journals. Previously, Christine was a professor and department head in the Medical School at University of Minnesota (Minneapolis); her areas of training and expertise include cognitive science, child development, parent education, psychology and speech-language pathology. She is currently Early Childhood Programs Coordinator for Hopkins School District #270.

Carole Gesme

Carole Gesme owns her own company **I Wanna Be Me**. Through her company, Carole creates and sells therapeutic and educational games and tools for parents and their children. Carole is also an author of many books and articles around child development and effective parenting. Carole is an Adjunct Professor at Concordia University specializing in Family Systems and Sociology, and a Graduate Advisor at St. Mary's University. She trains social workers for the State of Minnesota in the areas of child abuse and neglect.

Carole began her career as an elementary school teacher. Realizing there were no parenting classes, she went back to school to get a degree in family life education and became a certified Certified Family Life Educator. Continuing her education, she became a certified Chemical Dependency counselor, worked for Project Charlie, and created the game "Keyed up for Being Drug Free". While working with inmates at Shakopee, she developed an

interest in reunifying mothers with their children and preventing second generation incarceration. This interest led her to create the books, **Help for Children Whose Parent is in Prison or Jail** and **While We're Apart**. She earned her Master's Degree at St. Mary's University. She is a member of MCFR.

She lives in Wayzata, and is the divorced mother of two sons and grandmother of two grandsons.

Elizabeth Hoodecheck

Elizabeth Hoodecheck is the **Parent Education and Family Involvement Coordinator** for School Readiness and Community Kindergarten programs of the Saint Paul Public Schools Family Education Department. She has been a Title I Elementary School Parent Educator, founder and first coordinator of the Willmar Early Childhood Family Education program, worked in Saint Cloud Area Public Schools to meet the needs of socially, culturally, and economically challenged families with young children, and was advisor to international and non-traditional students at the College of St. Benedict. Hoodecheck, with her colleagues, won the MCEA 2003 Multicultural Leadership and Involvement Award in recognition of their outstanding work of engaging Somali, Hmong and Latino families in their children's early education. Throughout the past year, Hoodecheck has created multiple video projects to help families understand the educational process and to learn how to be advocates for their children. They have been used in the School Readiness and Community Kindergarten classrooms as educational tools for families and have been aired on local TV Channels.

Hoodecheck earned a Bachelor of Science and Arts in psychology from the College of St. Benedict/St. John's and a Parent and Family Educator Graduate License from St. Cloud State University. She first joined MCFR in 1985 and is a current member. She is a parent of four children from six to 21 years.

Michael Jerpbak

Michael Jerpbak has a bachelor's degree from St. Olaf College with majors in Psychology and Family Resources and a minor in Family Studies. He has a master's degree in Family Education from the U of M. He worked about four years in family services and the past ten years in public education. Michael served a number of different roles in his public education experience from community education childcare coordinator to FACS teacher to spending his last four years as a human resources coordinator for Eden Prairie Schools. Michael and his wife Shari, married close to eight years, have two daughters: Mykaila (15 mos) and Maliah (newborn in June). Michael recently returned to the U of M and is working part-time for the Family Education department and pursuing a Ph.D in Family Education full time. Michael looks forward to continuing his learning in the broader context of work, community and family education with the hopes of being able to contribute to the field utilizing his passions to work with people, learn, write, and teach. His long-term goal is to eventually direct a family education program either in a social service, faith-based, public education, or higher education setting; or hopefully a collaborative effort that works to bridge these domains. Mike is a member of MCFR.

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Candidate Statements *Continued from page 3*

Kate Lerner

Kate Lerner is a recent graduate from the U of M where she earned her M.A. degree in Family Education. Kate focused much of her coursework on public policy as it relates to family education. In addition, Kate completed a 3-month internship with State Representative Nora Slawik, where she had the opportunity to assist a number of legislators in their efforts to form the bi-partisan House and Senate Early Childhood Caucus. Kate's master's thesis was a comprehensive literature review on the history and philosophy of parent education from 1960-2003. Kate earned her undergraduate degree from St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN where she majored in Psychology.

Kate currently works as the Manager of Board Recruitment and Volunteer Services with MAP for Nonprofits. This position has allowed Kate to learn more about effective nonprofit management, particularly in the areas of board development, strategic planning and volunteer administration. Previously, Kate worked for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities and she volunteered as a support group facilitator for children living with chemically-dependent family members. Kate is a current member of MCFR, NCFR, and MNAFEE.

Mary Maher

Mary Maher has over 20 years experience in Parent and Family Education. She began her career as a certified instructor for the Childbirth Education Association in 1983 and started teaching parents at the Mounds View ECFE program in 1985. Her work there has included home visiting, outreach playgroups, in-center classes and Family Literacy services. She is currently on leave.

Mary earned a B.A. in Child Psychology in 1985 and an M.S.W. in 1987 with an emphasis on Child and Family Services. She has served as Parent Warmline coordinator, Mounds View Family Learning Program coordinator, U of M Family Education Program project assistant, Parent Education Practicum instructor and interim Extension educator. Her current interest is in Reflective Dialogue Approach training and implementation.

Mary has served on the boards of the Childbirth Education

Association and Down Syndrome Association of MN. She is a member of MCFR. She lives in New Brighton with her husband Mark and youngest son, Max.

Michael Walcheski, Ph.D. LMFT CFLE

Michael Walcheski, Ph.D. LMFT CFLE is Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Co-Chair of the Department of Child and Family Studies in the College of Graduate and Continuing Education at Concordia University, St. Paul. He holds three academic degrees in the areas of elementary and Christian education; counseling psychology and family therapy; and counselor education and supervision. Dr. Walcheski is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and a Certified Family Life Educator. Along with the responsibilities of his teaching, Dr. Walcheski has been active in both the fields of family therapy and family life education presenting papers at national and regional conferences. He is active in the practice of marriage and family therapy and family life education. Dr. Walcheski directs the first NCFR approved distance education program in family life education. He is co-author of *Stepping into Wholes: An Introduction to Complex Systems*. Michael is co-author with David Bredehoff *Family Life Education: Integrating Theory and Practice* published by the NCFR in 2003.

Zha Blong Xiong

Zha Blong Xiong is an Assistant Professor of social sciences in the General College at the U of M. Dr. Xiong received his B.A. degree from Winona State University and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in the Department of Family Social Science at the U of M. He has been involved in research centered on parenting adolescent children in refugee and immigrant families, family education, and youth delinquency. He serves on the board of directors for the Hmong Nationality Achieves, Saint Paul Children's Collaborative, and on the advisory council for the Children, Youth and Family Consortium of the U of M. Dr. Xiong has co-published two parenting curricula and written several scholarly articles on Hmong and other Southeast Asian children, youth, and families.

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