

2017 MNCFR President Letter



It is cliché but true, it has been a joy to serve as President of MNCFR in 2017!

It has been a year of creativity and hard work. As team members, the Board worked hard and supported one another. We remained flexible in dealing with mistakes and were gracious in our successes. While some of our endeavors did not work out the way we planned, the focus on our mission of strengthening families remained impenetrable. It was the commitment, dedication and passion of the people who make up MNCFR that was a catalyst for our good work in 2017. We remained dedicated to strengthening families and we had fun doing it!

The MNCFR Conference Committee continued to stimulate through timely and cutting edge conferences under the leadership of Marilyn Sharpe. The spring conference, Reclaiming Face to Face Talk in a Digital World, with keynote, Dr. Carol Bruess, brought to light the impact of our love affair with all things digital. In turn, it inspired us to be more thoughtful about our use of technology. The fall conference, Food for Thought: Better Nutrition, Better Health, brings an important topic that impacts everyone to our attention. The information on healthy choices for families, food insecurity, youth obesity and health promotion provides knowledge and tools that will have a positive and lasting impact on the families we serve.

The Ethics Committee remained a strong and a guiding force for MNCFR. This year marked the 25th anniversary of MNCFR's initiative to study, describe, and promote ethical behavior for family professionals. The committee has offered workshops and books to a variety of parent and family educators in school districts, universities and other agencies such as Head Start. We are proud of the positive national and international impact of this excellent work. This year MNCFR's Ethics booklet was translated into Japanese for family educators in that country. For several years, the "ethical thinking and practice principles" developed by MNCFR have been the basis of an ethical contract signed by NCFR's Certified Family Life Educators (CFLE).

We are thrilled that student membership has increased and are inspired by young MNCFR members like Cyrus Hair, our current Student Section Chair. Cyrus was the student named the 2017 "President for a Day" by NCFR's Affiliate Councils. He attended the 2017 NCFR annual conference in Orlando. Another student, Kari Sawyer, attended her first MNCFR conference in the spring of 2017 and soon after joined our Communications Committee. Kari has been a stellar contributor to MinneNews ever since.

One of our biggest growth areas has been finding creative ways to keep MNCFR financially viable in our quickly changing world. After a lot hard work and creative problem solving, MNCFR's future is more stable. A special thank you to the following people: Bev Gillen for developing a fundraising plan, Tammy Dunrud for her excellent administrative support, Linda Rodgers for sharing her financial expertise, and Peg Lindlof for her continued leadership and support.

As we move forward, I see growth and new endeavors for MNCFR. Guy Sederski, our incoming president, brings many gifts with him, and combined with MNCFR's amazing Board, I look forward to exciting work to support families in 2018.

Thanks to all Board members for your hard work in 2017! Your contribution makes a difference in the lives family professionals! You are my inspiration!

Val Anderson,

2017 President MNCFR