

WINTER 2019

ERICSA Times

NEWS FROM ERICSA & THE CHILD SUPPORT COMMUNITY

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**EASTERN
REGIONAL
INTERSTATE
CHILD SUPPORT
ASSOCIATION**

ERICSA 2019 CONFERENCE

Keep Support Flowing for Families

TOM HORAN, *ERICSA President*



W

elcome to ERICSA 2019! This year, the 56th Annual Training Conference will be held in beautiful Niagara Falls, New York. ERICSA committees have been in full swing planning a great conference and keeping up with the world of child support.

Read all about it in this edition of our newsletter!

Our Program Planning committee has identified exciting and informative workshops and plenary sessions as well as the speakers and moderators to coordinate and present. During our opening ceremonies OCSE Commissioner Scott Lekan along with New York State representatives will be on hand to provide a warm welcome.

The On-Site committee has also been hard at work to ensure there is fun to be had and opportunities to network throughout our time there. Of course, there will be excellent food and beverage and time to relax! Please bring your passport so you can walk to Canada and see the Falls from the "other" side. (Make sure you bring four quarters so you can get back into the US! NO ERICSA MEMBER LEFT BEHIND!)

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ERICSA 2019 CONFERENCE

MESSAGE FROM NEW YORK

EILEEN STACK
New York IV-D Director

We are so pleased to welcome ERICSA to New York State for the 2019 Annual Training Conference and Exposition. Late May is a perfect time to visit Niagara Falls, New York, for this important opportunity to exchange ideas and learn from child support professionals from around the country. I look forward to the rich discussions with colleagues, the wonderful workshops, and the explanations of best practices, practical experiences and lessons learned that will enhance our shared work to provide essential child support services to lift children out of poverty, to ensure families remain financially stable, and to achieve the best outcomes for children.

This newsletter edition contains an announcement about the charity we will support this year. Giving to a charity in the local area has become an annual ERICSA priority. We are thankful for the help given by representatives from New York in locating potential charities. You have time to purchase items for the raffle to support the ERICSA charity of choice and to leave a lasting ERICSA impression in this area of New York State.

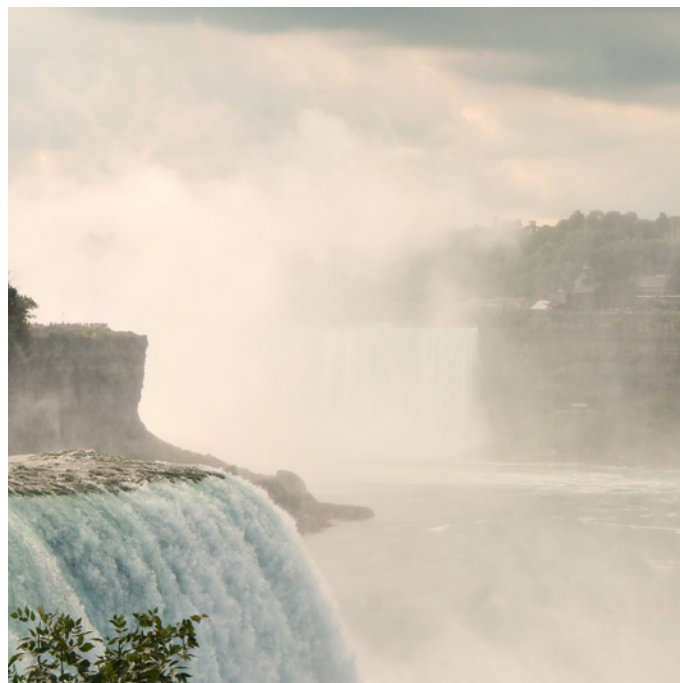
Look for an article by Tommy Howard, chairman of our Policy and Legislation Committee. He will share information about our decision to weigh in on the Federal Farm Bill along with NCSEA. Our input mattered. The final version did not include the provision both NCSEA and ERICSA chose not to support, a provision requiring cooperation with child support in order to receive SNAP benefits.

This year, we are exploring the possibility of officially changing our name to the Eastern Regional *Intergovernmental* Child Support Association. We will also be introducing several options to choose from to “refresh and renew” our LOGO! Attendees will vote on these options during the conference and the winning Logo design will be announced at Thursday’s business meeting.

As you can see a lot is going on in ERICSA! Many other committees are also hard at work. Check out the website for the conference brochure and other information relative to conference attendance and registration.

On behalf of the ERICSA Board of Directors and Executive Committee, I hope you can join us!

Best Regards,
Tom Horan
ERICSA President



PROGRAM PLANNING

Extending an Invitation

PATRICK QUINN, *President-Elect*

The Program Planning Committee of the Eastern Regional Interstate Child Support Association (ERICSA) extends an invitation for you to join us for our 56th Annual Training Conference & Exposition in historic and beautiful Niagara Falls!

The Committee has developed an outstanding agenda that provides something for everyone! We have three exciting plenaries including a new take on our famous ERICSA Team Wars and 45 workshops! A large number of the workshops provide Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit.

The plenaries and workshops touch on a variety of relevant topics including, but not limited to, interjurisdictional processes, legal ethics for child support professionals, safeguarding of information, mentoring child support leaders for the future, and technological advances in the profession.

There will also be plenty of networking opportunities during activities such as the President's Reception on Sunday evening and the ERICSA Block Party on Wednesday evening.

The Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) will be represented through a number of workshops and Commissioner Scott Lekan will be sharing the OCSE Mission and his priorities for the future.



In addition, we are very excited to announce the first ever ERICSA Interjurisdictional Fair (IJ Fair)! The first IJ Fair was conducted in San Diego, California 2005. The fair is created to provide an opportunity for representatives to share contact and content information about their agencies, and network with other Ambassadors and participants. It's a time to discuss policies, share ideas and most importantly, make connections. The IJ Fair will be held on Wednesday, May 22 in the exhibit hall from 3:30 -5:00 p.m. The Ambassadors who attend will provide information about their programs and will informally discuss program-specific interjurisdictional issues, policies, and procedures with conference attendees.

We encourage you to consider joining us in Niagara Falls. As you know, it is a wonderful opportunity to share your ideas with, and to learn from, your colleagues in the child support profession. We promise that not only will you learn from the informative plenaries and the many varied topical workshops presented by some of the most informed and experienced child support professionals in the field, but also from the large number of experienced attendees who are willing to share their ideas and practices from their own jurisdictions.

The members of the ERICSA Board of Directors look forward to meeting all of the attendees to discuss ERICSA activities in furtherance of our profession and

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to provide information to those interested in taking a more active role in their profession and ERICSA.

The conference site is the Conference and Event Center at Niagara Falls, located across the street from the conference hotel – Sheraton Niagara Falls. The Seneca Niagara Resort & Casino is nearby, and the world-famous Niagara Falls is just blocks away. For those so inclined, bring your passport so you can travel by foot or vehicle to the Canadian Falls via the Peace Bridge. You will also be close to shopping, exciting activities such as boat rides to the Falls and guided walks behind the Falls, as well as many restaurants and bars where you can relax and enjoy leisure time after an exciting day of learning. Check out the hotel's website for amenities and things to do in the area.

Don't forget to check out the registration website and make your plans to get the Early Bird rate (ends March 8, 2019). We look forward to seeing you in Niagara Falls!

The Rainforest Cafe at the Sheraton Niagara Falls



NEW FOR 2019

INAUGURAL INTERJURISDICTIONAL (IJ) FAIR

TAMMY PEARSON

We are pleased to announce ERICSA's first ever IJ Fair!

The original Interjurisdictional (IJ) Fair was conducted at the conference of our sister agency,

WICSEC, in San Diego, California, in 2005. The fair was created to provide opportunity for representatives to share contact and content information about their agencies, and network with other ambassadors and participants. It's a time to discuss policies, share ideas and most importantly, make connections. The IJ Fair was so successful that it has become an annual event at the WICSEC conferences.

In 2019, the IJ Fair comes to the eastern states! ERICSA's first IJ Fair is scheduled for Wednesday, May 22 in the exhibit hall starting at 3:30 p.m.

Ambassadors representing states and tribes will share information about their programs and informally discuss program-specific interjurisdictional issues, policies, and procedures with conference attendees. There may be some takeaways and giveaways. Ambassadors plan the best ways to make their tables memorable and important to attendees.

For more information about participating, contact Patrick Quinn at patrickquinn@pacsess.com or Tammy Pearson at tpearson@ywcass.com.

Be part of our first IJ Fair!

ON-SITE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

A Barrel of Fun

NICHOLAS PALOS, VP of Conference Operations

Join us in Niagara Falls, New York, in May 2019! There will be more fun than going over the falls in a barrel.*

Horseshoe Falls ... Wedding Veil Falls ... Maid of the Mist ... Cave of the Winds ... America's first State Park ... and ... ERICSA's 2019 Annual Conference. This spring, ERICSA heads to the Northlands of New York and will be convening right on the U.S.-Canadian border. It promises to be a conference as spectacular as the natural beauty of the Falls themselves.

The On-Site Committee has planned some great events for our attendees to relax and enjoy. On Sunday night, join us at the Hard Rock Café in Niagara Falls to honor President Tom Horan at the annual President's Reception. *Please, remember that all Niagara Falls events are on the New York side of the Border. If you are asked for your passport before you can proceed, you are in the wrong Niagara Falls.*

During the day on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday we will have our usual breaks and time to visit and network in the Exhibit Hall. We welcome sponsors and exhibitors and look forward to visiting their booths.

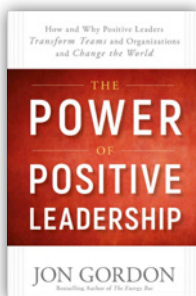
On Wednesday night, we change from our traditional Banquet format to the first ERICSA Block Party. Besides food, drink, and music for dancing in the streets (do I hear a song there?) there will be a photo

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ERICSA'S LEADERSHIP BOOK CLUB!

Are you ready to read? This year ERICSA offers an opportunity for members to enjoy a Book Club format in a workshop scheduled for Wednesday, May 22. The workshop features a review and discussion of *The Power of Positive Leadership* by Jon Gordon. In Daytona Beach, a workshop was presented



based on Gordon's best seller, *The Energy Bus*. Due to the response to that book, we are bringing this author back. Those who are interested should read the book before May and be ready to discuss it in the workshop. (Come to the workshop even if you have not read the book. You will learn from the discussion.)

Additionally, we will have short reviews of a couple of other books and the workshop attendees will have the opportunity to share the names of their favorite books related to leadership, management, or other aspects of work. Bring those books with you, too.

We suggest that you buy a copy of the book and mark your favorite passages, but you can check out a copy at your local library or listen to the audio book. The book jacket includes this line, "How and Why Positive Leaders Transform Teams and Organizations and Change the World." Do you want to change the world? We do! Let's start together by joining the ERICSA Leadership Book Club!

* Although 10 of 15 people who have gone over the Falls lived to tell the story.

booth, and, for the first time, a dunking booth, where you can try to dunk a Board Member for charity.

As part of registration, we are selling T-Shirts to raise funds for our two memorial funds, the Gordon Mosely Rising Star Scholarship Fund and the Gordon Bailey Speakers Fund. The T-Shirts will be offered for pre-sale only and there will be no extra shirts available at the conference. The final design is included in the registration materials.

The On-site Coordinating Committee plans to facilitate the purchase of group tickets for the Maid of the Mist boat ride into the Falls, based upon having enough interested participants. **If interested, please email me at npalos@nycourts.gov.** The tickets will be purchased based on pre-sales for a group rate. Keep in mind, the group must arrive for the same sailing, which will be the final sailing of the day on Tuesday, May 21, at 5:45 p.m. Although the Park is nearby, it is a walk from the conference hotel. Remember: if there is interest in this activity, it is by pre-sale only.

Don't forget – the conference is on the US-Canada border. You can walk into Canada (and back) if you desire, but you must have your passport. You will also need \$1 to pay the toll to walk across the bridge to the United States (there are machines to give you change).

There may be other surprises during the conference, but I hope this has given you a taste of what we are planning for May. Can't wait to see you there!



Watch for tweets about the upcoming conference.

Use hashtag #ERICSA2019 to tweet your news and comments.

**SEE YOU IN NIAGARA FALLS
MAY 19 – 23, 2019!**

2019 CHARITY

Niagara Falls Boys and Girls Club

MICHAEL MCGUIRE II, *VP of Exhibitors and Sponsors*

ERICSA is excited to announce that this year we have chosen the Niagara Falls Boys and Girls Club as our official conference charity. The Boys Club of Niagara Falls began on May 18, 1936 at a Niagara Falls Rotary Club Luncheon. They registered 478 members in the first month and 800 that first year. In 1984, in response to so many girls participating in the programs offered at the club, the club name was officially changed to the Boys & Girls Club. Currently there are 1,600 children participating in the programs offered by the Niagara Falls Boys & Girls Club.

Their mission is to provide appropriate diversified programs and activities that serve the youth in the Niagara Falls area. The staff and programs teach children the skills needed to build positive lives, attitudes and behaviors.

The Club's core purpose is to enable all young people to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Through the Club's program design they hope to see major accomplishments by Club members achieving:

- High School Graduation
- On Time Grade Progression
- Learn About Career Options
- Embrace Healthy Lifestyles



Please visit the Niagara Falls **Boys & Girls Club website** to learn more about the club. In the coming weeks we will announce the fundraising events after conferring with the appropriate agencies in New York State.

PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD NOMINATIONS

LAURA BERNACKI STAFFORD, *Director*

In 2015, the ERICSA Board voted to honor outstanding performance and contributions from child support professionals who are nominated by their colleagues.

The Board felt that it is appropriate to recognize individuals who reflect the mission of ERICSA in their home offices or in other responding jurisdictions by support their peer child support professionals and assisting the children and families served by the national child support program.

Each year nominations are accepted and the Recognitions Committee selects winners who represent the best of ERICSA.

Nominees are accepted in three categories:

- Award of Professional Excellence: Manager/Supervisor
- Award of Professional Excellence:
Frontline Child Support Professional
- Award of Professional Excellence:
Intergovernmental Cooperation

Nominations are due by March 30, 2019. Look for details on the [ERICSA website!](#)

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

TERENCE O'HALLORAN, *Director*

Once again ERICSA is offering scholarships to two individuals who are first-time attendees to the annual Training Conference. In keeping with tradition, ERICSA will offer one scholarship to a person residing in the conference site's state (New York, this year) and another to someone residing anywhere else.

The winners receive a paid Conference Registration Fee, travel to and from the conference (up to \$500), and a stipend for the duration of the conference.

Details related to submitting Scholarship Applications are currently posted on the [ERICSA website!](#) Applications should be submitted, via email by March 30, 2019.

The winners will be announced shortly thereafter to give enough time to make arrangements.

ERICSA BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

POLICY & LEGISLATION

TOMMY HOWARD, *VP of Policy & Legislation*

The Policy & Legislation (P & L) Committee ended 2018 with lengthy discussions and a whirlwind of activity. On behalf of ERICSA, the P & L Committee drafted a position letter joining with NCSEA to oppose proposed pieces of the Federal Farm Bill. The letter was approved by the Full Board and sent to the Farm Bill conferees. Specifically, the letter opposed any federal requirement for SNAP recipients to cooperate with the IV-D program. ERICSA and NCSEA were successful in this endeavor. The Farm Bill, as signed by President Trump on December 20, 2018 did not contain the cooperation requirement.

Each month, the Policy and Legislation Committee holds teleconferences to review current events and proposed legislation and bring information to the membership as issues develop affecting child support. The committee continues to track national same-sex issues as they relate to child support and the adoption of the new Uniform Parentage Act by the states. Lastly, the P & L group reviews all proposed federal regulations for potential Official Comments by ERICSA.

This committee invites comments from members, particularly related to issues that have not come before the committee.