

Foster Parent Ombudsman Report

October 17, 2011

- It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving is only about a month away; when you are busy, time flies. I hope you will be able to join in on the MFPA Board Meeting Conference Call on Wednesday, October 26 at 7 PM.
- The Foster Parent News is being formatted and prettied up by the Communications Office of DHR. I hope to get it back shortly for distribution in the next 2 weeks.
- Secretary Dallas sends his greetings and is looking forward to seeing the MFPA web site up and running. He extends gratitude to all, especially those resource parents who have adopted as we prepare to celebrate National Adoptions Month. Last year we finalized 544 adoptions from foster care in Maryland.
- Yesterday, I ran into former Secretary McCabe at the grocery store. We chatted for a bit and he asked me to send his regards to the foster parents. For all of you new Board members, he was the one who facilitated the birth of MFPA in 2005.
- This Friday is the last of six regional conferences that focused on relationships between resource parents and staff. These have been very successful and I have been happy to participate in each one. These sessions have given MFPA positive jurisdictional capacity with resource parents and local departments. It is not too early to start thinking about next year's conferences that focus on teens. Remember, the deadline is 4-30-12.
- Thanks to all who worked on these conferences in any way.
- I have been busy visiting local jurisdictions. In the next few weeks I will be in Montgomery, Cecil, and Charles Counties. Also, I will be talking about foster care and resource parents to a class of undergrads at Goucher College. If any of you would like me to come to your jurisdiction, please let me know.
- We just had another successful Foster Parent Panel at the University of Maryland.

- Admittedly, I am disappointed with the response to the Group Exemption Workshops. This is valuable and free information for local associations. If you have questions, please contact your MFPA Executive Director, Gloria Parsley. 501(c)3 status is a great benefit to local associations.
- Lastly, I reiterate last month's challenge. An in- person meeting, like a retreat with an outside facilitator, would be a great opportunity for team building and strategic planning. Why not plan now to have something after your special January election?
- Hope to talk to you on October 26th... Thanks... John