



# 2010 MECRA CONFERENCE

HOLIDAY INN-MUSKEGON HARBOR  
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

*“LIFTING EDUCATION AND COURT REPORTING TO A HIGHER LEVEL”*

## AGENDA

(Subject to Change)

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2010

- 11:00 am – 12:30 p.m.      **Registration Desk – Main Lobby**
- 1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.      **Welcome to Muskegon - Embassy Ballroom**
- O Terri Slade, 1st Vice-President
  - O Valerie Alcorn Williams, Conference Chair
  - O Representative from Visitors Bureau
  - O Hon. Maria Ladas Hoopes, 60th District Court Judge
- 1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.      **Annual Meeting & Election of Officers**  
Call to Order – Terri Slade, 1st Vice-President
- Standing Reports
- O Diane Pelts, Education Chair
  - O Wisetta Neill, Bylaws Chair
  - O Tonjia Williams, Membership Chair
  - O Kristen Shankleton, Newsletter Editor
  - O Jodi Gordon, Media Director
  - O Nancy Morrison, Treasurer
- 2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.      **“Emotional, Spiritual and Physical Health”**  
Blair R. Moreau, MSA, ACSM-CES  
H.E.A.R.T. Center Manager – Mercy Health Partners
- 3:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.      **Visit the Vendors**
- 4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.      **Hon. Maria Ladas Hoopes**  
60th District Court Judge
- 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.      **Dinner Cruise and “Hospitality Night” aboard the Port City Princess**  
(A Hawaiian Luau theme.) (You may dress accordingly)
- “2010 Court Reporter of the Year” award ceremony

Note: This buffet style dinner is included in your registration fee. Space is limited on the cruise. It is mandatory that if you are bringing a guest you must notify and pay \$25 to Nancy Morrison, Treasurer, before guests may enter the boat. Also, drink tickets will be available for purchase at the dockside office, as well as aboard the ship.

Continued.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 2010**

- 8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.           **Breakfast (provided) – (Embassy Ballroom)**
- 9:00 a.m. – 9:05 a.m.           **Call to order – Terri Slade, 1st Vice-President**
- 9:05 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.         **SCAO**  
Steven Capps, Director of Trial Court Services, and Denice Purves, Program Assistant to the Court Reporting / Board of Review (Topics to be determined)
- 10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.         **Vendor and Mid-morning break**  
(Please visit our vendors)
- 10:15 a.m. - 11:15 noon         **“Punctuation, Writing, and Grammar Skills”**  
Mary Kay Simon, Esq., Adjunct Professor, Muskegon Community College
- 11:15 a.m. - 12 noon           **“Beat the Odds” - Cancer Awareness (Speaker To Be Announced)**
- 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.         **Lunch (provided) - (Embassy Ballroom)**  
“New Member Recognition”
- 1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.         (This is an interactive session)  
**DRUM CIRCLE - “Promoting Unity and Dealing with Stress the DRUM CIRCLE way”**  
Barb Pitcher, Facilitator
- O       Benefits include enhancing Listening Skills; Develops Relationships; Builds Teamwork;  
Opens the Mind to New Ideas Relieves Stress, Energizes, Improves Employee Retention,  
Increases Job Satisfaction.
- 1:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.         **Visit the Vendors**
- 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.         **BREAK-OUT SESSIONS     (Choose your own session)**
- #1                                 **“Web Page Design and Excel”**  
Bob Davis, Varnum Law Offices - Grand Rapids, MI
- #2                                 **“Word-Processing Shortcuts for Court Reporters”**  
(Word & Word Perfect)  
Sylvia Stratton, MECRA board member
- 3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.         **Afternoon Break**  
(Please visit our vendors)

Continued.

3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.      **“Self-defense instruction (in and out of the courtroom)”**  
Ike Villapando, Black Belt and Muskegon County Juvenile Court Probation Officer

4:45 p.m.                      **Adjournment - Terri Slade, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President**  
(Dinner on your own)

**Friday, August 13, 2010**

8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.      **Breakfast (provided) - (Embassy Ballroom)**

9:00 a.m. – 9:05 a.m.      **Call to Order - Terri Slade, 1st Vice-President**

9:05 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.    **Education Session**  
Diane Pelts, Education Chair

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.    **Mid-morning Break & Check-out time**  
(Don't forget to visit our vendors)

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.    **General Open Forum (Embassy Ballroom)**  
Q & A Session with the Board

- This session is where all participants get an opportunity to let everything go! Ask anything, share any experience, vent your feelings concerning issues with the system, etc. (Time will be limited)

11:30 a.m.                      **Adjournment – Terri Slade, 1st Vice-President**

Many trade vendors will be available for you to ask questions of during the conference. A full list of vendors and agenda updates will be available at the conference and on the MECRA website - [www.mecra.info](http://www.mecra.info).