

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST

2024

One Event, Two Experiences:



In-Person
and
Online
Conference



The power is in your hands - decide if you want to join in-person or virtually!

Let's be real, some days are a total win while others... well, not so much. Whether you're crushing it at work or just tackling everyday chaos, having top-notch navigation skills is key. Resilience? Oh, it's your secret weapon for leveling up on this rollercoaster called life. And let's not forget, with the constant changes and challenges in foster care, the foster care world is like a wild roller coaster ride, especially for those amazing foster and adoptive parents out there!

A Conference With A Twist

WFAPA is adding some pizzazz to our September conference! With budget constraints and speakers costing a cool \$5000.00 (plus travel expenses), we're jazzing up the event with a fresh new look and an unconventional twist!

What we are offering:

- **Conference Sessions:** Keynote speakers and diverse activities designed to involve and connect with attendees both in person and online.
- **Gamification:** Have you ever heard of gamifying? If not, come join us at our conference to discover more.
- **Establish Connections:** Relationships play a crucial role in the foster care and adoptive community. Tap into the wisdom of others, see how fellow foster and adoptive parents and workers overcome obstacles, explore different paths, handle challenges, and adapt during their journey.
- **Guess Who?:** We have an extraordinary surprise lined up for you at our upcoming conference! Stay tuned, because when the time comes, the reveal will be nothing short of legendary. You won't want to miss this!
- **Experience Galore:** Get your raffle fix with prizes up for grabs, a bucket raffle, live auctions, and not one, but two chances to strike gold with 50/50 drawings!



Who Should Attend?

Foster and adoptive parents, caregivers, workers seeking educational credits, individuals inquiring about state updates, and those interested in acquiring new information. You can get 12 learning credits for less than \$100. Registration covers Friday night munchies and all of Saturday meals, including the banquet on Saturday night, and conference materials. The hotel is at your expense, if you plan on spending the weekend.

While juicing up your energy levels and restocking your toolkit, unplug from the daily grind, all while staying at the Holiday Inn & Suites in Rothschild, WI. Flip through the pages for more details about the conference, registration info, and a chance to win free raffle tickets.



WWW.WFAPA.ORG



Becoming a Member: What You Can Expect.

Join WFAPA's Leadership in Advocating for Foster and Adoptive Families!

WFAPA's leadership has been instrumental in educating policymakers and involving foster and adoptive parents in discussions surrounding issues that impact the foster and adoptive system.

We would love for you to join us in this journey! Our members are the backbone of our organization, enabling us to continue to advocate and influence public policy on behalf of foster and adoptive children and parents across Wisconsin.

Creating a community of foster, adoptive, and kinship families is one of the most effective ways to amplify our collective voice.

As a member, you'll gain access to numerous benefits and information, including:

- Four yearly newsletters.
- Up-to-date details on State-level news.
- Peer support and guidance for allegations.
- Information on scholarships.
- Reduced conference rates.
- Opportunities to get involved in foster care projects.

WFAPA is a 501(3)(C) non-profit organization comprised of a volunteer Board of Directors.

Joining Is Easy!

You can visit wfapa.org and click on the Membership tab, or mail membership form to:



Michelle Ward
W7018 Discovery Drive
Fond du Lac, WI 54937



WFAPA Membership Form

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

County _____

I am a Foster/Adoptive Parent. (circle one) I have fostered for _____ years.

I am with _____ agency.

Would you be willing to help out with WFAPA? ____ Yes ____ No

SUPPORT OR BECOME A MEMBER OF WFAPA!

____ Single Adult Membership, \$10

____ Donation of \$5 or \$_____

One-Time Amount Donation

Billed monthly for 12 months.



Your generous sponsorship has not only supported our project, but it has also shown your belief in our mission. Thank you for being an integral part of our success.

Thank You
To Our Sponsors!



Megan & Josh Roberts
(715) 907-1270
Weston, WI




Family Works Programs, Inc.



Kerry-Owen We are from food, for food. We are Kerry



 Romans 12 Entertainment Dana Longpre

IT'S BAAAAACH!



Reveal the mystery of Yada Yada Yada by joining Sherry.

If this is your first time, get ready for an exciting experience. Sherry will liven things up by introducing a fun thumb ball activity to help everyone bond and have a great time. Throughout the session, we will share laughter and enjoy some snacks and candy as well as:

- Discuss current events in the foster care community.
- Explore developments at the Federal level.
- Engage in networking to share practical solutions.
- Remember, this is a positive environment for sharing and gaining valuable insights, not for complaints.

Don't
MISS OUT



Win
Free
Registration
& Room



Get ready to blossom at our Fall Conference! And who knows? You might just be the lucky duck who takes home a prize!



JOIN US AS A SPONSOR TODAY

Empowering Foster and Adoptive Families: Join Our Mission as a WFAPA Sponsor! WFAPA is committed to supporting, advocating, and providing resources for foster and adoptive families across the country. We are proud of the progress we have made so far, but we know that our work is far from over. With the help of supporters like you, we can continue to make a difference in the lives of these families.

As we continue our journey, we invite you to consider becoming a sponsor of WFAPA. With a one-time yearly donation of \$300.00 or a monthly donation of \$25.00 for one year, you can help us achieve our goals. Plus, since we are a 501(3)(C), your donation is tax deductible.

By becoming a sponsor, your company can benefit from the positive publicity of supporting our mission and organization. We also help promote your business on various platforms such as:

- Our website, www.wfapa.org.
- Our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/wfapa.
- Social media.
- Our quarterly newsletters.
- Our Spring and Fall Conferences'

If your company is interested in joining our cause, please reach out to us. For more information, visit our website at www.wfapa.org, select 'Support Our Work', and then click on 'Sponsors'.



Donation Prizes Needed

We are currently looking for prize donations for our upcoming auction and raffle at our Autumn Conference. Your generous contributions will not only add excitement to our event but will also support our fundraising endeavors for future educational conferences, provide resources, and help us in our efforts to recruit and retain foster and adoptive parents.

We would greatly appreciate if you could consider donating a prize or, if more convenient, a small cash contribution to help us secure items for the auction and raffle.

All donors will receive recognition by:

- Having your name prominently displayed at our conference on banners, tables, and in our materials.
- We will showcase your generosity on our social media platforms and website.



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WFAPA Nomination Form

FOR THE TERM OF: _____

For the office of: **President** **Vice President** **Secretary** **Treasurer**

Individual Being Nominated:

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Number of years as a WFAPA member? _____ Number of WFAPA's Conferences attended in the last four years? _____

Statement of Acceptance:

Should I be elected to the position for which I was nominated, I accept the position of:

President **Vice President** **Secretary** **Treasurer**

Signature of Nominee _____

Date _____

Please attach an article of introduction on a separate sheet of paper. Therefore, it is advisable that you provide additional information about yourself, as you feel appropriate, including your goals for the position and/or the Association. You may want to include such information as:

- Number of years as a foster parent and number of children currently in placement.
- Past/Current positions held in local and state foster parent association(s).
- Education (high school, college, special foster parent related training).
- Past/Current positions held on other associations (social, civil, volunteer, etc.).
- Social Achievements/Awards Received.
- Other information you think may be important for the voters to know.

Individual Being Nominated:

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Mail nominations to: Lauri Thorssen, PO Box 122, Bennett, WI 54873 or email: lthorssen@gmail.com. Nominations may also be turned in at our Conference. Please make a separate copy for each person you wish to nominate.

Voting for Vice Prez and Secretary at the WFAPA Autumn Bash!

Please feel free to nominate yourself or someone else for these positions by filling out the nomination form on page of this newsletter or by downloading the form from our website, www.wfapa.org. The completed form can be emailed to our Nomination Chair, Lauri Thorssen, at lthorssen@gmail.com. For any questions, feel free to contact Lauri at 715-816-4152. Thank you!

Vice President

- Be active board or committee member.
- Assist the President in the performance of his/her duties and shall assume all the responsibilities of the President in the President's absence, except the signing of contracts, unless approved by the board of directors.
- Perform such other duties as provided by those by-laws or as commonly appertain to the office of the Vice President, or as assigned by the President.
- Be elected for a term of two (2) years with a three-year consecutive term limit or until a successor can be found.



Secretary

- Keep all the records of the board of directors' meetings and general membership meetings.
- Compose all communications as directed and approved by the President and board of directors.
- Keep a record and see that the President has a copy of all correspondence sent and received.
- Perform such other duties as provided by those by-laws or as commonly appertain to the office of Secretary, or as assigned by the President. Be elected for a term of two (2) years with no limit on the number of terms.





SATURDAY NIGHT FEAST & WHOLE LOT MORE!

Don't miss out - clear your schedule for a thrilling and unforgettable evening ahead!

*Announcement
of Raffle
Game
Winners*



*50/50
Raffle*



*Live
Auction*



*Bucket
Raffles*

Get your groove on with other foster and adoptive families! Brace yourself for epic wins in our bucket raffles and live auction extravaganza!



Fun

FASPP Foster and Adoptive Support & Preservation Program

SAAN Surviving Allegations of Abuse & Neglect



FASPP's Objective: Supporting Foster and Adoptive Parents Statewide

FASPP's primary aim is to assist foster and adoptive parents throughout the state with a peer-driven network of support and information. Our goal is to maintain foster and adoptive families by providing the necessary resources. If you're feeling disoriented, in need of information, or under an investigation, our highly trained FASPP and SAAN volunteers can help. They can guide you through a range of challenges and provide you with the relevant information or resources you need. FASPP and SAAN comprises of fellow foster or adoptive parents, making it easier for you to connect and share your experiences.

Introducing SAAN, a Peer-Driven Support Network for Foster and Adoptive Families

SAAN is a support network created by peers, with the aim of reducing the trauma experienced by foster and adoptive families during an allegation, without compromising the integrity of the investigation.

Foster parents open their homes to children, aware that they also bring with them their histories and issues.

Foster and adoptive parents face a higher risk of being accused of wrongdoing. Being investigated is a stressful and unsettling experience for anyone, but SAAN is here to help you navigate the process by providing information and support.

If you have any questions in the following areas, please reach out to the designated individuals via email or phone:

- **Norma, Chairperson** Phone: (920) 922-9627
(Advice on general and allegations)
- **Melissa** (Focuses on fostering younger children)
Phone: (608) 333-6650
Email: lovedalemelissa@gmail.com
- **Lauri** (Advice on general/adoption)
Phone: (715) 816-4152
Email: lthorssen@gmail.com



ADVOCATING For Foster Care System Improvements in Wisconsin



The urgent need for extensive reform is more critical than ever. During our fall conference, Alaric Huls will update us on the recent developments regarding the proposed changes, which involve enhancing support systems, improving placement stability, and streamlining the adoption process to ensure foster children receive the care and stability they deserve.

Although there has been progress, it is essential to maintain active communication with our elected officials. While there have been positive developments in foster care legislation in Wisconsin, the journey towards reform is demanding and far from complete.

Welcome

TO THE TEAM



Jared Key

Email: jaredkeyaac@gmail.com

Partnership Chair/Fundraising ●●●

I am thrilled to join the WFAPA team. During my time advocating for child care across Wisconsin, I frequently found myself engaged in discussions about the importance of Foster Care advocacy and the need for greater awareness within the state. These conversations highlighted the critical role that dedicated organizations like WFAPA play in driving meaningful change.

The organization's long-standing commitment and grassroots approach to fostering improvement make this affiliation particularly exciting for me. I look forward to contributing to WFAPA's mission and working alongside a team that shares my passion for advocating for children and families in need.

WHO DIS?

Are you up for the challenge?

Time to uncover who the ultimate sleuths are!

Welcome to Who Dis?, the game where you guess my identity by looking at my picture on the right!



Join us at our upcoming conference, spy the "WHO DIS?" table, and reveal your answer. For guessing my name correctly, you can snag a free bucket raffle ticket.

(1 guess per participant)

NEW

WFAPA'S

S W A G

shop



A new way to help spread the word about WFAPA and show your support launches September 27, 2024. The new WFAPA Swag Shop is a unique Made-to-Order Marketplace of WFAPA Sweatshirts, Long Sleeve Shirts, and T-shirts.

All proceeds benefit WFAPA programs and operations! We are so excited to start seeing WFAPA merchandise around the community!




LAUNCHING 09-27-2024







WFAPA's CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 27, 2024 – SEPTEMBER 29, 2024 | HOLIDAY INN & SUITES, ROTHSCHILD, WI

FRIDAY: SEPTEMBER 27, 2024

3:00PM - 9:00PM	Registration - Pick Up Your Conference Folder, Drop Off Auction and/or Raffle Items, View Auction and Raffle Buckets, Buy Raffle Tickets, Explore Awesome Freebies for Foster and Adoptive Families!	 
5:00PM - 9:00PM	Hospitality Room - Munchies/Socialize Connecting, Networking, Socialize, Relax, Eat, Meet Foster Folks, and Share Stories	
5:00PM - 6:30PM	DCF 56 Foster Home Licensing, Answer Questions, Gather Participant's Feedback Presenter: Dana Johnson, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator & Policy Analyst at Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare	
6:30PM - 6:45PM	15 Minute Break	
6:45PM - ???	Reveal the Mystery of YADA YADA YADA by Joining Sherry.	

SATURDAY: SEPTEMBER 28, 2024

7:30AM - 2:00PM	The registration desk is officially up and running for all your registration needs!	
8:00AM - 9:00AM	Breakfast	
9:00AM - 10:00AM	Advocating for Foster Care System Improvements in Wisconsin Presenter: Alaric Huls	
10:00AM - 10:15AM	15 Minute Break	
10:15AM-11:00AM	GAMIFYING - Have you ever heard of gamifying? If not, come join us at this session to discover more.	
11:00AM - 12:00PM	SAAN & FASPP - Surviving Allegations of Abuse & Neglect Presenters: Norma Schoenberg & Sherry Benson	
12:00PM - 1:00PM	Lunch & chance to strike gold with 50/50 drawing!	
1:00PM-3:00PM	Guess Who?	
3:00PM - 3:15PM	15 Minute Break	
4:00PM-5:00PM	General Membership Meeting: Submit Nomination Forms, Hold Elections for Vice President and Secretary, Collect Participant Surveys, Conduct a Drawing for a Free Conference Room, Certificates Will Either be Emailed or Distributed to Those Whose Agencies Require an Original Signature	
5:00PM-6:00PM	Kick back and Unwind - It's time for some R&R! And after that, get set to dazzle at the banquet!	
6:00PM-10:00PM	Banquet Buffet - Get your raffle fix with prizes up for grabs, a bucket raffle, live auctions, and another chance to strike gold with 50/50 drawing! Join the excitement and discover if you're the lucky champ from our day full of epic games!	

SUNDAY: SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

9:00AM-12:00PM	FASPP & Board Members Meeting - Closed to General Membership.	
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A block of rooms has been reserved at \$98.00 for Single & \$110.00 for Double (2 or more people). The last day to reserve your room is on September 5, 2024. For reservations, please call Holiday Inn & Suites Wausau/Rothschild at 715-355-1111 for reservations and ask for the group code "WFA".



Conference Registration Form

Date: _____ **WFAPA Member** **Non-WFAPA Member**

Participant's Name: _____

Participant's Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

County You Are Licensed With (REQUIRED): _____

Is this your first conference? Yes No

I am bringing a first time attendee Yes No If yes, Name: _____

Conference Registration includes workshops, hospitality room and meals on Saturday. Complimentary breakfast is available at the hotel. Buffett meals will be served at lunch and at the banquet. If you have any dietary restrictions, please call Tracey Taylor at 715-560-0755 so she may make proper food arrangements for you.

Breakfast	Lunch Buffett	Supper Buffett	Conference Registration
# of Conference Attendees _____	# of Conf. Attendees _____	# of Conf. Attendees _____	# of WFAPA Members _____
# of Non-Participants _____	# of Non-Participants _____	# of Non-Participants _____	# of Non-Members _____
Cost: \$10.00 Non-Participants	Cost: \$10.00 Non-Participants	\$20.00 Per Non-Participant	Member's Cost \$85.00 each Non-Member's Cost: \$95.00 each
Amount Owed: \$ _____ .00	Amount Owed: \$ _____ .00	Amount Owed: \$ _____ .00	Amount Owed: \$ _____ .00

Total Amount Owed: \$ _____ .00

No childcare is available for this conference. Due to the sensitive nature of many of our discussions, children are discouraged from being present in training sessions. Infants are welcome, but please be sensitive to other attendees by removing fussy or noisy babies.

You can make secure payments with your Debit/Credit Card on our website, www.wfapa.org. If you prefer to pay by check, please make the check payable to WFAPA CONFERENCE and mail your payment to Tracey Taylor, 303 Madsen Avenue, Owen, WI 54460.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tracy Taylor at 715-560-0755 or taylor1028@charter.net. There will be a \$20.00 service fee for all checks returned for insufficient funds. There are no refunds.

I grant permission for WFAPA to use my personal image (photo) and name in any form of media for promotional and any other lawful purposes. WFAPA acknowledges that the images may be used on the organization's website, Facebook, social media, flyers, publications, and that there will be NO payment for the use of the photographs, names or any other forms of media for promotional purposes. This releases the WFAPA from any infringement or violation of personal and/or property rights of any sort whatsoever based upon the use of your photo(s), and further acknowledges that WFAPA is not obliged to use the photographs.

Participant's Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date

Participant's Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date