

The State of Fathers and Families in Minnesota

5th Annual Minnesota Fatherhood Summit

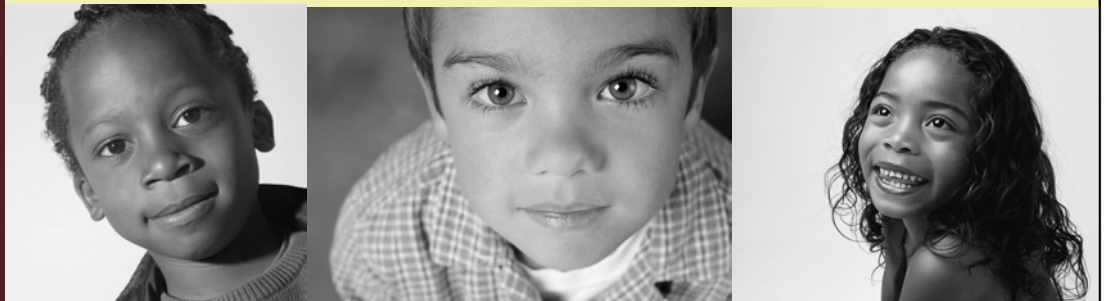
January 14-15, 2008

St. Cloud Civic Center
10 Fourth Avenue South
St. Cloud, Minnesota



**Minnesota Fathers &
Families Network**

(651) 222-7432
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www.mnfathers.org





Our mission:
MFFN enhances healthy father-child relationships by promoting initiatives that inform public policy and further develop the field of fatherhood practitioners statewide.



Thank You...

5th Annual Minnesota Fatherhood Summit
Presenters, Moderators and Exhibitors

2008 MFFN Board of Directors

Rebecca Ahlstrand, Carlton County Child Support, Carlton
Mary Anderson, Fatherhood Advocate, Perham
Molly Mulcahy Crawford, Minn. Dept. of Human Services, St. Paul
Don Eubanks, Minn. Dept. of Human Services, St. Paul
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Jon Harper, Adventures in Fathering, Crystal
Jan Hayne, Dads Make a Difference, St. Paul
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Joe Kelly, Dads & Daughters, St. Paul
John Klinke, Red Lake Schools, Red Lake
Ellie McCann, University of Minnesota Extension, Moorhead
Nancy Norbie, Kandiyohi County Family Services, Willmar
Glen Palm, St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud
Tamy Reese, Morris Early Childhood Family Education, Morris
Dwayne Simms, Twin Cities RISE!, Minneapolis
John Stark, St. Louis County Child Support, Duluth
Brian Thorbjornsen, Fond du Lac Social Services, Cloquet

2007 – 2008 Fatherhood Summit Contributors and MFFN Supporters

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Saint John's University, Center for Men's Leadership & Service
Saint Paul Foundation
Saint Cloud State University, Center for Child & Family Studies
West Central Initiative
And MFFN's Members



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION

www.mcknight.org

Thank you to all MFFN members! Together we are leading Minnesota's campaign for healthy fatherhood.



Luncheon Keynote
12:00 noon – 1:15 PM

What is the State of Fatherhood in Minnesota? – Stockinger Suite, 2nd Floor

Glen Palm, Ph.D., CFLE, Chair, Child & Family Studies Department, St. Cloud State Univ., St. Cloud, Minnesota

Dr. Palm will discuss the results of a statewide study of Minnesota's fathers recently compiled in the publication: *"Do we count fathers in Minnesota?"* How do fathers impact the well-being of their children? Which fathers are counted and which are discounted? What challenges remain to be addressed in the future? How can Minnesotans move the discourse around family life to focus on the value of healthy fatherhood for all children?



Concurrent Mock Sessions I
1:30 – 3:00 PM

Community Forum: How to Educate Local Decision Makers about Healthy Fatherhood – Clarke Room, 1st Floor

During this session, participants will join a simulated community forum about healthy fatherhood. Participants will learn language and key points for talking about fathers with their elected leaders, funders, and key public policy decision makers. Attendees will receive a copy of a PowerPoint presentation which they can modify to present in their communities and will gain experience crafting simple messages that promote father involvement in social service programs, educational institutions, and family life. This forum will help you make the case to increase father involvement in your community. **Presenters:** **Andrew Freeberg**, FATHER Project, Goodwill / Easter Seals, Minneapolis; **Guy Bowling**, FATHER Project, Goodwill / Easter Seals; **Paul Masiarchin**, Minnesota Fathers & Families Network, St. Paul

Dads Make a Difference Teen Training: A Curriculum to Educate Youth about Responsible Parenting – Bell Room, 1st Floor

Teens are trained as peer educators of middle school youth, promoting the positive involvement of fathers and educating about responsible parenting. Teaching reinforces choices about sex and parenting while developing a variety of skills. The curriculum contains activities to engage participants around the issues of risks, establishing paternity, involved fathers, paying child support, and developing a future vision. Reflect on your own feelings about dads and how feelings can limit future decisions. Work together in groups, share, discuss, and journal. **Presenter: Jan Hayne**, Dads Make a Difference, St. Paul.

Child Support Hearing: Navigate the System – Weidner Room, 1st Floor

Child Support hearings are unique cases heard by Child Support Magistrates. In this session, participants will observe Magistrate Running as he conducts a simulated hearing and will learn how parents can maximize their time with the Magistrate. This session will explain how child support orders are set, how child support officers work to represent the public interest, and how families can work to resolve other issues of family law. **Presenters:** **Judy Cornick**, St. Louis County; **Mary Alvar**, St. Louis County; **Joan Koski**, St. Louis County; **John Greenham**, St. Louis County; **Ben Stromberg**, St. Louis County; **Steve Running**, 6th Judicial District, Duluth.



Concurrent Mock Sessions II
3:30 – 5:00 PM

Circle of Parents: Local Parent Leadership – Bell Room, 1st Floor

All parents need support and Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota has developed a way to support parents to create healthy families and supportive communities through their Circle of Parents® program. This interactive workshop will simulate a Circle of Parents mutual self-help support group. Time will be devoted to questions and discussion about how these groups are useful; how they can be set up; and what it takes to sustain them. **Presenters:** **Trina Levin**, Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota, St. Paul; **Joan Johnson**, Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota, Pequot Lakes; **Lois Paulson**, Reach-Up Inc., St. Cloud; **Representatives from Circle of Parents chapters.**

Early Literacy: Fathers Reading Every Day (FRED) – Alexander Room, 1st Floor

This mock session will focus on the segment of the FRED event where the dads and children are separated for about 20 minutes and an educational presentation is made to the fathers/male caregivers. Topics will include an overview of the FRED program, the importance of father involvement, an understanding of holistic literacy, the importance of reading aloud and sharing stories, and tips on what and how to read with kids. The session will end by asking the dads to make a commitment to read/share stories with their kids daily. **Presenter: Thomas Fitzpatrick**, Minnesota Humanities Center, St. Paul.

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Fatherhood is Sacred: A Curriculum Based on Native American Heritage – Clarke Room, 1st Floor

The Native American Fatherhood and Families Association offers a program curriculum that is designed by a Native American father and creates a link between past and present generations by honoring Indian heritage. This workshop will present an overview of this curriculum that is culturally sensitive and offers a solid foundation on which to build successful relationships with children, families and the community. **Presenter: Albert Pooley**, Native American Fatherhood and Families Association, Mesa, Arizona.

Family Law Clinic: Legal Support for Parents – Weidner Room, 1st Floor

Family Law Clinics have become a valuable source of information for fathers to learn about their legal rights and options in areas of child support, custody, parenting time, arrearages, and other areas of family law. Participants of this mock law clinic will have an opportunity to join a simulated clinic, learn how to host their own clinic, and ask questions for the benefit of their clients. **Presenters: Steve Running**, 6th Judicial District, Duluth; **John Greenham**, St. Louis County; **Ben Stromberg**, St. Louis County; **Melissa Froehle**, Central Minnesota Legal Services, Minneapolis.

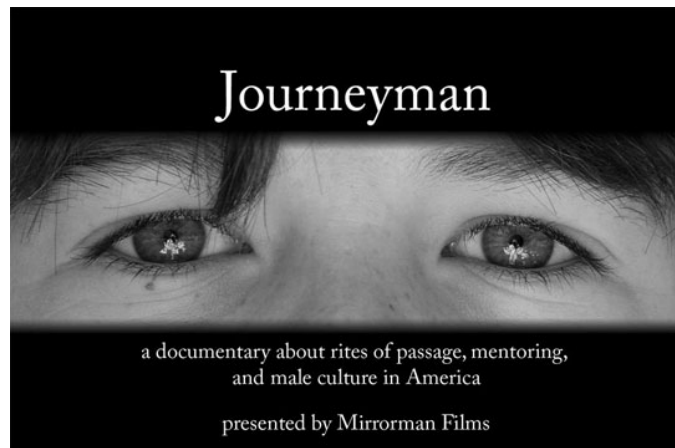


Dinner Keynote
5:30 – 7:00 PM

Addressing Children & Families in the Minnesota Senate – Stockinger Suite, 2nd Floor

Senator Tarryl L. Clark, Assistant Majority Leader, Minnesota Senate, DFL, St. Cloud, Minnesota

During this presentation, Senator Clark will address the upcoming legislative session, focusing on legislative priorities for early childhood development, the state's successful early childhood family education program, and access to programs and policies that promote healthy early childhood. In the Senate, Tarryl is pushing for lower health care costs and insurance reform, to increase funding stability for local schools and find transportation and energy solutions for more cost-effective living. She was elected on December 27, 2005 in a special election, and was sworn in on January 6, 2006. In November 2006 she was elected by her caucus to serve as the Senate Assistant Majority Leader. She currently serves on three committees: Rules (as Vice Chair), E-12 Education Budget and Higher Education Budget and Policy Division. A long time advocate of early childhood education, Senator Clark was previously the executive director of the Minnesota Community Action Association. She is married and has two sons.



Documentary Film Preview
7:30 – 8:45 PM



Journeyman – Bell Room, 1st Floor

View this hour-long documentary film about rites of passage, mentoring, and male culture in America. It follows Joe and Mike, two teen boys from diverse backgrounds who struggle with depression and violence. Both are in dire need of support and guidance from adult males. In a mentoring program, they face challenging rites of passage, discover their inner strengths, and learn to engage with a community of supportive men. Two stories intertwine to portray the journeys of the teen boys and their mentors. Through them, the film examines an emotional and social crisis evident in American boys. That crisis is finally emerging into our cultural consciousness through the increasing fall-out of gang violence, academic failure and changing roles among America's teen boys. To order a copy see: www.mirrormanfilms.org. **Discussants: Charlie Borden, Jon Harper.**



Available at the conference registration desk: \$15.00 contribution

Man Making: Men Helping Boys on Their Journey to Manhood

Right now, there are boys around you who need the benefit of your wisdom and support to grow into responsible and self-assured men. You are the right man for this work, now is the time, and the boys are waiting. Purchase this book to learn how you can make a difference in the lives of young adolescent boys.



Networking Breakfast/Exhibits
7:30 – 8:30 AM

Stockinger Suite, 2nd Floor

Plan to arrive early to have time to register, enjoy a continental breakfast, and browse the Fatherhood Services Resource Tables. These exhibitors offer valuable information for fatherhood & family service practitioners and advocates across Minnesota. The exhibits will be open until 3:15 PM today.



Concurrent Sessions III
10:15 – 11:45 AM

Fatherhood Programs & Domestic Violence Prevention: Supporting & Encouraging Safe Families and Communities – Wilson Suite, 2nd Floor

Join this session to continue the discussion with keynote presenter Jacquelyn Boggess. Learn in-depth themes relating to the intersection of fatherhood, violence prevention, and family formation. **Presenter: Jacquelyn Boggess**, Center for Family Policy and Practice, Madison, Wisc.

Child Support, Paternity & Legal Fatherhood – Weidner Room, 1st Floor

Nearly 30% of Minnesota babies are born outside of marriage. Establishing paternity has important economic, legal and social benefits and is a significant factor in a child's overall health and well-being. Presenters will discuss the roles of legal professionals, government agencies, health care providers and community service providers in assuring that children receive emotional, financial and medical support from both parents. Attendees will also learn about the role of the county attorney in establishing paternity, child support orders, enforcement remedies, and modification requests. **Presenters: Molly Crawford**, Minnesota Dept. of Human Services, Child Support Enforcement Division, St. Paul; **Kelly Davis**, Ramsey County Attorney's Office, Child Support Division, St. Paul; **Dana Mitchell**, Ramsey County, St. Paul.

Black Fathers: Making Visible Their Presence – Clarke Room, 1st Floor

The perceptions of "involved father" versus "shadow father" are quite pronounced in many of Minnesota's African American communities. In this session, presenters will discuss statistics about Black father involvement, male responsibility, health, faith, and early child development. Attendees will hear about the strengths, challenges, and opportunities facing Black, African, and African American men. **Presenters: Dwaine R. Simms**, Twin Cities RISE!, Minneapolis; **Jimmie Davis**, Minneapolis; **Tyrone Davis**, Minneapolis.

Fast Track to Fathers' Involvement – Bell Room, 1st Floor

This session introduces participants to FAST (Families And Schools Together), a program designed to increase social support and reduce stress experienced by young fathers of infants 0-3. It is designed to reduce risk factors that have been linked to the abuse of infants and



Morning Keynote
8:30 – 9:45 AM

Working with Low-Income Fathers: Child Support, Marriageability, and More – Herberger Suite, 2nd Floor

Jacquelyn L. Boggess, Co-Director, Center for Family Policy and Practice, Madison, Wisc.

As a policy analyst, Ms. Boggess investigates the welfare system, family law courts and child support systems. Her primary interest is the interrelationship among these systems and how social welfare policy and practices resulting from these relationships effect low-income fathers, mothers, and children. Her work emphasizes collaborations with domestic violence and progressive advocacy groups in working on poverty reduction, violence prevention and economic justice for parents and children. During this session, Jacquelyn will discuss strategies to bring together and harness the experience, knowledge and insight from fatherhood practitioners and social service providers, as well as other partnering organizations. These collaborations develop holistic approaches and services that support men, women, children and their communities. She addresses the issues of poverty, race, and violence by accounting for the context in which advocates must provide services to their clients.



Networking, Snack, Exhibits
9:45 – 10:15 AM

Stockinger Suite, 2nd Floor

Conference evaluations are available online.

Attendees will receive a reminder email to complete the evaluation by January 31, 2008.

Online here:

www.mnfathers.org/2008SummitEvaluation.html

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highlights how collaborative partnerships are created to implement the successful program. **Presenter: Chris Daniel**, Families and Schools Together, Madison, Wisc.

Preventing Substance Abuse by Teens – Alexander Room, 1st Floor

The *Walking The Talk* process describes how to prevent substance abuse by learning to confidently converse with kids. This process helps teach evidence based strategies that support changing one family at a time, and for creating positive norms and discouraging risk factors that otherwise encourage the early onset of unhealthy use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. **Presenters: Kevin Spading**, Minnesota Prevention Resource Center, Moundview; **Kirsten Dawson**, Minnesota Prevention Resource Center.



**Excellence in Fatherhood
Awards Luncheon
11:45 – 1:15 PM**

Herberger Suite, 2nd Floor

Awards ceremony hosts: **Rebecca Ahlstrand & Jan Hayne**, MFFN Board of Directors

Invocation: **Albert Pooley**, Native American Fatherhood & Families Association, Mesa, Arizona

Join us in recognizing Minnesota's outstanding fatherhood advocates and programs that make a difference for fathers and families around the state. The 2008 Excellence in Fatherhood Policy and Practice awardees comprise the 4th group to receive this honor. Congratulations to each of the recipients!



**Concurrent Sessions IV
1:30 – 3:00 PM**

Strengthening Families of Incarcerated Fathers – Wilson Suite, 2nd Floor

Some of the families you work with probably have a family member in prison. What unique challenges and situations do these families face? How can human service, family education, and corrections engage more intentionally with families in this situation? This workshop describes research and strategies for working with incarcerated fathers and their families. Presenters discuss their experiences and provide an update on the Family Strengthening Project at the Council on Crime & Justice. **Presenters: Michael Bischoff**, Council on Crime and Justice, Minneapolis; **Lance Handy**, Council on Crime and Justice; **Andy Sagvold**, Council on Crime and Justice.

Theories on Serving Latino Fathers – Bell Room, 1st Floor

This interactive discussion provides participants with culturally appropriate ways of serving Latino fathers, especially those who are monolingual in Spanish and who have had minimal interactions with the mainstream. Attendees will compare differences in perceived parenting responsibilities between mainstream and Latino societies and discuss culturally based techniques for delivery of high quality services. **Presenter: Eustolio Benavides III, MSW**, Metropolitan State University, St. Paul.

Legal Impediments to Fatherhood In Minnesota – Clarke Room, 1st Floor

During this workshop practitioners will gain a framework for understanding the legal impediments standing in the way of fathers becoming full and equal partners in raising their children. The session highlights Minnesota's child custody statute and its significance to unmarried fathers. Attendees will learn how it interplays with other laws such as those dealing with child support and juvenile protection. The presenter will explore joint custody, with emphasis on legal and policy arguments for and against it. The session concludes with discussion of reforms needed to remove the impediments preventing fathers from full and equal participation in raising their children. **Presenter: Tom James**, Fathers4Justice.

Preparing Tomorrow's Parents: Why Teach Parenting Education to Teens? – Alexander Room, 1st Floor

Preparing teens to become caring, competent parents may be the single most effective way to prevent child abuse and other violence, increase mental health, advance school preparedness, and achieve success and satisfaction for future generations. Parenting education encompasses a variety of programs and curricula that foster teen knowledge and skills, improve the quality of parenting in future generations, reduce pregnancies among teens, and enhance the capacities for maintaining healthy relationships. **Presenter: Jan Hayne**, Dads Make a Difference, St. Paul.

Creating Father Friendly Environments – Weidner Room, 1st Floor

It's no easy task to recruit and retain fathers in a male involvement program. What are the steps toward achieving father friendly and father inclusive programming? What are the differences between being friendly versus inclusive? And where does your program fit in the hierarchy of male involvement? During this session, presenters will address practical steps and will provide opportunities for attendees to share successes and challenges. **Presenters: Tamy Reese**, Morris ECFE, Morris; **Neil Tift**, Native American Fatherhood and Families Association, Mesa, Arizona.



Networking, Snack, Exhibits
3:00 – 3:15 PM

Stockinger Suite, 2nd Floor



Afternoon Keynote Continued
4:15 – 4:30 PM

Wrap-up: A Clarion Call to Action –
Herberger Suite, 2nd Floor

Glen Palm, St. Cloud State University,
St. Cloud, Minnesota



Afternoon Keynote
3:15 – 4:15 PM

**Players, Predators, Partners, and
Parents: Educating Young Men
about Healthy Relationships** – Her-
berger Suite, 2nd Floor

Bill Taverner, MS, Editor, *American
Journal of Sexuality Education*, Morristown, New Jersey;
Director, Center for Family Life Education

What are the dynamics and risks of adult-teen relationships? How can professionals improve their effectiveness in helping adolescent males develop healthy relationships and avoid, change, or leave unhealthy ones? Join this session as national expert Bill Taverner challenges us to think about young men and fathers in various roles including players, predators, partners and parents. Mr. Taverner will challenge us to look for healthy examples and positive role models for all young men.

The Minnesota Fathers & Families Network, founded in 2003, will celebrate its five year anniversary in March 2008. Join this brief closing session as Dr. Palm challenges us to reach toward collective goals for the next five years. Attendees will learn about the blueprint for action, "Fathers to the Forefront", which sets goals for working in four arenas: services & support, education, public policy, and research. Attendees will each receive a copy of the blueprint and will be challenged to set personal and organizational goals for supporting healthy fatherhood across Minnesota.



Evaluate This Conference



Please help us determine the success of the 2008 Minnesota Fatherhood Summit.
Complete the **conference evaluation** online by January 31, 2008.

Online here: www.mnfathers.org/2008SummitEvaluation.html

**As an attendee, you are a new MFFN member
for 2008!**

All attendees of the Minnesota Fatherhood Summit receive **one-year of membership** with the Minnesota Fathers & Families Network. Watch for our monthly email and our quarterly print-copy newsletter to learn about upcoming events and resources about working with fathers. Also, as a member you will be listed in our 2008 annual report. If you would like to opt out of any of these resources / listings, or if you would like to change your contact information, please contact MFFN at info@mnfathers.org or (651) 222-7432.

Thank you for supporting MFFN as we work to further develop the field of fatherhood practitioners statewide!



Agenda at a Glance

St. Cloud Civic Center Second Floor

Monday, January 14, 2008

12:00 noon-1:15 PM - Stockinger Suite
Luncheon Keynote, Dr. Glen Palm

1:30-3:00 PM
Concurrent Mock Sessions I

3:30-5:00 PM
Concurrent Mock Sessions II

5:30-7:00 PM - Stockinger Suite
Dinner Keynote, State Senator
Tarryl L. Clark

7:30 PM - Bell Room
Documentary Film,
"Journeyman"

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

7:30-8:30 AM - Stockinger Suite
Breakfast / Exhibits / Networking

8:30-9:45 AM - Herberger Suite
Keynote, Jacquelyn Boggess

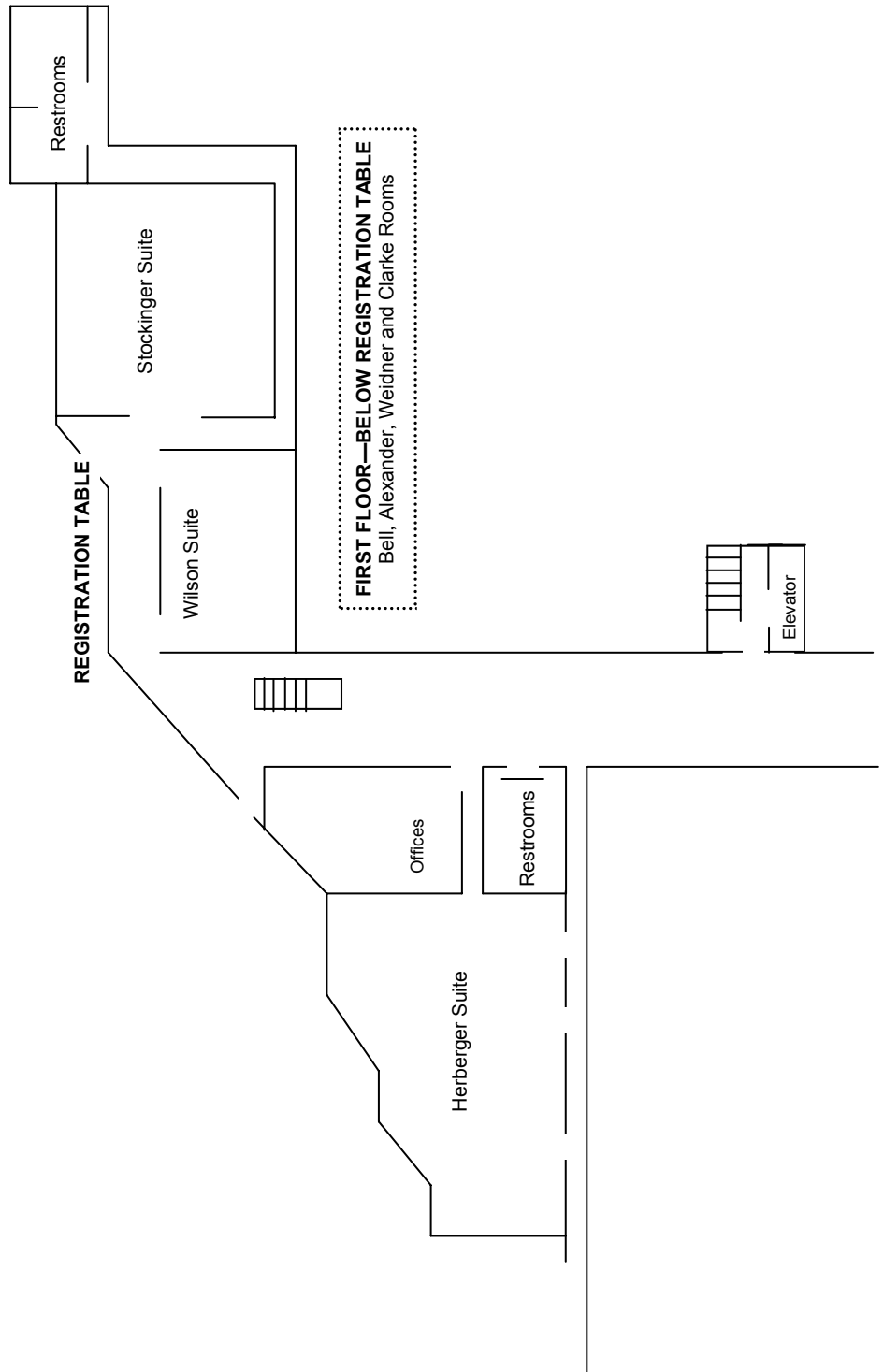
9:45-10:15 AM - Stockinger Suite
Exhibits / Refreshments / Networking

10:15-11:45 AM
Concurrent Sessions III

11:45-1:00 PM - Herberger Suite
Awards Luncheon

1:30-3:00 PM
Concurrent Sessions IV

3:15-4:30 PM - Herberger Suite
Closing Keynote, Bill Taverner &
Glen Palm



Contact MFFN

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