

From the President's Desk by Laureen Majeske

We need your help! We need all members who are interested in helping out on a committee for the 12th International Fragile X Conference, right here in our backyard, in Detroit (Dearborn) in 2010, to get involved. The enthusiasm is building here in Detroit as we begin planning the conference. There is so much to do! It is going to be a *lot* of work, and a *lot* of fun! AND, we'll get so much more done if you can pitch in!



Committees have been set (see page 4) and we are looking for volunteers to join committees and work with the chairpersons to make our Michigan-hosted conference a success! We really want to give this event a true Michigan flavor so we are hoping to have volunteers from all over the state. If you are not local to the Detroit/Southeast Michigan area, we understand that you would not be able to make monthly meetings, but there are numerous committees in which you can contribute. Check out the committees and see where you will best fit in. For those that are local, your committee chair will set a committee meeting schedule. We need your expertise, input and creativity. The chairperson will be relying on his/her committee to follow through, no task can be left undone.

Whether or not you are able to sit on a committee, there are plenty of other ways you can help. We are also looking for:

Auction/Raffle Items

High-end items will be needed to be auctioned off at the Saturday banquet. Perhaps a weekend at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island or a private dinner with Kid Rock. Many other items will be needed for silent auction and raffle items. Michigan-themed baskets. Sensory item-themed baskets. Sporting event ticket packages. Jewelry. Gift certificates for restaurants, spas, etc - consider companies that are national chains to entice our out-of-town guests.

General Donations

Items to be put in the welcome bags (1200 count), snacks to supply to our volunteers, teen/youth room or child care, fidget toys, paper or notebooks, etc. These could be promotional items donated by your company or any other organization, for example potato chips from Better Made or Frito Lay, stress balls with the Compuware logo, etc. We are also looking for cardboard cutouts/posters of automobiles and race car drivers (past or present).

Service Donations

Signage, theater lighting, transportation (car/bus service), printing, etc.

Sponsorships

You may work for a company or know of an organization that would like to be a conference sponsor at any level, perhaps sponsor a certain portion of the conference (coffee break, child care, family night, etc) or make a donation. Please contact Mike Makris for more information (contact info on page 4), to request a sponsorship packet to share with a company or to give us contact information if you would like us to make the connection.

Grants

Does your company give out grants for educational events held in Michigan? Let us know and we'll work together on obtaining the grant. Please contact Mike Makris.

Other

If you have something special to offer that we haven't mentioned, please let us know.

We will be sending out additional requests as we get them. Thank you so much to all of you for your help in making this conference a success. Please contact me or a committee chairperson to sign up for the committee that is the right fit for you!

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12th International Fragile X Conference
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