

Missouri Association of Rural Education

"Rural Schools, Working Together to Make a Difference"



Annual Conference

March 7— 8, 2008

**The Resort at Port Arrowhead
Lake Ozark, Missouri**

Keynote Speaker



RONALD R. WILLIS

SECOND GENERAL SESSION (KEYNOTE), FRIDAY, MARCH 7

Ronald R. Willis is Founder of **Green Porch Swing Productions** and mental health consultant to the medical community and its many organizations across the midlands of America. He serves as executive in charge of Human Resources and Corporate Culture Development to BASIC VISIONS, a Kansas City consulting firm committed to nurturing superior growth cultures in corporate America.

Ron holds an education specialist degree from Fort Hays State University and has completed additional graduate course work at Kansas State University and the University of Denver. He is a member of the National Speakers Association (Professional Level).

Ron has presented before the Medicare Facility Surveyors Training Coordinators, American Academy of Certified Public Managers, Kansas Health Care, Kansas Hospital Association, Minnesota Emergency Medical Services, Forth Worth Area Prenatal Nursing Symposium, American Academy of Family Physicians and the American Association of Family Practice Nurses. In addition, Ron honors numerous contracts each year with hospitals in the Midwest to improve their culture as it relates to workplace relationships and customer service.

Session Description

First General Session, 9:30 a.m. Friday, March 7

“Looking Ahead for Missouri Schools”

Tom Mickes, (Attorney with the firm Mickes Goldman, LLC)

Tom Mickes and members of his legal team will discuss issues that Missouri rural school district face on a regular basis. Discussions will include discipline issues, safe school act dilemmas and other critical issues of the day.

Second General Session, 3:00 p.m. Friday, March 7

“Lighting Your Candle and Fanning Its Flame”

Ron Willis (Founder of Green Porch Swing Productions)

Remaining encouraged and hopeful through forgiveness, selflessness, loyalty, courage, and perseverance. This presentation is a terrific fuel for those who desire to maintain a positive personal vision for the future.

Third General Session, 11:00 a.m. Saturday, March 8

“Collective Bargaining: Where Are We Now?”

Duane Martin, (Attorney with Doster Guin James Ullom Benson & Mundorf, LLC)

This program presentation will focus on the current status of Missouri law regarding bargaining with public school employees including a discussion of current trends, proposed legislation, approaches to bargaining with employees this school year and recommendations for policies and practices in the future.

"Rural Schools are a Great Place to Learn"

Missouri Association of Rural Education Annual Conference

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The Resort at Port Arrowhead
Lake Ozark, Missouri

Program Outline

Thursday, March 6, 2008

7:30 p.m.	MARE Executive Board Meeting	Missouri Room
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Friday, March 7, 2008

8:00 a.m.	Registration Opens	Lakeside Foyer
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8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.	School Board Training Sessions	Ozark Room
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9:30 a.m.	Welcome & Opening Remarks	Lakeside South/Center
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Mr. Larry Flanagan, MARE Board President

Color Guard — Bolivar JROTC

First General Session — *Tom Mickes—Law Update*

Door Prizes

11:45 a.m.	Luncheon (Included in Registration)	Lakeside North/Terrace
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1:00 p.m.	Small Group Sessions—Presented by MARE Associate Members	
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• Identity Theft—Your Liability	Room A
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• How to Select and Work with Your Architect	Room B
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• Marketing Your School Just Got Easier	Room C
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• Long Range Planning for Capital Facilities Improvements	Room D
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• 403(b) Made Easy	Missouri Room
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• Dealing with Staphylococcus Aureus	Dogwood Room
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2:00 p.m.	Small Group Sessions—Presented by MARE Associate Members	
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• Safe Schools Begin with Safe Facilities	Room A
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• Concerns for Schools with Water & Wastewater Systems	Room B
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• Introductions to MO Educators Benefits Association	Room C
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• TIPS—Saving DOLLARS for your DISTRICT	Room D
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• Maximize your Employment Benefits	Missouri Room
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• 403(b) New Regulations and Mandatory Compliance Issues	Dogwood Room
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3:00 p.m.	Second General Sessions — <i>Keynote speaker—Ron Willis</i>	Room D
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“Lighting Your Candle and Fanning Its Flame”

4:15 p.m.	Annual MARE Membership Business Meeting/Legislative Update	Room D
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Door Prizes

5:30 p.m. —	Hospitality Room by Associate Sponsors	Lakeside North & Terrace
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	Opening of Exhibit Area	Lakeside South & Center
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1:00 p.m. Friday, March 7, 2008

Small Group Session Description

Identity Theft—Your Liability

This workshop is designed to inform and educate the school community, specifically superintendents and board members, on the liabilities that recent legislation has placed on employers. Is your district prepared?

- Presenter—Rick Hemphill, Independent Associates/Small Business, CDLP & Group Benefits Specialist, Hemphill Financial Group

Marketing Your School Just Got Easier

Marketing your school just got easier with electronic communication!

1. Why it's important to market your school
2. How your constituents are using the Internet
3. Online Tools you can use to market your school
4. Examples of how schools are using their web presence to market their schools

Long Range Planning for Capital Facilities Improvements

This session focuses primarily on the process of obtaining voter approval for capital facilities improvements (bond and levy elections) but with emphasis on the activities that happen in advance of the actual ballot measure, including management of existing debt and debt structuring strategies, and public relations activities to make the eventual election more successful. The presentation will use three Missouri School Districts as examples, detailing the unique activities the Districts used to achieve successful voter approval for new facilities.

- Presenter: Larry Hart, President of L.J. Hart and Company and Heather Mudd, Vice President of the L.J. Hart and Company.

How to Select and Work with Your Architect

The American Institute of Architects presents a comprehensive program that will provide school districts tools to interview and select architect (and other design professionals) through the policies mandated by Chapter 8 of the Missouri Revised statutes. This program will also present the professional services that school districts can utilize in planning for future facility use and growth.

- Presenter: Dwight Dickinson, AIA, Dickinson Hussman Architects, President AIA Missouri,

Staphylococcus aureus what a mouth full!!

Earlier this school year, several districts across the state were forced to close their school buildings down for a few days in order to conduct a thorough cleaning of the facilities to eradicate this Methicillin-resistant bacteria. Is your district ready for this "bug"? This session will share with you some of the risk factors that your school district faces and look at ways to prevent future attacks.

403(b) Made Easy

"Welcome to the Brave New World of 403(b)," so says Bob Architect of the IRS.

It is a brave new world, but not one you should fear. This presentation is intended to put your mind at ease so you can lay awake at night worrying about something else.

From re-exchanges to orphan accounts, your 403(b) administration and compliance partner will be available to take questions and provide answers.

- Presenter: Terence O'Malley, Esq, Director of Program Support, Forrest T. Jones and Co. Inc.

2:00 p.m. Friday, March 8, 2008

Small Group Session Description

Safe Schools Begin with Safe Facilities

Participants will acquire the knowledge and skills to successfully assess, improve and maintain a safe, learning and teaching environment.

- Presenter—Bob Watts, Mid-America Facility Solutions

Introductions to MO Educators Benefits Association

Missouri Educator Benefits Association (MEBA) is a group of nearly 90 school districts that are committed to provide access to quality, cost efficient employee benefits (life, dental, vision, etc.) to Missouri Public Schools. MEBA has already saved many schools thousands of dollars. The session will let districts know how they can benefit from membership.

- Presenter: Phillip Cook, Superintendent, Carl Junction R-I School District

Concerns for Schools with Water & Wastewater Systems

Many school districts are regulated as public drinking water and wastewater systems. These districts must deal with regulatory concerns as well as student health and public relations. This session will give a brief overview of MARE's partner, Missouri Rural Water Association, and give administrators board members, and maintain personnel the latest information on common regulatory concerns and how to prevent them from becoming an embarrassing issue.

- Presenter: Randy Norden, Deputy Administrator, Missouri Rural Water Association

Maximize your Employment Benefits

Whether you're an Educator, Administrator or Board Member learn how to use employment benefits to your advantage. *Tax advantages of 125 flex plans and 403-b TBA's. *Making sense of "Group Products". *How credit affects insurance premiums. *Budgets, savings and retirement, there's help. *Take advantage of Educator discounts.

- Presenter: John Murphy, Agency Manager, Horace Mann Companies

403(b) New Regulations and Mandatory Compliance Issues

This workshop will introduce the audience to the new 403(b) regulations that become effective December 30, 2008. It will examine what the new directives are and procedures districts need to adopt prior to December 30, 2008 to insure they will be in compliance.

- Presenter: Mark Leech, Regional Client Manager, Gatekeeper Administration and Consulting

TIPS—Saving DOLLARS for your DISTRICT

This session will outline the benefits of purchasing supplies and services for your rural school district through the method of combined purchasing utilizing The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) (This purchasing program is endorsed by MARE and marketed as the Missouri Cooperative Purchasing Program.)

- Presenter: David Mabe, Deputy Executive Director, Region VIII Education Service Center, Administrator for The Interlocal Purchasing System.

Saturday, March 8, 2008

7:15 a.m.	Registration Opens	Lakeside Foyer
	Breakfast (Included in Registration)	Lakeside North & Terrace
8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.	School Board Training Sessions	Ozark Room
8:30 a.m.	Small Group Sessions	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Buildings, Bond Issue & E-Rate	Room A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Special Education Issues 2008	Room B
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Communication = Success	Room C
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Cyber Bullying/Cyber Safety	Room D
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Building a purposeful community to meet 4th Cycle MSI	Missouri Room
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Rural Schools Can Boost Test Scores with Web-based Tool	Dogwood Room
9:30 a.m.	Small Group Sessions	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Comparability Groups: Why they are important	Room A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Vision is a Learned Skill...How can you help?	Room B
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Northwest Rural School Network—5 Years and Counting!	Room C
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Weather Forecast—Tornado is Coming	Room D
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Helping Home-Schooled Students Make the Transition to Public Schools	Missouri Room
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">“Educational Adequacy” Accessing the Educational Environment	Dogwood Room
10:00 a.m.	Exhibits Open	Lakeside South & Center
11:00 a.m.	Third General Session—“Is your school district ready for Collective Bargaining?” — Duane Martin	Room D
	Door Prizes	
12:15 p.m.	Luncheon (Included with Registration)	Lakeside North & Terrace
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Outstanding Rural Education Awards	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Meeting Adjournment	

8:30 a.m. Saturday, March 10, 2007

Small Group Session Description

Buildings, Bond Issue & E-Rates

- Plan now to get up to 5% E-rate funding for 2009 and 2010 school construction and remodeling costs.
- Plan now to virtually eliminate "2 out of 5 limitations" for E-rate internal connections filings.
- Plan now to pay for large R-rate projects over 2 school years.
- Plan now to assure early filing, early approval, early funding.
- Plan now to use E-rate planning for bond issue promotion.
- Presenter: Richard H. Senturia, School Telecom LLC

Special Education 2008

Since November 2004, the IDEA, its implementing regulations, and the State Plan have all undergone extensive revisions. This presentation will focus on three issues which can significantly impact on rural school districts: education students with low-incidence disabilities; attracting and retaining qualified teachers; and defending against a due process complaint.

- Presenter: Jim Thomeczek, Thomeczek Law Firm

Educational Adequacy Accessing the Educational Environment

A growing body of research has linked student achievement and behavior, as well as staff morale, to physical building conditions. The "Educational Adequacy" of a learning environment is the degree to which a school building and site adequately support the instructional mission and methods of the learning process. A facility either impedes or supports learning. This presentation focuses on an assessment process that is based on the individual district's unique direction for curriculum, the community's voice, the building educators' evaluation and qualified professional examinations, measured against national accepted standards, cost efficiencies and the district's mission/vision. The end result produces organized data used to map out the future goals of the district and its community.

The Council of Educational Facility Planners International (CEFPI) is an international organization that is committed to be an advocate for excellence in student learning environments. CEFT is a resource for planning effective educational facilities and serves those who use, plan, design, construct, equip, operate and maintain educational facilities.

- Presenter: Karen Johnson IIDA, Council of Educational Facility Planners International

Building a purposeful community to meet 4th Cycle MSIP

One of the challenges facing rural educators is finding affordable professional development opportunities to address technology integration. LearnKey is a tool that is very affordable and can be used by students, staff, and community to improve technology skills. This session will help educators plan to meet fourth cycle MSIP requirements.

- Presenter: Dr. Larry Bohannon, Assistant Professor, Southeast Missouri State University; Chandra Boyd, The Learning System

Communication = Success

Effective communication between the district administration and the Board of Education is essential for success. This program reviews tips on communication. Perhaps one or more will be helpful to your district. Dr. Dewar has presented at state and national meetings on the topic of effective governance practices.

- Presenter Dr. Randy Dewar, Professor, University Central Missouri.

Cyber Bullying/Cyber Safety

Do u txt msg? IM? Chat? Blog? Your kids do! What are kids doing online and how can we help them be safe. Participants in this interactive session will focus on internet safety/cyberbullying. The sessions includes a PowerPoint presentation, interactive activities and time for question and answers.

The goal of the session is to provide awareness and knowledge to participants on what children/youth need in order to recognize and avoid dangerous, destructive, or unlawful online behavior and to respond appropriately. To expand the internet safety program to school districts and agencies to educate and empower children/youth to safely and responsibly take control of their Internet experience.

Participation in the session will provide participants with an overview of the Cyberbullying/Internet Safety.

- Presenter: Dr. Glenn A Berry, Director, MO Center for Safe Schools

9:30 a.m. Saturday, March 8, 2008

Small Group Session Description

Comparability Groups: Why They are Important

A district comparability group is a valuable resource when considering compensation issues, staffing levels, or designing CSIP goals. How to create comparability groups, where to find and how to use data for their development, and how utilize subtle elements of such groups will be presented.

- Presenter—Michael Jinks, Asst. Professor, University of Central Missouri

Vision is a Learned Skill ... How can you help??

Vision is a learned skill and some children have serious vision problems that are not identified during the normal 20/20 acuity screening process. The Vision Intervention Program (V.I.P.), Best Practice, trains school personnel to screen students for vision challenges and then offer tutoring to help those students. This session will show research results related to number of children with vision challenges, correlation between vision challenges and reading, and the results of V.I.P. interventions. The screening and tutoring process will be demonstrated.

- Presenter: Barbara Stratton, Regional Facilitator for Successlink

Helping Home-Schooled Students Make the Transition to Public School

This program gives an overview of how public school officials can provide an accommodating, smooth transition to home-schooled students who decide to attend public schools. Based upon the presenter's original research, the program will give reasons for why parents decide to send children into public schools, their concerns, and practical ways school officials and staff can help with the transfer from a home school environment to a public school setting.

- Presenter: Dr. Jeff Koonce, Superintendent, Pettis County R-XIII School District

Northwest Rural School Network—5 Years and Counting!

The school districts of Nodaway, Worth, Atchison and Holt counties have created a network of collaboration. This session will outline the journey in establishing this network of "rural advocates", its focus on valuing and supporting rural schools and communities, the goals accomplished through this collaboration, and ideas for replication in other counties of the state.

- Presenter: Beccy Baldwin, Northwest RPDC

Rural Schools Can Boost Test Scores with Web-based Tool

A web-based tool that addresses intervention and remediation can assist rural schools to raise tests scores on required standardized exams. The program and services with the program have strengthened educational opportunities for 150 school sites and thousands of students in a neighboring state.

- Presenter: Jacque Reese, Project Coordinator, MOJEdI/Impact Education

Weather Forecast – The Weather Bureau has just issued a Tornado Warning for your area!

Mrs. Joy Tucker, Superintendent of the St. James R-I School District will share the experience and lessons learned when a tornado hit one of the districts school buildings last spring, while school was in session. Hear ways in which your school district administrators and staff can be better prepared for such an event.

- Presenter— Mrs. Joy Tucker, Superintendent of St. James R-I School District

"Educational Adequacy" Accessing the Educational Environment

A growing body of research has linked student achievement and behavior, as well as staff morale, to physical building conditions. The "Educational Adequacy" of a learning environment is the degree to which a school building and site adequately support the instructional mission and methods of the learning process. A facility either impedes or supports learning. This presentation focuses on an assessment process that is based on the individual district's unique direction for curriculum, the community's voice, the building educators' evaluation and qualified professional examinations, measured against nationally accepted standards, cost efficiencies and the district's mission/vision. The end result produces organized data used to map out the future goals of the district and its community.

- Presenter: Karen Johnson IIDA, Interior Designer, Council of Educational Facility Planners International

NOTES

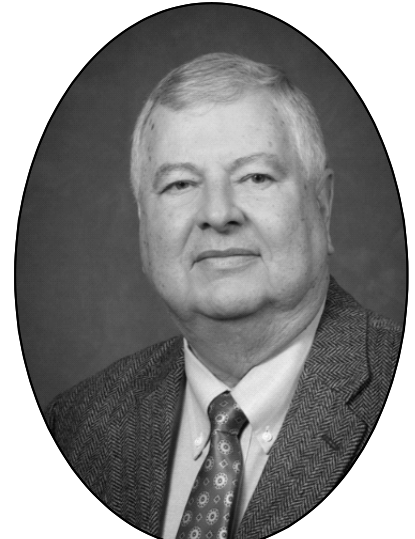
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**Heather L. Mudd
Vice President**



Missouri Rural Water Association

School starts next week and the state sent you a letter telling you the bacti samples from the school's water supply weren't taken last month and you need to do public notification.

What's a bacti sample?

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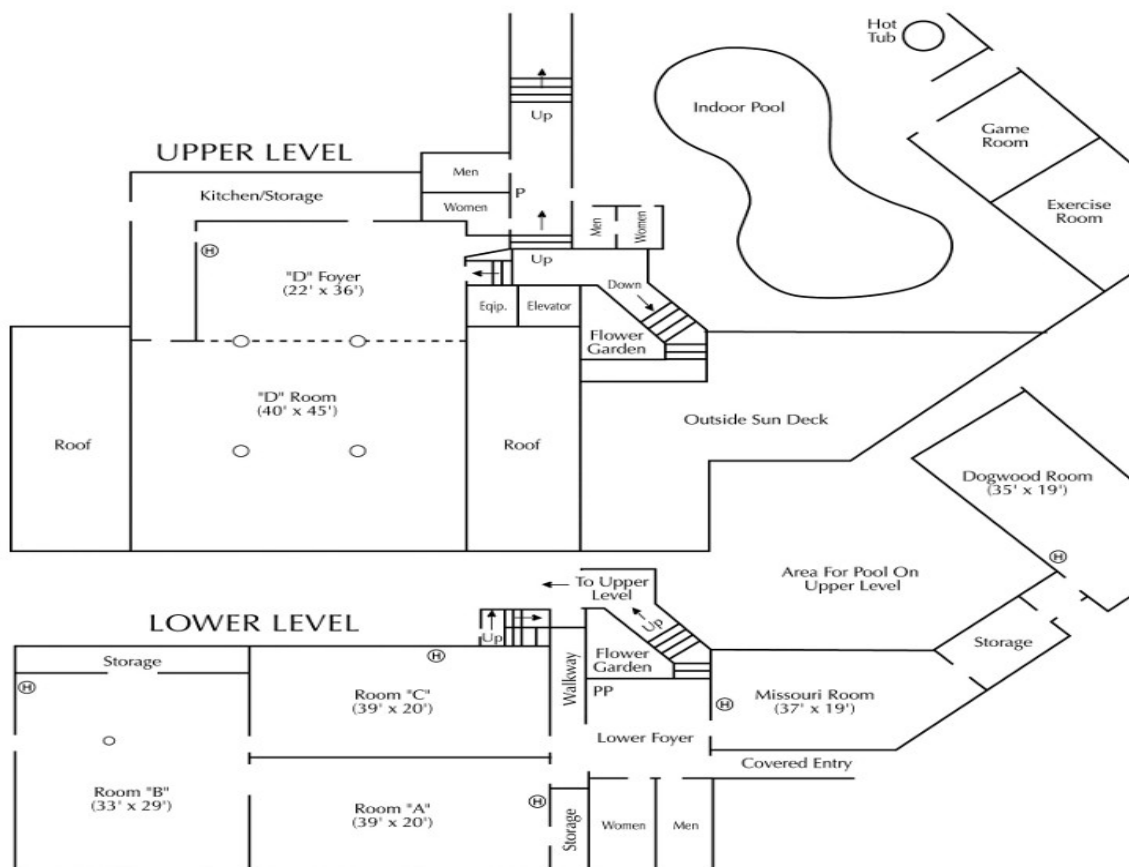
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Associate Members
2006-2007**

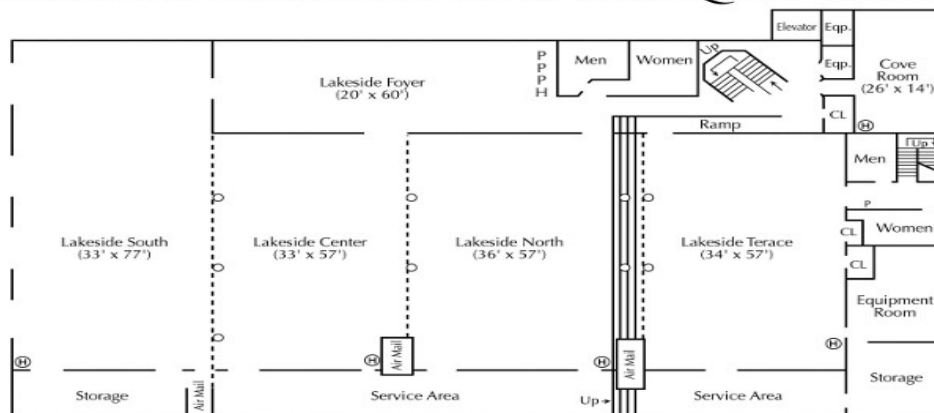
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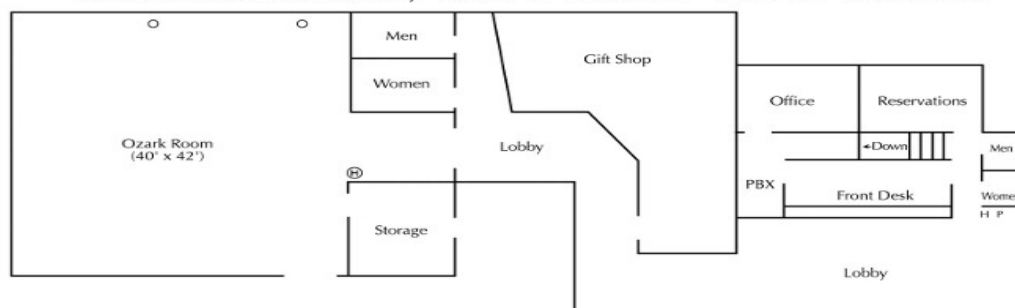
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Rural Middle School Teacher

Marilyn Bolinger, Clarksburg C-II

Rural Secondary Teacher

John Rummel, Stockton R-I

Rural Building Administrator

Melinda Wilbeck, Brookfield R-III

Rural Support Staff Member

Bev Ollison, Green Ridge R-VIII

Rural Senior High Student

Jullian Borrows, Smithton R-VI

Rural School Board of Education

Kingsville R-I School District

Rural School Board Member

Hugh Wallace, Mound City R-II

Rural School District

Glasgow R-III School District

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Hospitality Rooms

American Boiler & Mechanical
ABC Systems, Inc.

Executive Board Dinner

Claim Care, Inc.

Registration Table

Mary Lue Potthast
Anne Patrick
Philip Dorth

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and Board of Directors
2007-2008**

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Vice President	Geanine Bloch	Stoutland R-II
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