



arkansas

EARLY
CHILDHOOD

association

Summer 2007

AECA Update

Dear Members:

I want to encourage each of you to attend the 46th Annual Arkansas Early Childhood Association Conference held in Hot Springs, October 18-20, 2007. Conference Co-chairs, Michelle Wynn and Michelle Pounds, have worked diligently along with your new president Traci Johnston to provide an excellent conference this year! You can find more conference information on the web if you visit, www.arkansasearlychildhood.org and select **Conference**. Scholarships are available for the AECA Conference registration. Please take advantage of this opportunity and encourage your co-workers to attend. We want this to be a record high number at the conference. The Deltha Sharp/Maggie Reynolds Scholarship is also available for members who will be attending the SECA Conference for the first time. Next year's SECA conference will be held in Northern Kentucky, March 27 – 29, 2008.

On August 24, 2007, approximately 24 members met together for the AECA Summit. This meeting was conducted in order to provide new direction on how the state association could be of greater benefit to its members. If you have any concerns, ideas, or questions, please e-mail or call one of the executive board members to offer your ideas. The board is interested in hearing from you! If you would like to share your thoughts with me you may e-mail me at vshelby@paragould.k12.ar.us and I will forward your ideas to the rest of the board.

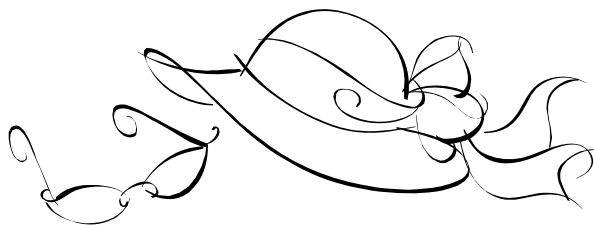
As I move into the past-president position, I look back on an exciting year of advocacy at the state level. We should be proud of the dedicated early childhood professionals in Arkansas who have educated legislatures on the importance and necessity of funding for early childhood programs. Thanks to you, their message was heard. The gingerbread men and the beautiful quilts were a helpful reminder about the importance of early childhood education. Thank you to you and the children in your classroom! A group of professionals can make a difference. I urge you to keep in contact with your legislatures on every issue involving Arkansas's young children this year.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the conference in October! It will be a great time to re-energize once again. Don't forget to wear pink, think pink, and support the Race for the Cure!

Sincerely,

Vicki Shelby

Vicki Shelby
AECA Past- President



Race for the Cure

Since this year's conference coincides with the Central Arkansas Race for the Cure event, AECA would like to give all conference attendees the opportunity to show their support through participating in a memory walk.

Date: Saturday, October 20, 2007

Time: 6:30 – 7:00am

Where to meet: AECA Registration Booth

What to wear: Your pink AECA shirt

AECA UPDATE

is a newsletter of the Arkansas Early Childhood Association, an affiliate of the Southern Early Childhood Association. Membership is open to those interested in the development of young children.

2006-2007 Executive Board

President

Vicki Shelby - Paragould

President-Elect

Traci Johnston – Little Rock

Immediate Past President

Janet Perkins - Bentonville

Secretary

Joanna Grymes - Jonesboro

Treasurer

Michelle Stephens – Bentonville

Historian

Mary Calcote – Bentonville

First Vice President- Publications

Lindsey Smith – Little Rock

Second Vice President- Membership

Barbara Gilkey – Little Rock

Members-at-Large

District #1

Susan Lindblom - Batesville

District #2

Johnnie Bridges–N. Little Rock

District #3

Deb Kee – Bentonville

District #4

Susan Smith - Hamburg

SECA Representative

Diana Courson - Magnolia

Attention all Members!!!

The AECA Executive Board has proposed a change to the Association Bylaws. An ad hoc committee on elections developed the proposal, which was endorsed by the Board. The purpose of the change is to allow more options in the nominations process. Members will vote on the proposed change during the business meeting that will be held at **Friday's general session** the conference in October.

Modify Article VII, Section D:

Current Wording:

A minimum of two candidates for each office shall be nominated. In addition, provision shall be made for write-in candidates.

Proposed Revision:

A slate of officers will be proposed; a minimum of one candidate per office will constitute a slate. A provision shall be made for write-in candidates.

If you have questions regarding this proposed bylaws change, please contact AECA president Traci Johnston, tjohnston@uaex.edu. 501-671-2364

Don't Forget!

AECA is offering its members two wonderful opportunities to gain financial support to aid in their professional development endeavors. Two recipients will receive the Maggie Reynolds/Deltha Sharp Award to help pay for their first SECA Conference attendance.

AECA is also requesting nominations for the AECA Outstanding Member Award. This is an excellent opportunity to highlight your peers and the work that they do to enrich the field of early childhood.

Please be sure to take advantage of these three excellent opportunities. Both forms are due by **October 1, 2007**.



**AECA Mission Statement : Enhancing the lives of children, families
and early childhood professionals in the state of Arkansas.**

Maggie Reynolds / Deltha Sharp Scholarship Award

Complete this form and mail it to AECA: Arkansas Early Childhood Association
PO Box 2898
Little Rock, AR 72203
Phone: (501) 771-1680

The Arkansas Early Childhood Association awards up to two scholarships annually to its members. This scholarship will pay for a portion of an individual's expenses to attend the annual **Southern Early Childhood Association conference**. The SECA conference will be held in Northern Kentucky, March 27 – 29, 2008.

Criteria to be considered for a scholarship include:

- Applicant must be a member in good standing in AECA
- Applicant must be a first-time attendee of a SECA conference outside of Arkansas
- Applicant must provide evidence of commitment and dedication to the goals of AECA
- Applicant must provide evidence of leadership potential

If awarded a scholarship, the recipient must be willing to serve on the Scholarship Committee, assist with the Silent Auction at the AECA annual conference and provide a mini-session at the following AECA conference.

Applicant Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Position _____

Professional Experience _____

Participation in AECA and local affiliate _____

Please state how attendance at a SECA conference would benefit the children of Arkansas _____

Why did you choose the profession of early childhood education? _____

Additional information to support your eligibility _____

Application must also include a letter of nomination from an AECA affiliate officer. This letter of nomination must also provide evidence the applicant meets the criteria for the scholarship.

Signature _____ Date _____

Application must be POSTMARKED by October 1, 2007

AECA Outstanding Member Award Nomination Form

Complete this form and mail it to AECA: Arkansas Early Childhood Association
PO Box 2898
Little Rock, AR 72203
Phone: (501) 771-1680

Date: _____ Affiliate Organization: _____

President: _____

Person Being Nominated: _____

Address: _____

Education: _____

Professional Experience: _____

Professional Affiliation(s): _____

Professional activities that indicate professional recognition: _____

Contributions to the cause of better childhood education: _____

Leadership roles in local and state associations: _____

Honors and other justifications for award: _____

Signature _____ Title: _____

Nomination must be POSTMARKED by October 1, 2007

2007 AECA Merit of Achievement Award

To receive the Merit of Achievement Award, a local affiliate must complete all required items and a minimum of three optional items. The award year is September 1, 2006, through August 31, 2007.

The affiliate must provide appropriate verification of completion of each item. Examples of verification are meeting notices, newspaper articles, and photographs. Affiliates are encouraged to use creativity in organizing and presenting verification of their work.

Verification must be submitted to the AECA historian no later than noon on Friday, October 19th. Items may be picked up on the last day of the conference.

REQUIRED ITEMS

1. Submit Affiliate Officer Report to AECA office and to AECA president by June 30. All officers must be AECA members. [Verified by the AECA association manager]
2. Conduct regular affiliate meetings that include a business session.
3. Sponsor an educational exhibit/display at the AECA conference. [Verified by Non-commercial exhibit chair]
4. Participate in tasks for AECA conference. [Verified by conference coordinator]
5. Submit a minimum of three items for the AECA scrapbook. [Verified by AECA historian]
6. Donate at least one item to the AECA silent auction. [Verified by scholarship committee]
7. Affiliate president or representative attends AECA Leadership Workshop and board meetings. The affiliate representative at these meetings may not be a member of the AECA executive board. [Verified by AECA secretary]
8. Send a copy of affiliate newsletters or meeting announcements to each member of the AECA executive board.

OPTIONAL ITEMS

1. Participate in Arkansas Children's Week.
2. Host a visit by an AECA board member at local affiliate event.
3. Local affiliate pays full or partial expenses for at least one member to attend SECA conference.
4. Local affiliate pays full or partial expenses for at least one member to attend AECA conference.
5. Sponsor an outreach program to persons or agencies outside AECA. (administrators, parents, agencies concerned with young children)
6. Participate in a community service project.
7. At least 75% of local affiliate board members attend AECA conference.
8. Increase membership by 10% or more over preceding year.
9. Conduct seven or more affiliate meetings.



Potty-time Pointers

Joyce Smith, NEA-EC

Before breakfast and lunch the lead teacher and I divide our class into two groups. While she watches over the children that are using the restroom and washing their hands, I play word games with the children in my group. One game we play often involves the children identifying an opposite word for the word I give them. The other game we play often involves the children identifying a rhyming word for the word I give them. The children love these games!

Calendar of Events

- NWAECA Training..... October 4, 2007
- HSECA Training October 8, 2007
- AECA ConferenceOctober 18 – 2007
- NWAECA Training.....November 1, 2007
- Update Articles DueNovember 5, 2007
- HSECA TrainingNovember 12, 2007

Training Alert!

If you would like to receive verified training hours while having fun networking with other early childhood professionals, two excellent opportunities await you! Both the Hot Springs Early Childhood Association and the North West Arkansas Early Childhood Association have begun their annual series of trainings and both are eager for your attendance. Visit www.arkansasearlychildhood.org and select **Calendar of Events** for more information on these two great series of training!

Congratulations!



Joyce Smith of Walnut Ridge won a free AECA membership for a year for submitting her classroom idea.

Important Election Update: The last edition of the AECA Update included the list of candidates for the 2007-2009 term. However, the ballot did not provide directions on how to cast your vote. The Executive Board directed that a new ballot be published in this issue. Please mark the ballot below. If you approve the slate as presented, check the box. If you wish to vote for another candidate for any office, write that person's name in the space provided. Mail the completed ballot to AECA, PO Box 2898, Little Rock, AR 72203. All ballots must be **postmarked by October 1, 2007.**

If you wish to approve the slate of officers as presented, please check this box.

President-Elect

Candidate: Barbara Gilkey

Write-in: _____

1st Vice-President of Publications

Candidate: Lindsey Smith

Write-in: _____

Treasurer

Candidate: Dawn Jeffery

Write-in: _____

Member at Large #2

Candidate: Johnnie Bridges

Write-in: _____

Member at Large #3

Candidate: Deb Kee

Write-in: _____

SECA Representative

Candidate: Joanna Grymes

Write-in: _____

***By voting for write-in candidates, you are verifying that the candidate is a member of AECA, has demonstrated abilities in the areas of management and administration, and that the candidate has agreed to have his/her name placed on the ballot.

Cut Here
✂



P.O. Box 2898
Little Rock, AR 72203

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 02485
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

*Arkansas Early Childhood Association
46th Annual Conference
October 18 – 20, 2007
Hot Springs Convention Center
305 Malvern Avenue
Hot Springs, Arkansas*



For more information visit
www.arkansasearlychildhood.org
then select **Conference**.

This quarter you have the opportunity to celebrate those individuals doing great work in the field of early childhood. What better way to do that than to fill out an Outstanding Member nomination form and let us know who is making a difference in the Association as well as the field of early childhood.

The Update is a medium for affiliate leaders to communicate information about upcoming events with their members. It also gives our members the opportunity to voice their ideas and opinions. So, if you would like to share activity ideas, favorite children's stories, classroom tips, or parent involvement ideas with your peers, here is your opportunity!

The 2007 Fall Update feature will be, "*Conference Reflections: What I Learned and How I Plan to Use it in My Classroom.*" I hope many of you are planning to attend the AECA conference in October. I'm sure you'll have plenty of fun ideas to use with the children in your care as well as their parents. I look forward to hearing from many of you after the conference! All entries must be submitted by November 5, 2007. Remember, you can submit as little or as much as you like. Contributions can be sent to Lindsey Smith at lsmith@uaex.edu or PO Box 391, Little Rock, AR 72203.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Lindsey Smith

Lindsey Smith, First Vice President - Publications

