



Summer 2008

AECA Update

Dear Members,

I am honored and pleased to serve as president of the Arkansas Early Childhood Association for the next year. It is my intent to serve and represent our association honorably and completely at the local, state and national levels. Your confidence in my ability to lead our organization means a lot and will not be taken lightly.

As we prepare to embark on a new year with exciting changes and anticipated growth in membership, please allow me to pause and thank members of the current and next AECA board and Affiliate leaders. They are a group of strong, hardworking, caring and committed individuals who realize that their role is vital to the profession, its growth and future.

Our association continues to increase in visibility across the state and the annual AECA conference continues to draw large numbers of attendees. This can be attributed to our team of talented conference coordinators who devote a huge amount of time ensuring that upon your arrival, there are excellent presenters and quality workshop sessions.

Please plan to join us and other early education colleagues across the state at the Annual AECA conference to be held October 16-18, 2008. Our pledge is to help you become more prepared as we "Make Connections for Children Through Relationship, Responsibility and Research." A lot of useful information will be presented on a variety of topics; plenty of door prizes; networking opportunities and oh, so much more.

May I take this opportunity to encourage you to consider serving as an officer in the association either at the local or state level. So many of you have excellent ideas and thoughts on other ways we can attract new members, provide better services and communicate more effectively with the membership. Either way, you are asked to support the affiliate in your area by attending meetings and providing input on ways to help our profession flourish.

A great deal of emphasis has been placed on early education over the past few years and we know the value of a strong and good start for our children. Let's unite and work together to ensure the continuation of high quality services to our children. I pledge to do my best, what about you?

Sincerely,

Barbara Gilkey

Barbara Gilkey
AECA President

**2008-2009
Executive Board**

President
Barbara Gilkey
Little Rock

President-Elect
Tina Ross - Little Rock

Immediate Past President
Traci Johnston
Little Rock

Secretary
Jamie Morrison
Greenbrier

Treasurer
Dawn Jeffrey - Southside

Historian
Joy Smith - Batesville

1ST VP Publications
Lindsey Smith
Little Rock

2nd VP Membership
Kate Runder - Little Rock

Members-at-Large
District #1
Kathy Pillow-Price
Batesville

District #2
Johnnie Bridges
North Little Rock

District #3
Deb Kee - Bentonville

District #4
Angela Vann - Magnolia

SECA Representative
Joanna Grymes
Jonesboro

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 6, 2008.**



AECA and Arkansas Children's Hospital Need You

As many of you know, this year's service project focuses on gathering items for isolation kits which will be donated to Arkansas Children's Hospital. We have received many items, and are truly grateful for the donations. However, we still need your help! Below is a list of items needed for the isolation activity kits. We would love for you to bring your donations to the conference.

Infant/Toddler	Pre-school	Elementary
0 - 2 Years	3 - 5 Years	6 - 8 Years
Rattles	Sound Books	Barbie Dolls
Teethers	Regular Books	Barbie Clothes Set
Pacifiers	Soft Dolls	Action figures
Balls	Stuffed Animals	Matchbox cars
Stuffed animals	Fat Crayons	Uno Cards
Soft books	Coloring books	Crayons
Board books	Puzzles (24 pieces or less)	Coloring books
	Big Trucks	Craft kits

Calendar of Events

NWAECA Training.....	October 2, 2008
<i>AECA Conference</i>	<i>October 16 - 18, 2008</i>
NWAECA Training.....	November 6, 2008
<i>Update Articles Due</i>	<i>November 5, 2008</i>

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 60th Annual Southern Early Childhood Association Conference. The 2009 SECA conference will be held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, January 29 – 31, 2009.

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 _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Position Title _____

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 6, 2008

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 6, 2008

2008 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, 2007, through August 31, 2008.

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 17th. 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.



P.O. Box 2898
Little Rock, AR 72203

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

*Arkansas Early Childhood Association
47th Annual Conference
October 16 – 18, 2008
Hot Springs Convention Center
305 Malvern Avenue
Hot Springs, Arkansas*



Through Relationships, Responsibility & Research

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! All entries must be submitted by November 5, 2008. 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 hope many of you are planning to attend the AECA conference October 16 – 18, 2008. Visit www.arkansasearlychildhood.org and select **Conference** for more details.

I look forward to seeing you in October!

Lindsey Smith

Lindsey Smith, First Vice President - Publications

