

Summer 2009

AECA Update

Dear Members,

In just a few weeks we will convene in Hot Springs for the 48th Annual Arkansas Early Childhood Association Conference. The committee has worked tirelessly to provide a first class conference for first class participants and we think you will enjoy it and some of the changes that have been made. The planning team chose Play, Learn, Grow - The Natural Way to Succeed Together as our conference theme so we invite everyone to register today because this will be a unique and different conference.

First, we have two dynamic keynote presenters. Madelyn Swift, a renowned and nationally acclaimed author and authority on discipline, family dynamics and personal communication will present on Thursday afternoon. Beth Butler will speak at our first annual luncheon on Friday. Boca Beth is a lingual educator of young children who strives to create better communication within our ever increasing diverse world.

The conference will also feature many other sessions that focus on child growth and development, curriculum development and implementation, and creating caring communities to support learning and development. Attendees will get a chance to choose from a variety of interest sessions that will be offered over the course of three days.

Exhibits will be open on Thursday and Friday only and we are encouraging everyone to support our vendors. By doing so, you will have an opportunity to benefit from the discounts many of them offer at the conference. Please don't forget the silent auctions, as it supports individuals who are nominated by their local program who desire to attend the Southern Early Childhood Association Annual Conference. In 2010, the SECA Conference is being held in Little Rock and some lucky person will receive an opportunity to join hundreds of others to learn and share.

I also would like to take this opportunity to thank Traci Johnston, Christi Johnson, Tina Ross and Lindsey Smith for their tireless efforts to ensure that upon your arrival your conference learning experience will be nothing less than excellent. Also, special thanks to all AECA officers who have been more than supportive as we have engaged in discussions and activities to make a difference in the early childhood community.

Sincerely,

Barbara Gilkey

Barbara Gilkey
AECA President

**2009
Executive Board**

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Little Rock

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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, 2009**.

♦Remember to send in items for the Silent Auction! Contact Kate Runder at 501-258-1483 or kathleen.runder@lrsd.org

☞Also, please gather any pictures you have that will help update our AECA scrapbook! Joy Smith, our historian, is looking for pictures from YOU! You may mail them to Joy Smith 1900 Lyon Batesville, AR 72501.

☞We are also starting the search process for our 2010 Conference Chairs. It will be here before we know it! If you're interested, please send your resume to P.O. Box 2898 Little Rock, AR 72203. Once resumes are collected, phone interviews will be conducted!



AECA Conference Changes for 2009!!!

○The exhibit hall where vendors will be located will be opened on Thursday this year and closed on Saturday. Plan to visit on Thursday/Friday.

○On Friday the interest session will begin at 8:00 am.

○We will have a keynote speaker on Thursday at 1:30. You won't want to miss hearing Madelyn Swift speak on, "I Touch the Future, I Teach."

○Friday's keynote speaker and AECA's business meetings will be conducted during a luncheon meeting for all conference attendees. Plan to join us for lunch, hear a brief update about the organization, and enjoy a presentation from Beth Butler, known as Boca Beth.

○On Saturday we will have 4 hours worth of interest sessions for you to choose from. We want Saturday to be a day full of great information that you can take back to your program.

We can't wait to see you there!

**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 61st Annual Southern Early Childhood Association Conference. The 2010 SECA conference will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas, January 21-23, 2010.

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 1, 2009

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, 2009

2009 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, 2008, through August 31, 2009.

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 2nd. 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

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Return Service Requested

*Arkansas Early Childhood Association
48th Annual Conference
October 8-10, 2009
Hot Springs Convention Center
305 Malvern Avenue
Hot Springs, Arkansas*



For more information visit
www.arkansasearlychildhood.org

I would also like to introduce our 2010 Executive Board Members. Thanks to all of you who submitted ballots! President: Robin Jones, 1st VP-Publications: Jennie Gates, Treasurer: Dawn Jeffrey, Member-at-Large District #3: Michelle Wynn, Member-at-Large District #4: Evelyn Bass. They will begin office on January 1, 2010.

This year we are making Arkansas Children's Hospital the focus of our community service project. We are working to create Family Packs for families staying at the hospital. You can find a list of needed items in the pre-conference flyer and on our website. Please bring travel size items. We will be collecting these at the conference! We are also encouraging our members to help support the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) by participating in the 2009 Central Arkansas Walk to Cure Diabetes at the Big Dam Bridge. You may find more information by going to our website or www.jdrf.org under "Arkansas". Thanks in advance for your support!

Be sure to send in contributions for the fall newsletter. You may email them to me at jkgates@asub.edu or mail them directly to Jennie Gates P.O. Box 1000 Beebe, AR 72012. Let us know what fun ideas, activities, etc. you're using in your classroom! Deadline is November 5th!

See you in October,

Jennie Gates

Jennie Gates, First Vice-President - Publications

