

Title of Training: AECA & What's in it for YOU! with PJ Yarbrough

Date 9/14/21

Board Members Present: Jennifer Bowman–President, Emma Tempest–VP Communication, Terri Teters–Interim Secretary/Ex-Officio, Nicole Bedard–Benton County Member-at-Large, Anna Cannon–Washington County Member-at-Large, Debbie Mays–Advisory Board

Participants Present: 25

Call to Order/Greetings

President

Jennifer Bowman called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Approval of May 2021 minutes

Secretary

OLD BUSINESS:

Welcome Back!!

NEW BUSINESS:

Our meetings this year will be virtual to keep everyone safe. May offer some connection activities later in the year if things change.

Treasurer Report

Natasha Kile

The current NWAECA affiliate balance is \$958.90 with no outstanding receipts or charges.

Well-Being Check-In

Emma Tempest

Emma will be providing opportunities for us to share our “wins or success” on the NWAECA Facebook group page each Friday. Encourage you to toot your horn and celebrate with each other. This will provide long-term self-care and support each other. What's going well? Where are you struggling? What will you try next?

Upcoming trainings/conferences/early childhood events

Open Share

Michelle Wynn, NWA Childcare Aware - we still have cleaning supplies and air purifiers available. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday training opportunities - check our website out for classes www.nwachildcare.org. Contact Child Care Aware of NWA office if we can be a resource for you - mwynn@nwachildcare.org.

Acknowledge/Welcome Guest Speaker

President

Presentation: AECA & What's in it for YOU! By PJ Yarbrough (in-coming AECA President)

PJ shared she will be the incoming President for AECA beginning January 1, 2022. She is currently employed full-time with the Early Care and Education Projects (ECEP) with the University of Arkansas. PJ became actively involved with AECA by sharing at one point that she “might be interested” in serving and was later approached to run for President.

She encouraged us to become involved and asked us to share what we expect from AECA? PJ gave us a tour of the AECA website and shared the link <https://arkansasearlychildhood.org/> to access the site. She emphasized information about the T.E.A.C.H scholarship opportunity. PJ shared the Mission Statement for AECA and how that has been reviewed as part of the strategic planning process. AECA wants us to feel supported and wants to hear from us. She is excited about the future plans and her AECA 2022 proposed vision is **BeYOUtiful!** Focusing on **Empathy, Equity, Effective, and Empower**. PJ extended the conversation by asking us to define "Empathy". She then shared targeted thoughts on What is Equity? How can we be effective? and What does it take to empower? to inspire us to think more deeply about our responsibilities to each other and the early childhood community.

PJ provided her contact information and genuinely wants us to reach out if we want to continue the conversation shaneily@uark.edu or 479-601-3084.

Until We Meet Again

Emma Tempest

Emma shared an assignment for us to think about before our next meeting...check-in on your own water intake. Follow along on the NWAECA Facebook group page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/nwaeca>. As part of our Well-Being Check-In we invite you to respond on What is going well? Where are you struggling? and What will you try next?

Door Prize

Jennifer Bowman

Next month we will be giving away the Wheelie Bag full of fun things! Everyone who attends a minimum of three meetings will have their name entered in a drawing for an end of year door prize which will be held at our last meeting. The winner of the door prize tonight is Felicia Hawkins with Mary's Little Lambs who was given an AECA membership.

Adjourn

Jennifer Bowman

Jennifer adjourned the meeting at 7:30 and thanked everyone for attending tonight. Remember to like us on Facebook and register on PDR for our next NWAECA meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday, October 12 at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

Our next topic will be **Meet the Division, PDR# 38204**.

We hope to see you there!