

Southeast Arkansas AECA Affiliation Meeting

November 2, 2023 Minutes

This is the third meeting of the affiliation held on Thursday, November 2, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. at the University of Arkansas at Monticello – College of Technology McGehee campus.

There were 10 individuals present for the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by acting President Elaine Hargraves.

Meeting Business:

- Mrs. Hargraves welcomed all attendees and shared the SEAECA website, the purpose of our affiliate, and how to become a member. Assistance was provided to those wishing to join.
- New members were given an AECA t-shirt, compliments of AECA president, PJ Yarbrough.
- Mrs. Hargraves initiated the election of officials for the affiliate, reviewing the responsibilities of each position.
- Officials were elected for the following positions:
 - President – Elaine Hargraves
 - Vice-President – LaTanya Mumphrey
 - Secretary/Treasurer – Kim Burgess
 - Social Media Coordinator – Kim Lattimore
- Mrs. Hargraves shared financial aid resources for any individuals interested in attending UAM – College of Technology McGehee’s Early Childhood Education Program:
 - Career Pathways
 - T.E.A.C.H.
 - Step-Up to Wages
 - AR Rehabilitation Services
 - SAMS
 - AR Future

Recommendations:

- To update the Affiliate webpage, biographies and photographs will be needed for each of the newly elected officials.
- The affiliate members were surveyed for their current training needs. The following topics discussed:
 - Trainings by Kim and Tulita thru A-State – professionalism, outdoor play, health and safety, family involvement/growth
 - Dee Cox to be a speaker regarding resources

- Childcare Aware
- Someone to speak on special needs such as autism, sensory issues, etc.
- Mrs. Hargraves shared the plans for our Spring meeting.
 - Possible title “Resource Fair”
 - Held on a Saturday morning
 - Possible attendees to invite:
 - A-State – Gaynell Jamison
 - Child Care Licensing
 - Childcare Aware – Shari Godfrey
 - UAMS – Peggy Woodson
 - Better Beginnings
 - Step-Up to Wages – Paul Lazenby or his staff
 - ECEP – Faith Hurd
- The affiliate members shared they would like to be active in the communities and discussed possible ways to help children and their families. The following were suggestions from the members. A request was made to create an email group to further discuss these items.
 - Clothes drive in the spring
 - Child Abuse Awareness Activities in April
 - Possibly host an Angel Tree for Christmas in 2024
- To grow our affiliate and create greater change for early childhood in the southeast area of our state, Mrs. Hargraves proposed a challenge to all members to get three more members to join by our next meeting.

Mrs. Lisa Simmons and Mrs. Frankie Jackson were the winners of door prizes at the meeting.

Mrs. Hargraves thanked the members for their attendance, input, and recommendations. She shared her excitement in our affiliate becoming active once again.

The meeting was adjourned by Mrs. Hargraves at 6:46 p.m.