

## **Southeast Arkansas AECA Affiliation Meeting**

### **April 1, 2024 Minutes**

The spring meeting of the affiliation was held on Monday, April 1, 2024, at 6:00 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 6:09 p.m. by acting President Elaine Hargraves.

#### Meeting Business:

- Elaine Hargraves welcomed all attendees, and each individual gave a brief introduction, since we had new members present.
- The minutes from the November meeting were shared with the members. Kim Burgess moved the motion to approve the minutes with Ezell Minniefield seconding the motion.
- Elaine Hargraves then shared the updated SEAECA website and the AECA website and resources.
- It was shared with the group that Mrs. Hargraves and Kim Burgess will attend Child Aware's Super Saturday on April 20, 2024, in Dumas, Arkansas. The SEAECA affiliate will have a booth next to the UAM – COTM Early Childhood Education Program to share with attendees about the organization and opportunities for membership. At this time, the affiliate does not have a logo or tablecloth and Mrs. Hargraves asked members to think about a color, logo, etc. for our affiliate before the next meeting.
- The affiliate would like to start planning now for a large AR Children's Week event in 2025.
- The next meeting of the affiliate will be held on Monday, July 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. The focus of the meeting will be Autism in Early Childhood Education, specifically, how to handle children's behavior effectively and professionally. The members are also interested in resources such as funding and training available to centers for children from birth to age 5.
- The first meeting in the fall is tentatively scheduled for Monday, September 9, 2024. The committee would like to have Mrs. Dee Cox or Ms. Faith Hurd as a guest speaker.
- The affiliate plans to host a Resource Fair on Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Invitations for vendors, organizations, associations, etc. will be extended to those listed in the November minutes. The event will be held in the Clearwater Room at the UAM – College of Technology – McGehee campus.
- Mrs. Gaynell Jamison was the guest speaker for the April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. She shared A-State Resources and the importance of literacy. The A-State Newsletter was shared with the attendees and directions were given on how to sign up to receive it. A-State provides AR Children's Week training with activities before the annual event. Mrs. Jamison shared there is usually one of these trainings held in our area of the state. PDR credit is given for this training. She also shared that the next Super Saturday being held will be in Forrest City on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

- Mrs. Jamison provided numerous resources to the affiliate members such as:
  - Naptime Academy – Tips for Great Kids, Mandated Reporter Training, etc.
  - UAMS and REACH
  - Public Libraries
  - Arkansas Game and Fish
- To conclude her presentation, Mrs. Jamison shared her literary works that have been published and two videos titled “Summer Reading Loss” and “Blooming Flowers.”

Before adjourning the meeting, two drawings were held for door prizes. Vayronda Page and Tiffany Steen were the lucky winners.

Mrs. Hargraves thanked the members for their attendance, input, and recommendations and adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.