

What's Happening at SECA

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Notification for Presentations at SECA 2013

E-mail notifications to all persons submitting proposals for SECA 2013 went out on October 1st and 2nd. Three types of notifications went out:

- 1) Accepted
- 2) Held for possible scheduling
- 3) Unable to schedule

If you submitted and did not receive notification of the status of your proposal, contact Glenda Bean in the SECA office.

We Have a SECA President-Elect!

Congratulations to **Kathy Attaway of Kentucky**, our new SECA President-Elect!

Our on-line voting system closed on September 30, 2012. Votes cast were tabulated by the system and made available to the SECA office. SECA President Nancy Cheshire was notified of the results, and she notified the candidates of the outcome of the election.

Kathy carried 10 of the SECA states (including the non-affiliate category), and, according to our by-laws, those states

will cast their vote according to the popular vote. Four states (Florida, Texas, South Carolina and Oklahoma) will cast their votes for the other candidate, Evelyn Wright Moore. The votes will be certified by a signed statement of each member of the SECA Board of Directors.

The two members-at-large will cast one vote according to the popular vote recorded for the non-affiliate category.

Kathy will assume her duties as President-Elect on January 1, 2013 and will join the Board at their annual conference Board meeting.

Thanks to all who voted and contributed to the future success of SECA through their



participation in this most important of processes.

Thanks To Evelyn!

Contests are always difficult and we regret that everyone can't win! We want to express our thanks to Evelyn for her willingness to become a candidate for SECA President and to share her vision and ideas for the future of the organization.

An organization is only as strong as those willing to serve. **Congratulations Kathy!**



Our Thanks to Dr. Janie Humphries

As we near the end of 2012, we're sad that we will be saying "good-bye" to an-

other of those SECA treasures, **Dr. Janie Humphries**. Janie is completing her term as the Immediate Past President of the SECA Board of Directors and will leave the Board at the end of the year. This year will end four years

of service to the organization as President-Elect, President for 2 years and then one year as Immediate Past President. Janie's enthusiasm, unflagging energy and commitment to SECA will be missed.

A Letter From Our President

Dear SECA Members,

It is a pleasure to write about our association. I am proud to serve as your President because I believe the Southern Early Childhood Association is a group of dedicated individuals working together to improve the lives of children and families in the South. Each individual member is important to us. You are an important part of our SECA family.

In July the SECA Governing Board met. In addition to fulfilling the association mission, they have two specific duties. One is to represent the affiliate members in the state from which they are elected and to share information from SECA with the state affiliate. But, their primary duty is to insure the financial stability of our association. **I am so proud of our Board and the decisions they made for you.**

They realize that many of our members are struggling with the high cost of food, gasoline, clothing and other essentials. During these difficult economic times, it may be necessary for our state affiliates to raise dues in addition to NAEYC, but we want to do

everything we can to support you. **Your SECA Board voted to NOT raise your SECA dues.** SECA cares about you, the individual member, and we want to do what we can to be of help at this time.

The Board developed a plan that will give SECA a balanced budget and yet provide you with an additional new service that we believe you will appreciate. During the summer months, many early childhood professionals are away from their classrooms for vacations, family times and professional travel. The summer issue of our SECA journal, *Dimensions of Early Childhood* is delivered during July. But what if you could access this summer issue from any place you happen to be located? **Now that will be possible with the two issues of *Dimensions* continuing to be delivered in hard copy, and with the summer issue provided online so access will be available for you around the world.** We believe this change will be a positive step in providing meaningful services to our members as well as maintaining our traditions.

The SECA Governing Board also believes that as an association we must do all we can to encourage the healthy de-



velopment of children in the South. We believe children need many outdoor learning experiences and we must encourage early childhood professionals to provide opportunities for children and nature to work hand in hand.

Therefore, the Board developed the Outdoor Classroom Contest to provide recognition of programs that have stepped forward in this initiative. As we share information from these successful endeavors, we hope our SECA family can learn and apply these ideas throughout our affiliate states. We *can* and we *will* make positive changes in the lives of children and families.

Thank you for the work you do as an early childhood professional and thank you for being a member of SECA. We will continue to work with you and for you.

Best wishes,

Nancy Jane Cheshire, President

SECA Began New Fiscal Year in July 2012

The SECA membership agreed at the annual business meeting in San Antonio in February 2012 to change the SECA fiscal year.

The fiscal year was changed from a calendar year (January-December) to July-June to more

closely reflect our programmatic year. (This change meant that the conference revenue/expenses would likely fall within one fiscal year, rather than two under the old accounting year.) This change should give both the SECA Board and members a much better han-

dle on the year's finances.

An audit of the January 1-June 30, 2012 short year will be conducted and a tax return filed. The audit and return will be posted on the Board Resources page by the end of 2012.

Thank You to Janet E. Brown For Her Service to SECA

The SECA Board of Directors has been looking at the publishing arm of SECA, including both our books/resources and *Dimensions of Early Childhood* and has determined that some changes are in the future.

We're working to expand our scope and reach, including more opportunities for members and colleagues to participate in the publishing process.

During the past 16 years, it has been a privilege to work with Janet Brown to maintain and promote the quality of

our refereed journal, *Dimensions of Early Childhood*. Jan has helped guide the journal process to its current level of quality and has contributed significantly to the prestige of that journal. However, it's time to make a change, and Jan's tenure with SECA will conclude at the end of 2012.

During our transitional phase in 2013, Dr. Stephen Graves, former Chair of the SECA Editorial Committee, will help guide and develop the future editorial process. You'll be hearing more about the changes and opportunities as we

move into 2013.

Jan will continue her work with early childhood initiatives in Rawanda (See the *SECA Reporter, Summer 2011*, for more information about her work.)

We wish Jan the best in her continuing work to improve the lives of children in Africa who would not have the opportunity without Jan's dedication and service.



SECA Past President Delivers Keynote at Louisiana Summit



the lives of children in Louisiana.

Dr. Janie Humphries, Immediate Past President of SECA, delivered the closing speech of the Summit. The title of her speech was ***The Future for Louisiana: The Critical Role of Teaming Up, Taking Flight.***

Some excerpts from her

speech:

- ⇒ I am concerned by the talk that children must be ready for kindergarten.... Instead we must make sure that children are competent individuals at the age they are.
- ⇒ As we listened to the individuals yesterday and today, many items were discussed. One was the need to be able to communicate with each other. We need a common

language.

- ⇒ At the Summit we have learned that early care and early education are two very different systems...it will take thought, work, collaboration, trust, respect of each other and creativity if we are to create a quality early care and education system for the children of Louisiana. I believe that we can do that.
- ⇒ To achieve collaboration and create an early care and education system in Louisiana will take each of us working across groups.... trusting and respecting each other's knowledge and expertise.

For more information on the Summit go to <http://www.picardcenter.org/newsroom/newsreleases/Pages/SummitVI.aspx>

On May 9-10, 2012, the Picard Child Development Research Center in Lafayette, Louisiana was the site of the 6th statewide Early Childhood Summit. Held every other year, the focus of the Summit in 2012 was ***Teaming Up, Taking Flight*** and was promoted as an opportunity to network with colleagues to discuss "strategies to create a collaborative effort to link early childhood systems in the state—and ultimately improve

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A Voice for Southern Children!

We're on the web!
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Southern Early Childhood Association



2012 Executive Committee

Nancy Cheshire, President
Dr. Janie Humphries, Past President
Sister Roberta Bailey, Fiscal Officer
Mary Jamsek, Secretary

2012 SECA Board of Directors

Nancy Cheshire (WV), President

Dr. Janie Humphries (LA), Immediate Past President

Richard Hardison, AL State Representative

Dr. Joanna Grymes, AR State Representative

Sister Roberta Bailey, FL State Representative

Anita Dailey, GA State Representative

Katie Shaughnessy-Williams, KY State Representative

Cindy Ramagos, LA State Representative

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Marti Nicholson, OK State Representative

Crystal Campbell, SC State Representative

Lisa Maddox-Vinson, TN State Representative

Mary Jamsek, TX State Representative

Joyce P. Jones, VA State Representative

Melissa Smith, WV State Representative

Carol Montealegre (FL), Member-at-Large

Dr. Floyd Creech (SC), Member-at-Large

Go to the SECA website for e-mail addresses for the Board.

Good-bye to One, Hello to Another! Changes in the SECA Office



Megan, Peyton and daughter Claire

resigned from SECA the middle of September to move into a position in her home community that would allow her to utilize her talents closer to home and family. Megan will be working in Conway and eliminating a commute of 30-45 minutes each way. Her time at SECA

As the saying goes, "All good things must come to an end.", and that's certainly the case in the SECA office.

Megan Sullins

helped her to move into a position managing web content and communications and we're pleased to have played a part in her growth as a professional. Although we're sorry to lose her, we've made some quick adjustments to ensure that the momentum we've gained with her on board doesn't get lost.

We're delighted to welcome **Deanna Cooke-Griffith** to the SECA office and she's "getting her feet wet" during our busiest time of the year! We think she'll be a perfect fit for our social media initiatives—she qualifies as the "youngster" in the office!

Nothing stays the same and change is always there. We now have opportunities to re-invent ourselves with new people and programs. Challenges should be viewed as opportunities and SECA is on the move!



Deanna Cooke-Griffith