

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SECA

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR AFFILIATE LEADERSHIP

SECA Updates

- The spring/summer issue of *Dimensions of Early Childhood* has been mailed. Be sure to review the SECA Presidential candidate information that's included on the inside back cover.
- **Preliminary SECA 2009** conference information is posted on the SECA website conference page. **Don't forget that our annual conference is earlier this year**, so start your planning now. We'll be in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina on January 29-31, 2009.
- We sent out a **form about SECA coming to your state conference**. We've received forms from Oklahoma, Texas, Florida, Georgia and Tennessee. We'll look forward to receiving the forms from the remainder of the states in the next few weeks. Your conferences are quickly approaching and we're excited about seeing all of you in the fall.
- The **Student Matching Grant Application** is now posted on the conference page of the SECA website. We'll look forward to welcoming our students to Myrtle Beach in 2009. Don't miss this opportunity!

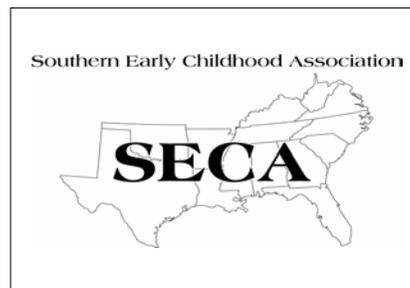
"DID YOU KNOW?" WHAT SECA DOES FOR YOUR STATE

As State Affiliate Leadership Teams change during the next couple of months, I think it's always helpful to provide background on what your SECA affiliation means and the things we do to support your work at the state level.

Did you know?

- **Your state has a representative on the SECA Board of Directors and SECA fully funds the costs of that representation—approximately \$2000-\$3500 per year.** He or she brings the views of your state affiliate to the SECA meeting, and helps to formulate the programs that SECA produces for members. SECA has a Board of 17 members, including two members-at-large that are elected to those positions.
- **In order to assist you in keeping informed and connected with SECA, we provide up to \$1000 per year to assist your state**
- **SECA provides your tax exemption and event liability insurance if your state has chosen to define itself as a subordinate of SECA.** (The states of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and South Carolina have made that election.) The event liability insurance can cost \$250-\$500 per event.
- **We provide two e-newsletters each month to assist you in your work. *What's Happening at SECA*** is designed to keep you informed of activities and initiatives by the organization. ***Public Policy Notes*** keeps you updated on issues in the South and nationally and ***The Leadership Letter*** gives you information to use with your Board and Committee activities. These are automatically sent to you

affiliate leaders in attending the annual SECA conference. That's your opportunity to interact with other leaders from SECA states, to learn what's happening in the region, and to get the latest news from the SECA organization.



each month if you are listed on the leadership roster provided by your state.

- **SECA has developed a series of Board training modules that are easy to use and full of information about the "business" of the Association.** Those are available without charge in either printed or electronic format. Just send us a request.

Let us know what else we can do to assist you in your work. SECA and its states are the "Voice of Southern Children".

Glenda Bean

Executive Director

2007 Annual Report Available

The 2007 Annual Report of the Southern Early Childhood Association is now available in electronic format.

To obtain a copy, go to www.SouthernEarlyChildhood.org or contact Glenda Bean at gbean@southernearlychildhood.org.

BALLOTS FOR SECA PRESIDENT IN THE MAIL

SECA will elect its next President this year. The President-Elect will take office in January 2009 and will serve as SECA President in 2010 and 2011.

Our candidates for President-Elect are Janie Humphries of



Don't forget to vote!

Louisiana and Judy Whitesell of South Carolina. You'll find information about the candidates in the spring edition of the *SECA Reporter* and the spring/summer issue of *Dimensions of Early Childhood*.

Because we received such a great return on the ballots during the last election, we will again produce a ballot that can be torn away from the mailer and returned postage paid to SECA. All you'll need to do is mark the ballot, list the state in which you are a member and put it in the mail.

Deadline to return the ballots is September 30, 2008.

Results will be tabulated by an outside accounting firm and reported to the SECA office. Results will be forwarded to the SECA Board of Directors and the Board will certify the election results by e-mail. **Results of the election will be announced by October 15, 2008.**

Please share this information with your state affiliate members and encourage them to vote for the next President of SECA.

Have you received your copies of *The SECA Leadership Letter and Public Policy Notes*? If not, let us know and we'll get you on the list.

VIRGINIA ALLIANCE OF FAMILY CHILD CARE ASSOCIATIONS

The Virginia Alliance of Family Child Care Associations has scheduled their 17th Annual Training Conference for September 19-21, 2008.

The conference will be held at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House and Conference Center in Fredericksburg, VA. The theme of the conference is "The First Three Years Are the

Most Important Years...Learning Does Not Start at School". The conference offers a variety of educational sessions that are designed for family child care providers.

Special conference rates of \$90 per room are available at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House. For reservations

call 1-800-682-1049 and be sure to request the VAFCCA rate. For registration information, go to www.vafcca.org or call 703-354-5913. You can also e-mail the Alliance at vafcca@yahoo.com.

The Virginia Alliance of Family Child Care Associations has promoted quality child care since 1989 and is represented on the VAECE (our state

SECA CONDUCTS ANNUAL AUDIT

The 2007 audit of the Southern Early Childhood Association has been conducted and no findings were listed by the firm of Cobb and Suskie, LTD, Little Rock, Arkansas.

The SECA Executive Committee which met in Little Rock, Arkansas on June 26-27, 2008 considered a proposal to alternate a full audit with a financial review. Moving to this process would save approximately \$1600 over the two year period and was reviewed and approved by the accounting firm. This system would allow a financial review in the first year of a SECA President's term and a full audit would be conducted

at the conclusion of their second year. This would provide the Association with a full audit each time the office of President changed and would ensure appropriate fiscal accountability.

The Executive Committee will present this proposal as a recommendation to the SECA Board of Directors in the fall.

A copy of the 2007 audit may be obtained by contacting Glenda Bean, Executive Director at gbean@southernearlychildhood.org.

SECA PLANS FOCUS GROUPS AT STATE AFFILIATE CONFERENCES

The Board of Directors has asked that the SECA Representative (President, Immediate Past-President or Executive Director) at your state-conference host focus groups of both members and non-members to ask some very simple questions.

For Non-members:

1. What do you know about SECA?
2. Does professional membership have a value to you? What could we do to encourage you to become a member?
3. What are the barriers to becoming a member?



Let's get together!

For members:

1. What do you know about SECA?
2. What does SECA membership mean to you?
3. What could we do to enhance our value to you as a member?

We have requested hosting these groups at your state conferences to avoid additional SECA travel costs to your states. (SECA sends a representative from the organization to your state conference each year to ensure that we stay connected and in communication with our state affiliate leadership.

We appreciate the support that we are receiving in helping us to schedule these meetings and look forward to a productive conversation.

SECA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MODIFIES BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

We all know how challenging the economics are right now and SECA is taking steps to be as frugal and careful with its budget as possible. The SECA Board of Directors has decided to modify the fall Board meeting (which is a meeting to which all Board members travel) into an electronic meeting by conference call.

This was decided because

the fall Board meeting was scheduled for early November and the spring 2009 Board meeting will take place in Myrtle Beach at the end of January 2009. This left a period of only 60 days between the meetings, and it was felt that all the business that needed to take place prior to the January meeting could be conducted on a conference call. It also removed an expense of approximately

\$17,000 from the 2008 SECA budget. (It costs an average of \$750-\$1000 per Board member to host a physical meeting of the Board because of air travel throughout the region, housing, food and incidentals. Air fares have increased about 30% since our last Board meeting.)

The Board will resume their regular meeting schedule in 2009.

STUDENT MATCHING GRANTS AVAILABLE IN 2009

For our 2009 conference, SECA will continue the matching grant program that we've had in place for the last 2 years. These grants are designed to assist student groups in attending the SECA conference.

The matching grants are available to a maximum of \$1000 per group. The student group is required to raise funds

sufficient to match any funds requested from SECA.

We had three students groups (Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas) that received the grant and attended last year. We'd like to have



Bring your students to SECA 2009!

five in 2009.

The grant information is posted on the conference page of the SECA website. We hope you'll consider bringing your students to SECA 2009.

Have you submitted your proposal for SECA 2009? Notification of the status of your proposal will be sent by October 1, 2008.

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A Voice for Southern Children

Southern Early Childhood Association



www.SouthernEarlyChildhood.org

Go to our website for:

- Links to your state website
- Links to vendors and other organizations
- Public policy information
- Indexes for *Dimensions of Early Childhood*
- *SECA 2009 conference information*
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SECA WEBSITE WILL OFFER NEW SERVICES FOR NON-DUAL STATES

During the last few years, we've transitioned from a paper driven membership system to an electronic system that has eliminated much of the paper that is coming our way.

As we moved to re-design our website (and provide more individual member benefits which will be outlined in the next few Affiliate newsletters), **we've also decided to support our non-dual affiliate states (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and South Carolina) with the same type of membership support that has previously only been available to states that participate in the NAEYC membership system.**

Our new website format will offer a part of the site that will host the non-dual states'

membership databases. The site will offer:

- **24 hour access** through the Internet to member databases.
- A **secure login** to each state's site that will allow only those individuals authorized by the state to access their databases.
- The **ability to download the database** when the state affiliate needs to process the database for mailings or other purposes.
- The **ability to upload revised databases** as state business managers make changes with new and renewed members.

This approach means that the state affiliate offices and the

SECA office will be working from the same database, so we should have fewer instances of members whose information is not updated or included at the submission of their membership.

In order to assist in this transition, Megan Sullins of the SECA office has been working with the business managers of these states to re-format their databases so that we have conformity throughout our states.

We will be able to provide comprehensive demographic reports on the SECA membership, one of the strategic goals of the SECA Board of Directors. This demographic information will become a regular part of our annual report, and the comparative information from state to state should be helpful to all of our affiliates.