

# What's Happening at SECA

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### To Public Policy Chairs

**Herman Knopf, Chair of the SECA Public Policy Commission, invites your input to develop a SECA position statement on the use of the federal stimulus money. E-mail him at [knopf@sc.edu](mailto:knopf@sc.edu) to share ideas and help him develop an agenda for our work as a group. We'll be in touch soon with specifics about how we may work together.**

## SECA E-Newsletters Available Soon to All Members

In 2009, we're changing the frequency and production of our e-newsletters and looking for ways to add more value to those newsletters.

As you know, the Leadership Letter, produced by the Leadership Commission of the SECA Board, is published every other month, beginning in January. The Commission is discussing the addition of some new features to the newsletter, including a section for states to share great leadership ideas and a section for students/emerging leaders. If you have some ideas, e-mail the members of the Leadership Commission:

Susan Carrigan, chair

Toni Cacace-Beshears  
Judy Carnahan-Webb  
Cindy Ramagos

You can find their e-mail addresses on the Leadership page of the SECA website.

We're also making a change in the schedule for *What's Happening at SECA* and *Public Policy Notes*. We're going to begin publishing *What's Happening at SECA* on a bi-monthly basis and move *Public Policy Notes* to a monthly basis. Public policy information is quickly outdated, so we're shifting to make the information that we provide more valuable. You'll receive both newsletters around the 15th of each

month. This issue of *What's Happening at SECA* is the Southern Early Childhood Association



A Voice for Southern Children

first issue on the new bi-monthly calendar.

By the first of April, we hope to have the newsletter sign-up feature of our website in operation. This will allow members to sign-up on a distribution list for the newsletters and they will receive e-mail notification with a link to the newsletter.

## To Our State Public Policy Chairs

The SECA states are going to see significant new financial resources for early childhood education through the American Recovery Reinvestment Act (the stimulus bill) and we're aware that significant

public policy input will be needed to help states determine how to most effectively utilize those funds.

We have a brief window to make our views known and during the next few weeks,

we'll be in touch with you to develop strategies and a position statement from SECA. **The Public Policy Commission of the SECA Board will lead this effort and we need your input.**

## SECA 2009 A Resounding Success

Our 2009 conference in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina was a resounding success with over 1400 persons in attendance.

Some things to note:

- We had almost 200 students registered for Myrtle Beach , and we provided Student Scholarship Grants to 6 schools from Kentucky, Louisiana, South Carolina and West Virginia.
- Approximately 60 persons were

in attendance at our Leadership Summit. Gayle Cunningham of Alabama, the current NAEYC Treasurer, shared greetings and news from NAEYC during dinner that evening.

- Over 100 persons attended the annual Public Policy Luncheon and Gene Wil-



Gene Wilhoit  
Executive Director of CCSO.

hoit, the Executive Director of the Council of Chief State School Officers, brought a positive message about early childhood education and the emphasis that the Obama administration would be placing on our part of the education continuum.

**Many thanks to the members of the South Carolina Early Childhood Association who made our conference such a success!**

## 2009 President's Award Presented at SECA 2009

**Kaye Sowell of Mississippi** received the 2009 President's Award at SECA 2009 in Myrtle Beach. Kaye was selected by the Mississippi Early Childhood Association to receive the award, based upon her service to the children and families of Mississippi.

The President's Award is presented each year to an outstanding state advocate who has worked on behalf of the children in his/her state and the award rotates among the states.

Kaye graduated from Mississippi State University in Elementary Education and received her Master's Degree from William Carey College. She has been a kindergarten teacher for 24 years and a member of the Mississippi Early Childhood Association for 22 years. She has written kindergarten and Pre-K curriculum for the Mississippi Department of Education was chosen to receive the Distinguished Arts Educator Award from the Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education in

2003. In 2006, she re-

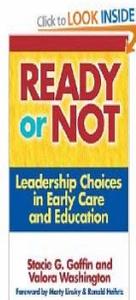
**"It is my honor to receive this recognition from my fellow early childhood educators! I am simply a Kindergarten teacher who LOVES being with children, teaching and sharing."**

**Kaye Sowell**

ceived the Mississippi Early Childhood Association Award. Congratulations Kaye!

## Author Seeks SECA Contributions for a New Leadership Book

Stacie Goffin, author of *Ready or Not: Leadership Choices in Early Care and Education*, is conducting research for a new book to be published by Teachers College Press. This book, *Leading for the Future of Early Care and*



*Education*, will include a compendium of leadership development programs and initiatives across the country that is focused on advancing early care and education. If you are involved in an early care and education leadership program

or initiative, please e-mail Stacie at [eceleadership@gmail.com](mailto:eceleadership@gmail.com) and give her the 1) program name, 2) target audience, 3) location, 4) telephone # and e-mail address of contact and 5) website address. She'll contact you personally with follow-up questions. Make sure the South is included!

## Helen Harley Scholarships Awarded at SECA 2009

SECA provided 3 scholarships in 2009 year to assist selected first-time attendees to attend the SECA conference. The scholarships are selected by states and, each year, three states have the honor of selecting those recipients. 2009 recipients were:

**Robin Bradshaw of Edmond, Oklahoma**, is a student at the University of Central Oklahoma and is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Education, Early Childhood Education. She is employed as a child care provider with the Edmond YMCA. She made

one of her first “professional” presentations at SECA 2009.

**Stacey Watts is the owner/director of Miss Debbie’s Nursery School, Inc. in South Carolina.** A graduate of the University of South Carolina, she completed her Masters with certification in early childhood education in 2001. She currently serves as Awards Chairperson for the South Carolina Early Childhood Association and was in charge of hospitality for SECA 2009. If you saw the smiling face at the hospitality desk, that was

very likely Stacey!

**Pamela Sharp of Nashville, Tennessee** has a Group Child Care Home that is licensed by the state. She operates a three star childcare home, is a TOP-STAR mentor and is accredited by the National Association for Family Child Care. She is currently President of the Nashville Area Family Child Care Network.

We were delighted to recognize such a diverse group of early childhood educators.

## Helping the Victims of Hurricane Ike—An Update

The South has seen its share of disasters, and 2008 was no exception. Hurricane Ike roared ashore at Galveston and obliterated much of the Texas and Louisiana Gulf Coast areas. Your early childhood colleagues in the affected areas are facing the prospect of “putting it all back together” once again.

During the spring Board meeting in Myrtle Beach, the SECA Board of Directors voted to send the funds accu-

mulated through the donations from the sales of the Lakeshore Math Kit and the 2009 Silent Auction to the states of Texas and Louisiana. The funds total approximately \$5,000 and will be split evenly between the two states.

In Texas, the funds will be sent to the Collaborative for

Children in Houston. In Louisiana, the Board has asked the state affiliate to assist in locating the organization or group to which funds should go.

**For every Lakeshore Math Kit sold, Lakeshore Learning, Inc. has donated to SECA’s disaster relief fund . (This kit includes the SECA book, *Mathematics for Young Children*.) We’ve been holding those funds until they were needed.**

## SECA Video on the Website

Want to know more about SECA and why members find it to be such a valuable resource?

SECA has developed a promotional video that can be found on the homepage of the new SECA website. It gives a brief overview of the Association, a little of the history and features

photos from the SECA 2008 conference as well as interviews with members of SECA.

The SECA Board is exploring the option of having enough copies of the video produced to be able to send them to every local and chapter

throughout the SECA region. The video would be a component of a presentation kit that could be used as a program by the local or chapter. Make sure you go to the site and play the video. You’ll see why we’re known for our warm welcome!

Southern Early Childhood Association



**A voice for Southern children.**

## Southern Early Childhood Association

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The Voice for Southern Children

We're on the web!  
[www.SouthernEarlyChildhood.org](http://www.SouthernEarlyChildhood.org)

Southern Early Childhood Association



### **2009 SECA Board of Directors**

Georgia Lamirand (OK) , President

Janie Humphries (LA), President-Elect

Dee Ard, AL State Representative

Dr. Joanna Grymes, AR State Representative & Prof Dev Chair

Sister Roberta Bailey, FL State Representative

Beth Parr, GA State Representative

Kathy Attaway, KY State Rep, Secretary & Membership Chair

Cindy Ramagos, LA State Representative

Beverly Peden, MS State Representative

Susan Carrigan, OK St Rep, Vice-President & Leadership Chair

Crystal Campbell, SC State Representative

Debbie Ferguson, TN State Representative & Financial Officer

Judy Carnahan-Webb, TX State Representative

Toni Cacace-Beshears, VA State Representative

Melanie Clark, WV State Representative

Dr. Herman Knopf, (SC), Member-at-Large & Public Policy Chair

Carol Montealegre (FL), Member-at-Large

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

## SECA History to be Updated

SECA has a rich and diverse history, and we're beginning the process of capturing that for an updated SECA history.

Our current history contains "facts and figures" with such things as Board lists, major accomplishments in a President's term, etc., but doesn't capture the richness of the journey from the beginning as SACUS (Southern Association on Children Under Six) to SECA (Southern Early Childhood Association). Additionally, it only covers the history through our first 40 years, and we're now 60 years old!

### **Did you know that:**

- SECA held its first meeting in 1949 in Nashville, Tennessee and

that it was a fully integrated meeting, a rare occurrence in the South at that time.

- SECA (SACUS) was the parent organization of your current state organization, and it wasn't until the early 1990's that some of the states also affiliated with NAEYC.
- The first President of SACUS was Polly McVickar of Tennessee in 1948. Over the history of SACUS/SECA, Alabama has had 2 presidents; Arkansas, 4; Florida, 7; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 5; Louisiana, 2; Mississippi, 2; Oklahoma, 4; North Carolina, 1; South Carolina, 5; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 7; and Virginia 1.

- Our former Board members formed their own "society" called the FOS-SILS, and they wear dinosaur pins to denote their status! They can easily be spotted at the SECA conference because of their "hot pink" badge ribbons.

We don't want to lose this history, and we hope you'll share your stories with us. **Milly Cowles of Alabama, a long-time supporter of SECA and former Board member, has agreed to undertake the task of gathering the stories and putting them together.** Please contact Milly at [mcowles@bellsouth.net](mailto:mcowles@bellsouth.net) if you have something to share. We'll publish the history on the SECA website in early 2010, and we know you'll enjoy the jour-