

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SECA
A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR AFFILIATE LEADERSHIP



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Special points of interest:

- SECA 2009
- SECA Awards
- SECA Board of Directors Fall Meeting
- Editorial Committee
- Hurricane Ike & SECA Disaster Relief Fund

SECA CONDUCTS FOCUS GROUPS AT STATE CONFERENCES

During our trips to the state affiliate conferences that were held in the fall, the SECA President, Georgia Lamirand, and the SECA Past-President, Terry Green, sat down with small groups of both SECA members and non-members to talk about SECA.

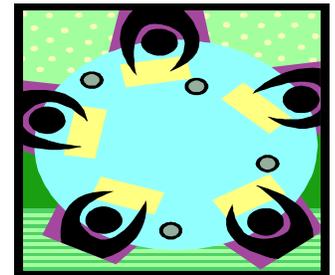
Those discussions were very revealing and will provide information that will help guide the development of program initiatives and member benefits in the future at SECA.

Some themes were common:

- The visibility of SECA in the region needs to be enhanced and the relationship between NAEYC, SECA and the state affiliate is sometimes difficult to understand in the dual affiliate (those states affiliated with both SECA and NAEYC) states.
- The website is being utilized by members but is virtually undiscovered

by non-members.

- Communication to the field needs to be enhanced, including how we use our traditional "conduits of information".
- Web based services are becoming more important and folks want us to make it easy to join, access member benefits and information.
- The value of the SECA conference lies in the opportunities for networking, the quality of the keynoters, access to vendors and new products.
- The negatives of the SECA conference are lack of access (too far away), the cost of travel, lack of a central location, etc.
- All members are receiving *Dimensions of Early Childhood*, although recipients aren't always knowledgeable that *Dimensions* is a SECA publication.
- Affordability continues to be a big issue in the membership dues structure.



This type of information gives the SECA Board of Directors an idea of what people need, why early childhood professionals join an association and what we might do in the future to enhance that membership.

ONE THING TO REMEMBER: The SECA portion of your state affiliate dues is \$20 per member. The challenge for SECA is to determine how to provide enhanced member benefits on a limited budget. We hope that our state affiliate leadership will help us to find those ways to make SECA more accessible and important to all early childhood

TRANSFERRING THE GAVEL

In the fall of each year, many of the SECA states transition into new leadership. State Affiliate Presidents for 2009 :

- AL: Richard Hardison
- AR: Barbara Gilkey
- FL: Gege Kreisler
- GA: Hilda Tompkins
- KY: Terry Green

- LA: Cindy Rushing
- MS: Betsy Walsh
- OK: Linda Whaley
- SC: Floyd Creech
- TN: Rose Carver
- TX: Kris Curtis
- VA: Joyce P. Jones
- WV: Helen Post Brown



Sally Nichols Sharpe & Georgia Lamirand of Oklahoma

LEADERSHIP DAY AT SECA 2009

Leadership Day at SECA 2009 is scheduled for Wednesday, January 28, 2009. We'll begin the meeting at 3:00 pm that afternoon (to allow for travel that morning) and work

through dinner that evening. SECA will cover the costs of the meeting and dinner. Leadership Day is open to all affiliate leaders who are attending the SECA conference,

including local affiliate presidents. **SECA also provides up to \$1000 per state affiliate to help your leaders attend the SECA conference.**



Leadership Day at SECA 2008

We hope you'll take the opportunity to join us. It's one avenue to enhance your knowledge about SECA and to help the SECA Board develop initiatives that will benefit your states and your members.

Contact your state affiliate president or the SECA office if you wish to attend. We'll look forward to seeing you in Myrtle Beach! Make your plans now to join us!

Have you sent your new leadership list into the SECA office? We don't know who you are if you don't tell us!

SECA BOARD MET IN NOVEMBER

The SECA Board of Directors met by conference call on Friday, November 14, 2008. During that call the following business was conducted:

- The Board adopted a 2009 budget. The budget includes state affiliate stipends for the 2009 conference and an operating budget suffi-

cient to maintain current SECA office operations.

- The 2009 Outstanding Member and the 2009 Friend of Children were selected.
- Three members were elected to the SECA Editorial Committee.
- The Board allocated pro-

ceeds from the 2009 Silent Auction at conference and the receipts provided through sales of the Lakeshore Math Kit to assist victims of Hurricane Ike.

- Board committees were appointed to begin work at the January conference.

2009 FRIEND OF CHILDREN AWARD PRESENTED TO JAMES B. HUNT

Governor James Hunt of North Carolina (1977-1985 & 1993-2001) has been selected as the 2009 recipient of the SECA Friend of Children Award.

Governor Hunt is most well known by early childhood educators for his focus on early childhood development during his tenure as Governor, and the creation of the nationally recognized Smart Start program of North Caro-

lina. Smart Start is a non-profit, public-private partnership that provides quality child care, health care and family support for each child in all 100 North Carolina counties. Governor Hunt also chairs the Board of

Directors of the Hunt Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy at the University of North Carolina.



Governor James B. Hunt

Governor Hunt will be recognized with the Friend of Children Award at the 2009 SECA conference.

2009 SECA EDITORIAL COMMITTEE SELECTED

The SECA Board of Directors elected three new members to the SECA Editorial Committee in November.

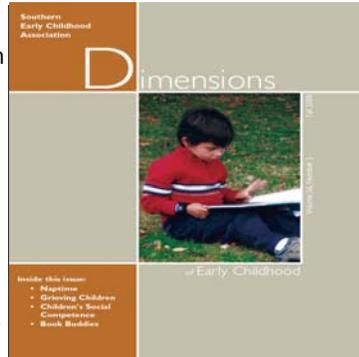
New members of the Committee are:

- **Dr. Cynthia Simpson** of Sam Houston State University in Texas. Dr. Simpson is an Assistant Professor/Special Education Program Coordinator/Language, Literacy and Special Populations
- **Dr. Anita McLeod** of South Carolina is retired from Wofford College, South Carolina, and currently works as a 4K

Analyst and Regional Coordinator for the South Carolina Office of First Steps to School Readiness

- **Connie Casha** is the Director of Early Childhood Programs at the Tennessee Department of Education.

Current members of the Committee are: **Dr. Stephen Graves** of Florida, **Vicki Folds** of Florida, **Nancy Cheshire** of West Virginia, and **Dr. Jaesook Gilbert** of Kentucky. **Dr. Herman Knopf** of South Carolina is the liaison to the Committee from the SECA Board of Directors. **Janet Stivers**, Di-



Fall Dimensions of Early Child-

mensions Editor, staffs the Committee and **Dr. Anne Ed-dowes** is the Book Review Editor. The Committee meets each year at the annual con-

2009 OUTSTANDING SECA MEMBER



Nancy Cheshire of West Virginia was selected by the SECA Board of Directors as the 2009 Outstanding Member.

Nancy has been a long-time member of the West Virginia Association for Young Children and SECA. She served as the WVAYC representative on the SECA Board of Directors and will co-chair the SECA

Editorial Committee with Dr. Stephen Graves in 2009.

“Nancy is an outstanding individual who has a high level of compassion and commitment to quality care and education for young children and families.” *Quoted from the WVAYC nomination letter*

The award will be presented at the 2009 annual conference.

Each year, SECA recognizes professionals who have made significant contributions to the well-being of children and families.

2010 CONFERENCE SITE SELECTED

The SECA Board of Directors has voted to bring the 2010 conference to Little Rock.

We're going to try a new conference format, and we decided to put it in place close to home. Having it here with the SECA office will make us much more flexible (no out of state shipping, for example), and we can initiate a new and exciting format to “add value” for our members and colleagues.

We're also negotiating a contract that is very beneficial to SECA financially, and we'll be able to offer rooms at the Peabody Hotel (Do you know about the ducks?!) for \$134 per night. That's a luxury hotel for very low cost.

For 2011, we'll be investigating sites in Atlanta, Biloxi/Gulfport and New Orleans. Let us know if you have a preference or other sites you'd like us to explore.



The Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock.

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We're on the Web!
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"A Voice for Southern Children"

Southern Early Childhood Association



HELPING THE VICTIMS OF HURRICANE IKE

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 Gulf Coast.

We're in a rebuilding mode, and your early childhood colleagues are facing the prospect of "putting it all back together" once again.

You'll remember that in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, SECA began the "Heart to Heart and Hand to Hand" program that helped to match early childhood colleagues and programs from around the US with programs along the Louisiana and Mississippi Gulf Coasts that had been destroyed or severely impacted by the hurricanes. We also accepted donations, developing a partnership with

Lakeshore Learning to produce a SECA Math Kit. Lake-



The aftermath of Hurricane Ike.

shore donated to SECA's disaster relief fund for every kit sold, and we've been holding the funds until they were needed.

During the November SECA Board meeting, it was decided to dedicate the funds raised

through the 2009 Silent Auction at conference to assisting our colleagues along the Texas Gulf Coast. We think we'll have about \$5,000 to help our colleagues and, in January, the Texas Representative on the Board will help us determine how to most effectively use those funds.

If you're from Texas and have some ideas, please contact **Judy Carnahan-Webb**, our Texas Board representative or **Georgia Lamirand**, SECA President to share those ideas.

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Of course, we'll also be happy to accept donations to add to the fund.