

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SECA

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR AFFILIATE LEADERSHIP

SECA Updates

- **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.
- The **VAFCCA conference** that was scheduled for September 19-23, 2008 in Fredericksburg, VA has been cancelled. This event was announced in the August Affiliate Newsletter.
- 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!
- The fall **SECA Reporter** will be mailed by the middle of October. That issue will also include a new SECA publications catalog.
- **On-line registration** for the SECA conference will be available by October 1, 2008. We'll also have the **conference registration brochure** posted by that date. **Brochures will be mailed** to the membership at the end of October.

SECA CELEBRATES OUR 60TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

As the fall of the year approaches, we begin to "gear up" once more for our annual conference. Each year, we try to bring experts and information to our conference that will enlighten and inform our participants.

In 2009, we have a great list of keynote speakers:

- Dr. Sharon Lynn Kagan
- Dr. Wendy Valerio
- Dr. Virginia Buysee
- Jack Hartmann
- Rob Cleveland

On Thursday, we have some very special sessions that you will want to attend.

- *I Teach Kindergarten* will be presented by the South Carolina Early Childhood Association and will showcase the classroom experience of kindergarten teachers in South Carolina for a wonderful all day session.

Two half-day sessions are

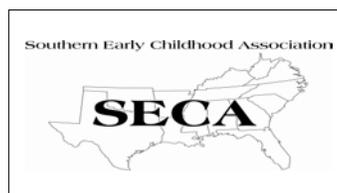
scheduled on Thursday.

- *Helping Preschool Children Get Healthy and Fit* will be presented by Dr. Dianne Lawler-Prince and Dr. Jim Stillwell. You'll be introduced to SECA's newest book.
- *Preparing for the Unthinkable* is a joint effort of the Early Childhood Institute of Mississippi State, NACCRRRA, and Save the Children. Learn how to make sure your program is prepared to deal with any type of challenge.

On Friday, morning, Dr. Kagan will bring her years of experience and research to the SECA conference.

In the afternoon, you'll have a choice. Dr. Wendy Valerio of the University of South Carolina specializes in music education for young children and Dr. Virginia Buysee of the Frank Porter Graham program of the University of North Carolina is an expert on early intervention.

On Saturday, Jack Hartmann of Hop2 It Music that will get you "movin and groovin" and Rob Cleveland of August House Publishers



brings his experience as an actor and storyteller to the SECA stage. .

Gene Wilhoit, the Executive Director of the Council of Chief State School Officers, will be our speaker for the Public Policy Luncheon. He'll bring his perspective on the "trends" in early childhood education throughout the country.

We've also planned a great Director's Seminar for our program administrators and a special event for our student participants .

As you can see, we've got something for everyone!

Glenda Bean

Executive Director

Leadership Day at SECA 2009

We'll welcome our state affiliate leadership to the **SECA 2009 conference on the afternoon of Wednesday, January 28, 2009. Please put that date on your calendars. More information to follow soon!**

DEADLINE FOR SECA BALLOTS IS SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

The election for the next President of SECA is underway and the **deadline to postmark ballots is September 30, 2008.**

Ballots are being returned to Small Business Accounting Services, Little Rock, and will



Don't forget to vote!

be tabulated by that firm. Once the ballots are tabulated and a final count is determined, those results will be provided 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.** You may anticipate an announcement of the election results in the October Affiliate Newsletter.

There is still time to vote if you haven't submitted your ballot. **All ballots that are postmarked by September**

30, 2008 will be counted. The ballot includes a "postage paid" return feature, so all you need to do is drop it in the mail box.

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

Our best wishes go to our candidates, Janie Humphries of Louisiana, and Judy Whitesell of South Carolina. We're looking forward to announcing the President-Elect 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.

SECA REPRESENTATIVES AT THE FALL 2008 STATE CONFERENCES

Each fall, SECA assigns a representative to attend each of our state affiliate conferences. That time is almost here, and we're excited to be joining you in a few weeks.

This year, the SECA President, Immediate Past-President and Executive Director will be traveling to represent SECA and participate in your state

conference activities.

Georgia Lamirand, SECA President, will be in Florida, Mississippi, Texas and Louisiana.

Terry Green, Immediate Past-President of SECA will be in Georgia and Arkansas.

Glenda Bean, Executive Director will be in Tennessee .

Representatives for the West Virginia and Virginia conferences will be assigned this fall. (Their conferences are in the first months of 2009.) The Oklahoma conference was in August of this year and Alabama is currently planning their next conference. Kentucky has cancelled their fall conference.

SCHEDULE OF 2008 STATE AFFILIATE FALL CONFERENCES

Following is the schedule for the fall state affiliate conferences in 2008.

Florida	September 25-28, 2008 Orlando, Florida
Mississippi	October 1-3, 2008 Jackson, Mississippi
Tennessee	October 1-4, 2008 Nashville, Tennessee
Kentucky	October 2-4, 2008 (Cancelled)

Georgia	October 10-11, 2008 Duluth, Georgia
Arkansas	October 16-18, 2008 Hot Springs, Arkansas
Texas	October 16-18, 2008 Corpus Christi, Texas

The SECA Board Representative from each state will set-up a SECA display at the conference. SECA has shipped copies of *Dimensions of Early Childhood*, the *SECA Reporter*, membership brochures and door prizes to those representatives for use at the state conferences. We're pleased to be able to support our state affiliates with these resources.

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 also asked that you provide us with a list of 20 members and 20 non-members who will attend your conference. Special invitations are being sent to those individuals to invite them to participate; however, we'd be happy to welcome anyone that would like to visit with us. Invitations

will go out about 2 weeks in advance of your conference.

We so much appreciate the support of our state affiliates in helping us to gather information to better serve our membership. .

REVIEW OF 2009 CONFERENCE PROPOSALS

The Professional Development Commission of the SECA Board of Directors (a Board committee) and Deni Schofield and Stephanie Seay of South Carolina have completed a review of all proposals submitted for consideration for SECA 2009.

The hard work of scheduling will now begin and we'll start trying to place sessions in

time slots that will provide balance and diversity in content.

As proposals are scheduled, we look at the following:

- Proposals accepted by the reviewers
- A balance of topics and presentation styles
- Preferences of the presenters (We try to honor any

requests for certain day or time scheduling.)

Due to restrictions on space and available time slots, we will not schedule a presentation that has the same title and content as one presented in 2008. Presenters will be scheduled for one presentation only, unless they are co-presenting with someone.

Notification of the status of proposals for the SECA 2009 conference will be sent by October 1, 2008.

STUDENT MATCHING GRANT APPLICATIONS ARE COMING IN

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 have **two letters of intent in the office** at this time and hope that we'll receive more in the next month.

The grant information is



Bring your students to SECA 2009!

posted on the conference page of the SECA website. We hope you'll consider bringing your students to SECA 2009. We're planning a special event "Just for Students" so we know they will have a great professional experience.

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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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NEW SECA PUBLICATIONS IN 2008

SECA has four new publications that will be available next month.

What's New In

Children's Books, 2008

Don't have time to check out all the new children's books? Let SECA do some of the work for you. In addition, you'll find ideas about how to use the books in your program and classroom. We'll repeat this publication each year with new titles. The first edition will include copyright dates from 2006 and 2007. As a benefit to members, we're keeping the cost very low.

Sharing Books Together:

Promoting Emergent Literacy Through Reading Aloud and Home-School Partnerships

Kathleen A. Martin and Kay

Emfinger of Alabama joined forces to share their experience in boosting literacy experiences for young children. It includes information about the importance of families and books and has a long list of books that are recommended for use with young children and families.

Standards and Good Practice Can Work Together

Accountability standards often pose a dilemma for professionals. Learn about blending accountability standards and good early childhood practice in your classroom. *Michele French*

Preventing Childhood Obesity: Helping Preschool Children Become Healthy and Fit

Keep children moving with integrated learning experi-

ences and fun exercises. Early childhood professionals will enjoy the fun rhythmic activities, yummy recipes, tips for making small equipment and many more resources. *Dr. Di-anne Lawler-Prince and Dr. Jim Stillwell*

These publications will be available in October 2008, and you'll have the opportunity to purchase them through our new on-line store.

SECA's mission is to promote the professional development of its members and improve the lives of the South's children. These books are designed to help us meet those goals and provide resources that are "practitioner friendly" to the field.