

# What's Happening at SECA

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## Thanks to the SECA 2012 Nominating Committee!

### Chair

Dr. Janie Humphries  
Past President of SECA

### State Representatives

Sallye Longshore, Alabama  
Charlene Gross, Florida  
Lou Brown, Kentucky  
Mary Lou Maples, Louisiana  
Dr. Louise Davis, Mississippi  
Dr. Herman Knopf, S. Carolina

For more information on the Nominating Committee, go to [www.southernearlychildhood.org](http://www.southernearlychildhood.org)

## Meet Our SECA Candidates: Where to Find Info

If you don't know by now, we're electing a new SECA President this year! We've had information going out since January, and we hope you'll take advantage of the opportunities to get to know them as both professionals and persons.

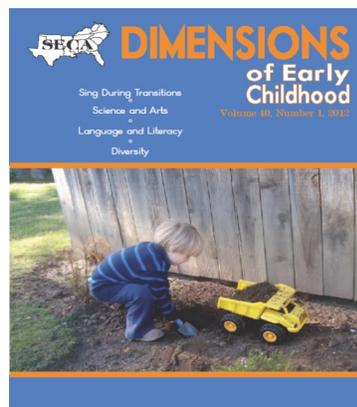
Two candidates were certified by the SECA Nominating Committee at the annual conference:

**Evelyn Wright Moore**  
Texas

**Kathy Attaway**  
Kentucky

### Want to Learn More About the Candidates?

We have several options available to you:



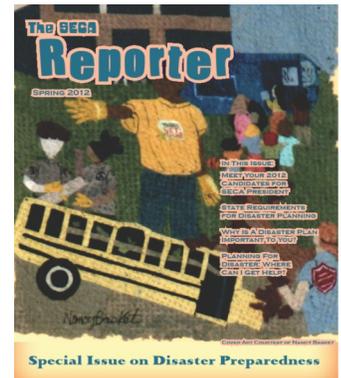
The winter 2012 issue of *Dimensions of Early Childhood* contains their statements which were presented to the SECA Nominating Committee. Look for that information on pages 20-22 of the issue.

A video interview with the candidates is available on the SECA website. You'll also find brief biographies of the candidates with the video.

Executive Director Glenda Bean hosts an interview with the candidates on SECA Radio.



The spring issue of the *SECA Reporter* contains more info. Be an informed voter!



## Five Issues of *What's Happening* in 2012

Because of the timing of our 2012 conference in San Antonio, the February issue of *What's Happening at SECA* is being combined with the April issue.

Our 2012 conference was being held during the first

week in February, and we just didn't have the time to get it done for that month ....not to mention that you would have missed all the conference information that is contained in this issue!

I hope you'll forgive us for

the delay and enjoy a packed issue of *What's Happening at SECA!*

We'll follow the regular schedule beginning with the June issue. Expect a new issue of the *Leadership Letter* around the first week of May. **Happy reading!** Glenda

## Annual Business Meeting: Members Approve Changes to By-Laws

The annual business meeting of the Southern Early Childhood Association was held in San Antonio, Texas on February 4, 2012 during our 63rd annual conference. Nancy Cheshire, SECA President, conducted the meeting. A quorum was in attendance.

The following reports were presented:

- 2011 end of year financial report (unaudited)
- 2012 conference report

At the conclusion of the reports, the proposed by-laws changes were presented. **For more information on those proposed changes, go to the November/December 2011 edition of *What's Happening at SECA!***

After preliminary discussion, the changes were approved by the membership. A copy of the updated by-laws can be found at :

**[http://www.southernearlychildhood.org/leadership\\_pdf.php#policies](http://www.southernearlychildhood.org/leadership_pdf.php#policies)**

The Helen Harley, Marian B. Hamilton and Rich Scofield Award Recipients for 2012 were recognized at the meeting. ***Go to page 4 & 5 of this newsletter for the reflections of the Helen Harley recipients on their first SECA Conference.***

The minutes of the annual business meeting are available on the Board Resources page of the SECA website. For any questions concerning the business meeting, please contact Glenda Bean at [gbean@southernearlychildhood.org](mailto:gbean@southernearlychildhood.org).

## SECA Board Approves On-Line Voting for SECA President

The SECA Board has approved the change to an on-line voting system for the 2012 Presidential Election. This system is in the design phase and will have the following features:

- 1) Members will be notified by e-mail that the system is active and they may cast their vote electronically.
- 2) Members will utilize their SECA member number to access the system. Upon submission of a

vote, that membership number will be locked and a duplicate vote will not be accepted.

- 3) The votes will be placed in an on-line database maintained by the webmaster. Results of the voting will be tabulated and provided to the SECA office.
- 4) A confirmation will be sent to each state representative of the SECA Board of Directors, stating their state's popular vote and the

winning candidate in that state.

**Members for whom we do not have an e-mail address will receive a postcard from us, providing the following options:** 1) notice of the on-line system availability or 2) an offer to mail a paper ballot from the SECA office upon request.

**The system will open on September 1, 2012 and close on September 30, 2012. Election results will be announced by October 15, 2012.**

## Our Thanks to Terrie Buckner!

We were saddened to learn that personal circumstances with the health of her husband required Terrie Buckner of Georgia to submit her resignation as the Georgia representative on the SECA Board of Directors.

Terrie was an active member of the Professional Development Commission of the Board and brought her wealth of experience

as a trainer and educational expert to our Board discussions and projects.

We wish Terrie and her husband the best of outcomes in the next year. Our thoughts and prayers go with them.



## Our 2012 SECA Editorial Committee! Welcome to New Members



**Charlotte  
Hendricks**  
Alabama



**Martha Garner**  
Louisiana

The SECA Editorial Committee met for its regular annual meeting in San Antonio. During that meeting they welcomed two new members: **Charlotte Hendricks** of Alabama and **Martha Garner** of Louisiana. During the meeting they discussed the following issues:

- The future of SECA as a publisher. What type and form of publishing would we undertake in the next five years?
- The development of a theme issue for the 2013 fall issue of *Dimensions*

of *Early Childhood*. It will be focused on outdoor learning spaces.

- Extension projects for utilizing the content in *Dimensions of Early Childhood*.

**Dr. Joanna Grymes** (AR) served as the SECA Board liaison to the Committee. A copy of the minutes of the Committee is available on the Board Resources page of the SECA website. For a complete list of the Committee, go to [www.southernearlychildhood.org/seca\\_editorial\\_committee.php](http://www.southernearlychildhood.org/seca_editorial_committee.php)

## Tea Time with SECA Was a Great Success!

In San Antonio, we inaugurated a new feature with our membership, **Tea Time with SECA!**

The Membership Commission of the SECA Board of Directors asked that we create a tea table that would let our members (and members-to-be) stop, have a cup of tea and visit with our Board. During that visit, they would have the opportunity to thank our members and convince non-members of the

benefits of SECA membership.

Thanks to the members of the Membership Commission -Lisa Maddox-Vinson( TN), Richard Hardison (AL), Janie Humphries (LA), Mary Jamsek (TX) and Melissa Smith (WV)- who put such effort into this project.

The table was set with a tea service (including hats, gloves, and **CHINA** cups-not paper!), surrounded by

SECA resources and information, including a computer that allowed participants to go to the SECA website to find all that we have to offer.

We're very pleased to say that the strategy worked....not only did our members enjoy the Southern hospitality, we welcomed 20 new members to SECA.

**Congratulations to the Commission!**

## SECA and AECA: Working Together for Another Year

Last year, the Arkansas Early Childhood Association (AECA) contracted with the SECA office to provide management support for the affiliate. (Many years ago, both associations were managed from the same office.) Maurena Farr of the SECA staff was assigned primary responsibility for working with AECA.

These services included:

- ◆ Fiscal management
- ◆ Customer Service
- ◆ Board support
- ◆ Conference Support

During the past year, we have assisted the affiliate in streamlining their support

structure and helped to identify areas where the SECA office might be of additional assistance to the AECA Board. We're pleased that this relationship has benefited both associations and look forward to another year of providing management services for AECA.

## Our 2012 Award Winners: Denise Brann of Kentucky

### Reflections From Denise

**“Loved.** That’s the true gift I received when I attended my first SECA conference. When I accepted my Helen Harley Award, I stated that I felt as if I was on Oprah...being reunited with a long lost family and that sentiment is true today, just as it was then. It did not matter that I was the newest member of the family: I had many opportunities to meet, share opinions, laugh and network with other attendees. It was such a blessing to be with so

many people devoting their lives to the health, welfare and education of our young children. Each of the workshops I attended were very informative with many dynamic, dedicated and intelligent presenters. I can’t thank my KAECE Board enough for nominating me for the Award. I am truly humbled by their belief in me. I look forward to attending the conference each and every year that the Lord allows me. **I am “hooked”!** Thank you SECA for offering this award and thank you to every



one who made me feel so welcome. See you next year in Mobile!”

## Our 2012 Award Winners: Dr. Michelle Fazio Brunson of Louisiana

### Reflections From Michelle



“It was an honor to receive the 2012 Helen Harley Memorial Award and a joy to be able to attend the SECA

conference for the first time. I am grateful to my LAECA Board for nominating me.

Attending the conference gave me the opportunity to gain information I could pass on to my Family and Consumer Sciences and Early Childhood Education majors at Northwestern State University, to engage in professional development and learning and to network with vendors to examine some of the newest educational products available on the market.

The session that I attended that has been closest to my heart was on bullying....I had never considered the impact of facilitating self-esteem and self-efficacy and teaching tolerance as primary tools for preventing bully-type behavior in young children.

The SECA conference was a delightful opportunity to surround myself with others with shared interests and challenges. I left the conference with new knowledge, new energy and an appetite for sharing what I have learned.”

## Our 2013 Awards: Who Makes the Selections?

Our 2013 conference is quickly approaching and the following states are in the rotation to select our 2013 Award Winners.

### Helen Harley Awards

Mississippi/Oklahoma/ South Carolina

### Marian B. Hamilton Awards

Florida/Georgia/Kentucky

### Rich Scofield Award

Georgia

### President’s Award

Texas

### The 2013 SECA Outstanding Member and Friend of Children

are selected by the SECA Board of Directors.

States are asked to nominate individuals for those awards. For more information about SECA awards, go to

<http://www.southernearlychildhood.org/upload/file/Leadership%20Page/Mar%202012%20Updated%20Policies/SECA%20AWARDS%20arch%202012.pdf>

## Our 2012 Award Winners: Audrey Collier of Georgia

### Reflections From Audrey

"I had never attended a SECA conference and had heard great things about it from many of my friends at GAYC. I totally enjoyed the conference and meeting all the other early care and education professionals who have been in this field for a very long time, such as myself.

One of the highlights was attending the Brain Compatible Strategies keynote by Dr. Pam Schiller. She brought

her expertise and knowledge of infant/toddler brain development that was clearly defined during her presentation.

Being at the SECA conference gave me time to really see what great work others are doing in other states to protect our greatest assets, our children.

I also cannot close without saying that I really enjoyed being in the great state of Texas. San Antonio is a beautiful city with so much rich history. Thanks to all who greeted us with welcome arms and

made our trip an enjoyable one. I would also like to thank the wonderful SECA staff."



*Audrey, Denise and Michelle were recipients of the 2012 Helen Harley Awards. This is a financial award that assists them in attending the SECA conference. Three SECA states select those award winners each year.*

## Our 2012 Award Winners: Kathy Ennis of Tennessee



Kathy Ennis was selected by the SECA Board of Directors as the

### 2012 Outstanding Member

This award is presented annually to someone who is recognized for their work and dedication to SECA. It's a special award that only a few of the over 19,000 members have received, and it is truly a recognition of what a person has meant to the organization.

Kathy has served the early childhood professional field in many capacities

and has been instrumental in strengthening both her state affiliate, serving as President of the Tennessee Association for the Education of Young Children, and as the TAEYC representative on the SECA Board of Directors. During her time on the SECA Board, she served as the Fiscal Officer, helping to guide the Association through some troubled financial times.

Our thanks and gratitude go to Kathy for her continued dedication to SECA.

## Our 2012 Award Winners: Beverly Hunter of South Carolina

Beverly Hunter was selected by the South Carolina Early Childhood Association (SCECA) as the recipient of the

### 2012 President's Award

This award is presented each year by the SECA President to recognize the contributions of a state advocate to improving the lives of children and families in a SECA

state. This award rotates from year to year so that each SECA state has the opportunity to recognize their special advocate. This is a special honor bestowed by one's peers in that state.

Our congratulations go to

Beverly.

*For more info about any of the award winners, check out the 2012 conference program on the SECA website. It's on our conference page.*



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**A Voice for Southern Children!**

**We're on the web!**  
**www.SouthernEarlyChildhood.org**

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**

**TBA, GA State Representative**

**Katie Shaughnessy-Williams, KY State Representative**

**Cindy Ramagos, LA State Representative**

**Beverly Peden, MS State Representative**

**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.*

***Hand-in-Hand: Children and Nature—Our 2013 Conference Theme***

It seems impossible, but we're already beginning to plan for next year's conference. We'll be in beautiful **Mobile, Alabama, February 28-March 2, 2013**, and we're going to take advantage of the location to focus on **the outdoor learning environment**.

This is currently a hot topic in our profession, and we're realizing that the children of today are spending too much time tied to technology, inside because of safety concerns, and sedentary rather than active.

For our 2013 conference, we're going to provide lots of resources to help

you transform your program so that the outdoor space is just as important a learning environment as the inside space.

The SECA Board of Directors has also asked that we focus our efforts on this theme throughout 2013 in our publications and projects. **We'll have a theme issue of Dimensions of Early Childhood in the fall of 2013 that will focus on the issue.**

We're also going to add a new feature to the conference. In the next couple of months, we'll announce a new **Institute for Faith-Based Programs** that will be designed for professionals who

face the unique issues and opportunities inherent in those programs. We think that we can provide resources and networking opportunities that will assist administrators and teachers who work faith-based settings.

We'll also have our annual **Directors Seminar** that has proven to be so valuable, with both educational and networking opportunities. For our trainers, the **Trainer Institute** will be offered again.

**Watch our newsletters, publications and our website for more details. See you in Mobile!**