

What's Happening at SECA

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SECA 2012

Proposals still
being accepted
until August 15th.

Don't forget to
submit! We want
to see you there.

SECA Board of Directors Completes Summer Meeting

The SECA Board of Directors met on July 15-16, 2011 in Little Rock, Arkansas for their regularly scheduled summer board meeting.

During the meeting the Board conducted regular business and completed a brief strategic planning process to develop goals and objectives for 2012-2013.

The following business was discussed and approved.

- The Board approved two technology proposals that will implement cost savings and enhance the member's interface with SECA. *See page 2 of this newsletter for more information.*
- The Board considered amendments to the SECA

by-laws and approved publication of those amendments to begin the process of review and consideration. The full text of the proposed by-law changes will be published in various SECA publications during the next few months and the amendments will be considered at the annual SECA business meeting in San Antonio, Texas. *See page 3 for more information*

- The Board adopted a plan to participate in Disaster Relief efforts by contributing to organizations that support the Red Cross with emergency child care during relief efforts. *More info on page 5.*

- The Board confirmed its support of the NAEYC regional dialogue meetings and has extended an invitation to host the Southern meeting at our annual conference in San Antonio. *More info on page 4.*
- Planning was continued for the annual conference in San Antonio, including plans for the 2012 Leadership and networking activities.
- The SECA Policies and Procedures were reviewed and edits/changes made to those policies. *More info on page 3.*

We've got lots of exciting things on the agenda. We'll share more in the next issue.

SECA Info Now Available on the Board Resources Page

You'll find the following information available on the SECA Board Resources Page.

- A copy of the 2010 financial review
- Monthly financials
- Board meeting minutes from 2011

- The 2012-2013 Goals and Objectives adopted by the Board at the summer meeting (by August 15th)
- Promotional ads for the 2012 SECA conference

As a member of our leadership group, you can access these informational materials

by going to the Leadership page, clicking on SECA Board Resources in the drop-down menu and entering the password. If you need a refresher on the password, contact the SECA office. It's a simple way for you to keep connected with SECA.

Do You Know How to Blog?

In the fall of 2011, we'll launch the SECA Blog, an opportunity for networking and sharing of ideas and perspectives on the issues of the day.

For those of you who might be asking, [What's a Blog?](#), here's the scoop.

Blog is a noun that refers to a website that contains an online personal journal with reflections, comments and often hyperlinks provided by the writer. It is also used to refer to the contents of such a site and is short for

Weblog, a term first used in 1999.

Source: <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/blog>.

Unlike some other online communication tools, a blog is designed to be viewed by the public and is a way of getting your point of view out there for comment and consideration.

Blog is also a verb used to describe what you are doing when you post this type of information and, if you are **blogging**, you are officially known as a **logger**.

ger! Confused?! We're looking for ways to connect our early childhood professional community, and we think this is one more cost efficient way to discuss the major issues in our field.

The **Blog** will be managed by Megan Sullins, Executive Assistant, in the SECA office and we'll be sending you more info as we develop the protocol to participate.

Just one more way SECA is working to create that professional community for our members.

It's Time to Nominate Candidates for SECA President

When the new President-Elect (Nancy Cheshire in 2011) takes office, we begin again with the process that will decide who will be candidates for the next SECA President.

We've notified state presidents that nominations are now being accepted for candidates to be considered for the election slate in 2012; however, we wanted to let you know so that you can help us to recruit the best and the brightest that your state

has to offer.

According to the SECA Policies and Procedures, nominations may be submitted by:

- State and/or local affiliates.
- By individuals who are SECA members.
- By individuals who wish to self-nominate.

Nominations will be accepted until

November 1, 2011 and should be sent to the SECA office. Nominations will be sent to the Nominating Committee for consideration and candidates will be announced at the annual conference in San Antonio.

For a description of the SECA President's responsibilities, go to <http://www.southernearlychildhood.org/upload/file/Board%20Policies/Board%20Roles%20and%20Responsibilities.pdf>

SECA to go to On-line Voting

All of us are struggling in the current economy to make our systems and initiatives as cost effective and member-friendly as possible.

During the summer Board meeting, a project to develop an on-line voting system that will be tied to the SECA

website was approved. This system will first be utilized in the election in the fall of 2012.

It comes down to economics. Our last ballot in 2010 cost approximately **\$8,100** to design, print, mail and pay for return postage. To develop the on-line system, we'll initially spend about

\$3,200 to design and implement. Future elections will require only modification of the system at a cost of about **\$1,100**.

We'll also have a system to ensure that folks who aren't as tech savvy can cast their vote and votes are cast only once.

SECA By-laws and Policies to be Amended

An organization with static by-laws and policies is an organization that won't easily move forward to meet the changing needs of its members. With that said, SECA is undertaking two revisions that will make the organization more flexible in the way it does business and more streamlined and efficient.

The Board has asked that we change the SECA fiscal year to make our annual finances more understandable and more reflective of the current way we do business. Currently, the fiscal year runs on a calendar year, January 1 to December 31. Because our conference takes place in January or February each year, we have conference revenue that is received in the fiscal year prior to the actual conference date which makes planning and review of the financials more difficult. It also puts the majority of our annual expenses within the first few months of the new fiscal year, so that we have a

harder time knowing whether we are on target with our budget. **Proposal #1 will be that the SECA fiscal year be changed to July 1-June 30 so that all conference revenue and expenses for each conference will appear within the same fiscal year.** This will require that several articles of the By-laws be changed to reflect the change in the fiscal year.

The second discussion concerned whether the old Executive Committee structure was still valid and whether the position of Vice-President (which is appointed by the President) was still needed. Because of a prior change, the Vice-President no longer assumes the office of President in the case of a resignation or illness. (The elected Immediate Past-President or the President-Elect will transition into the office if that occurs.) **Proposal #2: The office of Vice-President will be eliminated and the duties assigned to various Commissions of the Board.** This will have the addi-

tional benefit of reducing costs associated with the fall Executive Committee meeting. The person currently holding the position will rotate off the Board in January, so no future appointment will be necessary.

The complete language associated with these by-law amendments will be posted on-line, printed in SECA publications and available in print form at the annual business meeting in San Antonio. A change to the by-laws requires a membership vote.

The **SECA Policies and Procedures** are simply those operational policies that govern the day-to-day business of the Association. The Board may vote to change the policies and procedures at any time and we will make some small changes to that document. The amended policies and procedures will be available at http://www.southernearlychildhood.org/leadership_pdf.php#policies by September 1, 2011.

Silent Auction: Supporting Our Host Community

We've spent some time trying to determine how best to utilize the funds that we generate with Silent Auction at each annual conference. Typically, we have between \$2500 and \$3000 that are raised, and the Board of Directors wants to ensure that these funds support children and families in our states.

During the 2011 Board meeting in Sa-

vannah, the Board voted to utilize the proceeds from the Silent Auction to support a local children's program, charity or initiative in the community in which we host our conference that year.

Our first donation will be in the city of San Antonio, and we're working with a group of the TAEYC leadership to determine which organiza-

tion or program should receive the donation. Because we will award these funds during the conference, we'll use the proceeds from the 2011 Silent Auction in Savannah to make that donation.

Proceeds from the 2012 Silent Auction will be donated in the host community of the conference site for 2013.

SECA and NAEYC: Exploring Relationship Possibilities

In February 2011, the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) issued a paper entitled, *Exploring Relationship Possibilities: The National Dialogue between NAEYC and Affiliates*. The paper was designed to identify issues surrounding the relationship between NAEYC and its affiliates and to initiate a **National Dialogue** with those affiliates to determine the future path of NAEYC.

During the 2010 Leadership Day in Anaheim, CA, the following definition of the ideal relationship was developed. That relationship should embody:

- Authentic and sustainable connection around a common purpose.
- Shared values and goals.
- Meaningful two-way exchange of information.
- Mutual give and take.
- A connection that is responsive, supportive and nurturing.

On **June 3, 2011**, SECA President Janie Humphries issued an invitation to NAEYC to host a Southern regional dialogue meeting at our 63rd annual conference in San Antonio, Texas.

Dear President Fanjul

The Southern Early Childhood Association applauds you and your administration in the work you are doing in the National Dialogue project. You have given NAEYC members an opportunity to speak up and have

their voices heard in a positive context and in a way that will strengthen the NAEYC organization.

As President of the Southern Early Childhood Association (SECA) and on behalf of the SECA Board of Directors, we would like to invite you and members of your administration to hold the Southern Regional meeting of the National Dialogue during our annual conference in San Antonio, Texas on Thursday evening, February 2, 2012. Leadership from each of the SECA states will be at the SECA conference in San Antonio, and it seems to be a wonderful opportunity to avoid duplicative scheduling and travel for these leaders.

On **July 15, 2011**, we received the following response from President Fanjul.

Dear Dr. Humphries

Thank you for your gracious invitation to host the Southern Regional meeting of the National Dialogue in San Antonio next February.

The NAEYC Governing Board and Affiliate Council are deeply committed to this endeavor. We recognize the unique nature of the relationship between NAEYC and SECA and the nine dual-affiliated states. It is a testament to the leadership of SECA and each of these nine states that you view the National Dialogue as an opportunity to strengthen this connection.

The Affiliate and Member Relations department is implementing the National Dialogue and will be schedul-

ing the regional meetings with the assistance of an appointed Advisory Group. We have been assured by Gwen Simmons that the Southern Regional meeting in San Antonio will be added to the schedule. She will be in touch with the SECA office soon after the Advisory Group meets later this month.

Again, let me thank you, Dr. Humphries, for your leadership on behalf of southern children.

Best regards,

*Stephanie Fanjul
NAEYC President*

We are pleased to be able to assist with this most important NAEYC initiative and to provide a forum for the Southern early childhood leadership to provide input and perspective to the NAEYC Board.

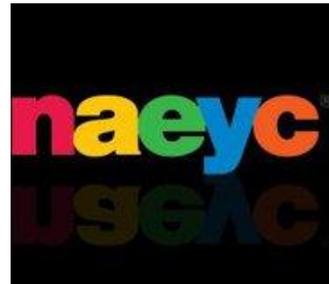
The **Dialogue** will be held in conjunction with the SECA conference; however, we will still provide our Wednesday Leadership Summit and financial support for the leadership to attend the conference in San Antonio.

Although SECA is not an affiliate of NAEYC, 9 of our 13 states share affiliation with both organizations. We are pleased to be able to support NAEYC in this most important endeavor.

Southern Early Childhood Association



SECA and NAEYC: A Regional Alliance for the South



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

Southern Early Childhood Association



2011 Executive Committee

Dr. Janie Humphries, President
Nancy Cheshire, President-Elect
Susan Carrigan, Vice-President
Dee Ard, Fiscal Officer
Sister Roberta Bailey, Secretary

2011 SECA Board of Directors

Dr. Janie Humphries (LA), President
Nancy Cheshire (WV), President-Elect
Dee Ard, AL State Representative
Dr. Joanna Grymes, AR State Representative
Sister Roberta Bailey, FL State Representative
Terrie Buckner, GA State Representative
Katie Shaughnessy-Williams, KY State Representative
Cindy Ramagos, LA State Representative
Beverly Peden, MS State Representative
Susan Carrigan, 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
Melanie Clark, WV State Representative
Carol Montealegre (FL), Member-at-Large
Dr. Floyd Creech (SC), Member-at-Large

DISASTER AND OUR CHILDREN: WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?

During the last several years, the South has seen its share of major disasters, beginning with Hurricane Katrina and continuing with hurricanes, tornadoes, ice storms, flooding and much more.

The Board of Directors of SECA has been working to find a way to support disaster relief efforts but we're not a big organization with lots of dollars to spend. Our debate has been how to most effectively support the children and families of our states, while ensuring that our donations go directly to those who are in need.

During the last year, we've researched how to move forward and

have decided that our approach should be one to support those who are already in the field doing this work. Our research led us to a Congressional hearing that featured Trevor Rigger, Senior Director of Disaster Services for the American Red Cross. During his testimony, he shared that the National Commission on Children and Disasters had developed standards and a checklist that will support first responders in ensuring that emergency shelters respond to the needs of children. Additionally, he identified the agencies with which the Red Cross works to provide emergency shelter and support to children.

SECA has chosen to make donations to three organizations that support

our children to help them replenish supplies that are exhausted after each disaster.

Funds that were raised by the 2010 Silent Auction will be utilized to donate \$1000 to each of the following organizations to support their work:



*Southern Baptist
Disaster Relief*



*Church of the
Brethren: Children's
Disaster Services*

