

What's Happening at SECA

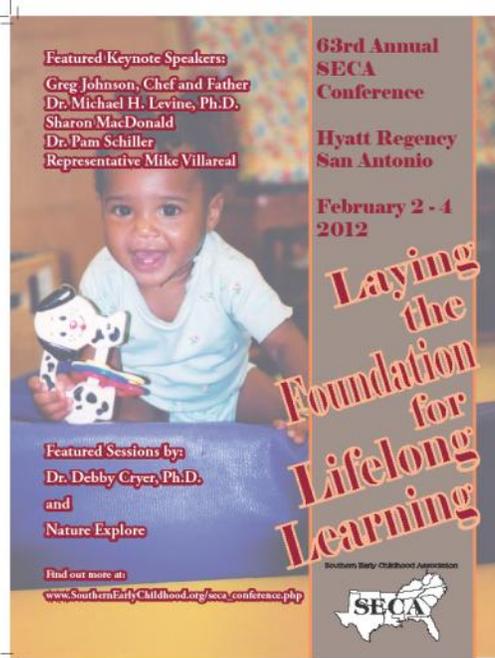
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SECA 2012: Something for Everybody!

We're quickly approaching SECA 2012 in San Antonio and the schedule is full of professional development opportunities for everyone. Our focus for the 2012 conference is infant/toddler care; however, we've made sure that we have plenty of information for all professionals who work in early childhood programs.

The pre-conference flyer is being mailed this week and should be in your mailboxes soon. We're trying something different this year by encouraging folks to go to the website for information and registration



registration form. You can print a form from the website but we hope you'll take the option of registering on-line.

By registering online, you cut our processing time significantly and avoid many of the errors that occur with data entry and paper forms. Online registration is one way we can keep registration fees down and still provide the type of

content that you expect from SECA.

We're looking forward to seeing you in San Antonio next year!

options. In order to cut our costs (and be good stewards of your money), we pared the flyer down to 4 pages and didn't include a printed

SECA 2012

Notifications to all persons submitting proposals were sent by e-mail on October 5, 2011.

If you submitted a proposal and haven't received notification, give us a call at 1-800-305-SECA and ask for Megan Sullins.

SECA Executive Committee to Meet in November

The SECA Executive Committee will meet during the third week of November and will consider the following:

- Proposed changes to the SECA policies and procedures
- The FY 2012 budget

- Agendas for the January 2012 Board meeting
- The action plan for 2012
- Nominations for the Editorial Committee

Additionally, the Executive Committee will welcome

new Board members who will take office in January for an orientation to their Board service. **The full Board of Directors will convene by conference call on November 17, 2011 at 4:00 pm CST to act upon recommendations from the Executive Committee.**

The SECA **Blog** is ready to go!

In **November**, 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 know 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 initially be written by Glenda Bean, Executive Director, 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.

Leadership Summit at SECA 2012

We're delighted that we have been able to secure the services of Barry Silverberg, Executive Director of the Texas Association of Nonprofit Organizations (TANO) for our **2012 Leadership Summit**.

The Summit will be held on Wednesday afternoon, February 1, 2012 beginning at 2:00 pm. We'll be sending information out to state presidents within the next few weeks to begin collecting informa-

tion about your group and who plans to attend.

The Summit will focus on helping state affiliates to design a **Strategic Thinking Leadership Gathering (STLG)** that is designed to assist in long range planning and building a cohesive and effective Board. This approach will help participants learn how to:

- Strengthen the affiliate's board development.

- Engage its stakeholders.
- Integrate it leadership's strategic thinking and Board policy and decision-making processes.
- Develop a strategic plan to address those challenges and opportunities.
- Understand and communicate key competencies to achieve the above.

I Tweet for SECA! Sharing Conference in Real Time

It's technology again and another popular communication tool, Twitter!

At **SECA 2012**, we're going to initiate the "**I Tweet for SECA!**" project that will allow participants to share their ideas, what's happening in sessions, and other important information in real time during the conference.

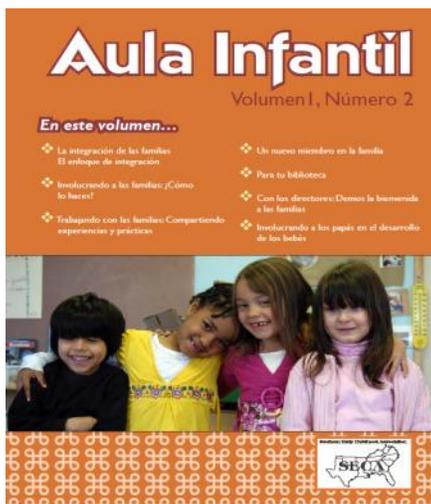
Mary Jamsek, our Board representative from the Texas AEYC, will head up this project and we'll start with a small group of folks who will "tweet" during the conference. You'll see them wearing "**I Tweet for SECA**" buttons.

We'll get more information to you later about how it will work and, after confer-

ence, give you some feedback on our experiences.

We don't expect to continue this beyond conference but think it may be a really fun and important way to enhance the conference experience.....new technologies that make us more connected during our stay in San Antonio.

New Issue of *Aula Infantil* Now Available



Our second issue of *Aula Infantil* is now available on the SECA website on the *Materiales en Español* page. We're again indebted to Dr. Wilma R. de Meléndez and Mabel Valdéz for their contribution as both authors and editors.

This issue is focused on families and making them an integral part of the early childhood experience and program. In this issue you'll find:

- Information on how to effectively include and involve parents
- Resources and books that you can

use in your program.

- Welcoming parents in a way to make them feel important and needed.
- Involving fathers in your early childhood program.

If you're interested in writing for *Aula Infantil*, we'll have a special session for potential authors with Dr. de Meléndez, SECA Board member Carol Montealegre, and Mabel Valdéz at SECA 2012 in San Antonio. We hope you can join us!

The fall *SECA Reporter*—Don't Miss This Special Issue!

In our fall *SECA Reporter*, we've devoted our newsletter to the issue of Supporting Military Families.

For many of you, the issue of deployed parents hits very close to home and your program is the "safe haven" for many children.

This newsletter brings many resources to your fingertips and gives you information that will be useful, not only in helping children who are experiencing the stress of deployment, but any child who's experiencing stress for any reason.

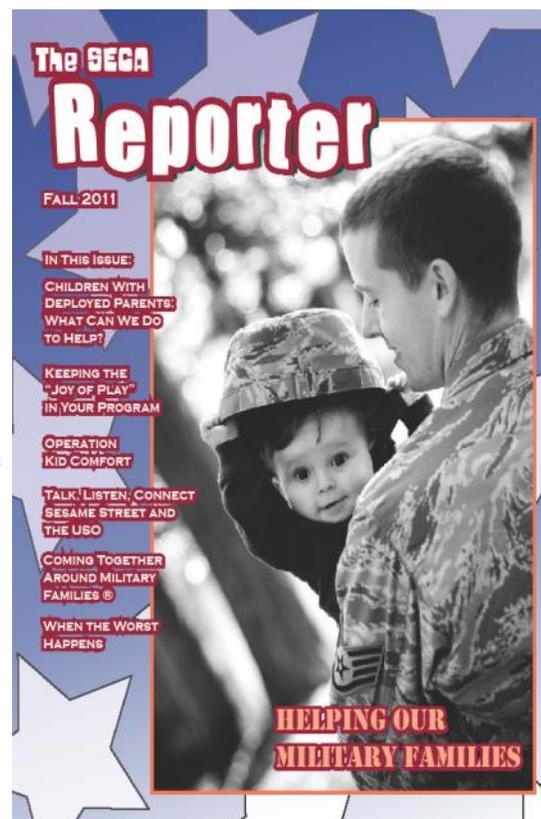
You'll find resources that are available to military families (and providers who care for those children) as well as resources that are available for anyone.

Sesame Street has particularly useful and attractive resources that are avail-

able on-line to anyone who wants to access them. You'll find a complete article in this issue of the newsletter about the Sesame Street site. They have resources for parents, children and caregivers...most of them in interactive formats, including videos that might be just what you're trying to find.

You'll also find an article, *Keeping the "Joy of Play" in Your Program*, that highlights some of the reasons that children need to play, regardless of family circumstances.

Notice of the availability of the newsletter will go out with our regular October member e-mail. You can also find it at http://w.southernearlychildhood.org/publications_reporter.php.



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We're on the web!

www.SouthernEarlyChildhood.org

2011 Executive Committee

Dr. Janie Humphries, President

Nancy Cheshire, President-Elect

Susan Carrigan, Vice-President

Dee Ard, Fiscal Officer

Sister Roberta Bailey, Secretary

Southern Early Childhood Association



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Lisa Maddox-Vinson, TN State Representative

Mary Jamsek, TX State Representative

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Melissa Smith, WV State Representative

Carol Montealegre (FL), Member-at-Large

Dr. Floyd Creech (SC), Member-at-Large

Don't Forget the SECA Board Resources Page!

If you're a member of the SECA leadership team (our Board of Directors and our state leadership groups), we have a special page on the SECA website just for you. The SECA Board Resources page is designed to keep information at your fingertips, available 24 hours a day, so that you don't have to wait until the SECA office opens or SECA staff are available to get the information that you need.

On the page you'll find the following.

- Documents that will be considered in the SECA Board meeting are posted. You'll also find a list of the current Board of Directors and their contact information, our 2012-1013 goals and objectives

and a copy of the 2010 financial review.

- The SECA financials are posted each month so that you can find out how the organization is doing financially.
- Minutes from past Board meetings are posted. If you need minutes from meetings that aren't posted, let us know and we'll send them your way.
- Promotional ads that can be used in your newsletters to help us get the word out about SECA events are on the website. If you need an ad size that isn't there, just let us know and we'll put it together for you.

- Information from the SECA states is available and we've begun posting the state affiliate newsletters there. Sharing your newsletter is a great way to network with your colleagues from other states. If you don't see your newsletter on the page, make sure your newsletter editor gets a copy to us.
- Our last column contains a variety of information, including photos and bios of our President and President-Elect, the FOSSILS directory with complete contact info and other information as available.

If you've forgotten the password for the page, contact the SECA office.