

2007 ANNUAL REPORT

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Our State Affiliates

- Alabama*
- Arkansas*
- Florida*
- Georgia*
- Kentucky*
- Louisiana*
- Mississippi*
- Oklahoma*
- South Carolina*
- Tennessee*
- Texas*
- Virginia*
- West Virginia*

TERRY GREEN, 2006 & 2007 SECA PRESIDENT, LEAVES A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

Terry Green completed her two year term as SECA President in 2007 and left the organization with a legacy of strong leadership and renewed enthusiasm about SECA's future.

During her tenure as President, Terry worked diligently to improve our relationship with and support of our state affiliate organizations. She also reached out to other national organizations such as OMEP and DEC to form strategic partnerships around issues that are of concern to our members and professionals in the field.

During her tenure, she:

- Supported the creation of a scholarship program to encourage student groups to attend annual conference. Terry saw that early childhood students would be our leaders in the future and

believed that SECA could provide the nurturing and support necessary to grow into those leaders.

- Traveled extensively throughout the SECA region and promoted the organization at state affiliate conferences.
- Helped guide the organization through a strategic planning retreat to focus Established a personal and professional relationship with presidents of other related organizations, particularly NAEYC.

Terry to be present, visible and positive whenever she represented the organization. Her dedication and belief in the value of SECA helped her to lead the organization through two years of growth and development that will only enhance the organization in the future.

Our thanks goes to Terry for her service to SECA and for her commitment to the children and families of the South.

You could always count on



Terry (right) and Jeanne, our history and our future.

CHANGES TO THE SECA BY-LAWS

At the annual SECA business meeting in Jacksonville, Florida, on March 31, 2007, the membership of the Association adopted two by-laws revisions.

- 1) The by-laws were changed to place all state affiliate members on a rolling membership

year, rather than a calendar year. This means that a membership extends from the date of application to one year after that date.

- 2) If a vacancy in the office of President occurs, either the Immediate Past-President or President-Elect will assume that role. This assures that

an elected representative will always be the SECA President.

Any proposed changes to the by-laws are published in the winter issues of *Dimensions of Early Childhood*, providing notice to members before the annual meeting.

GEORGIA LAMIRAND ASSUMES OFFICE OF PRESIDENT-ELECT

Elected in 2006, Georgia Lamirand officially assumed the office of President-Elect in January 2007. Her first Board meeting as President-Elect was at the 2007 annual conference.



Georgia Lamirand, President-Elect

Georgia is a resident of Oklahoma and has more than 28 years of experience in child care. She is an early care and education instructor at Francis Tuttle Technology Center, a position she has held since 1988.

She spent 10 years at Action, Inc., Head Start as an Education Coordinator and a 3-year-old teacher. She has also worked as an adjunct professor at Seminole Junior College and is a Child Development Association (CDA) Representative for the Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition.

In 1980, Action, Inc. Head Start selected Georgia as Teacher of the Year, and, in 1995, she was honored as Teacher of the Year for the Oklahoma Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Georgia has been a member of the Early Childhood Association of Oklahoma for 28 years and was selected as their Outstanding Member in 2000. During that time, she has held the offices of President, Treasurer and SECA Representative.

SECA actively searched for ways to add "value" to the individual membership.

CHILD CARE INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND ASSURANT HEALTH—ADDING VALUE FOR MEMBERS

In 2007, SECA looked for ways to add value for its members and strategic partnerships with other organizations was one method that was investigated and implemented.

SECA entered into a partnership with Child Care Information exchange that gives SECA

members a discount on products and services offered by Child Care Information Exchange.

A relationship with Assurant Health was also developed. SECA members gained direct access to individual health, travel health insurance and other programs through the

SECA website. The program also offered the option of transitional health benefits for college students who were leaving school and looking for work.

SECA continues to search for ways to enhance member benefits through access to products and services.

SECA SUPPORTS OUR STATE AFFILIATES

SECA continued its support to the state affiliate leadership in 2007 through several projects.

The Leadership Commission of the SECA Board of Directors developed an e-newsletter (6 issues per year) entitled *The SECA Leadership Letter*. It includes articles about leadership development, mentoring, ethics,

management and other topics of interest to the leadership of SECA's state affiliates. The development of the *Letter* was in response to requests from the state affiliate leadership that SECA assist in providing information that would help them build stronger and more effective Boards of Directors.

SECA provided a networking

and leadership opportunity at the 2007 annual conference for state affiliate leaders and provided stipends to the states (a maximum of \$1000 per state) to assist their leaders in attending.

A monthly e-newsletter, *What's Happening at SECA*, is also provided to the leadership groups to keep them informed about activities and initiatives at SECA.

2007 SECA AWARDS

SECA provided recognition in 2007 to outstanding individuals that have contributed significantly to the lives of children and families in the South and across the nation.

Our 2007 *Friend of Children Award* recognized Robin Roberts of Good Morning, America, for her work on the Mississippi Gulf Coast following Hurricane Katrina. This award is presented each year to a national figure who has bettered the lives of children and families. Previous award winners include Dr. T. Berry Brazelton in 2005 and Marlo Thomas in 2006 for her work with St. Jude Children's Re-

search Hospital.

Our 2007 *SECA Outstanding Member* was Jeanne Greene of South Carolina. Jeanne is a long time member of SECA and the South Carolina Early Childhood Association. Jeanne has served both SECA and the South Carolina Association in various capacities over the years and is a former member of the SECA Board of Directors.

Nikki Patton Rowe of Kentucky was the recipient of the 2007 *President's Award*. This award is presented each year to an advocate at the state



Jeanne Greene & Dr. Stephen Graves at the reception in her honor at SECA 2007.

level who has contributed significantly to that state's advocacy efforts. The Kentucky Association for Early Childhood Education selected Nikki as the 2007 recipient.

2007 SECA SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

The *Helen Harley Scholarship* was created in recognition of a devoted SECA member, Helen Harley, and three scholarships are provided each year to assist first-time attendees at the annual SECA conference. I

n 2007, the scholarship recipients were:

*Hilda Tompkins/Georgia
Johnnie Bridges/Arkansas
Cathy Powers/Florida*

Three states are designated to select the recipients each year.

The *Marian B. Hamilton Award* was created to recognize another devoted SECA

member and is designed to support exemplary early childhood projects by local chapters or affiliates. The 2007 recipients were:

*Northern Virginia AEYC
West Virginia AYC
Coastal Bend College/Texas*

SECA provides awards that recognize state and national advocates, an outstanding member, first-time attendees at annual conference and local affiliates/chapters.

SECA PROPOSES NEW MISSION STATEMENT

In 2007, the SECA Board of Directors proposed revising and streamlining the organization's mission statement.

We provided four options to the membership and asked that they consider the following in making their selection:

1. Does it reflect our philosophy?

2. Do our current programs and initiatives align with the mission statement?
3. Should we change the statement to be more concise and focused?

The Board of Directors scheduled a formal vote on adoption for their spring Board meeting in Northern Kentucky in 2008. The preferred statement is:

The Southern Early Childhood Association (SECA) is committed to improving the quality of care and education for young children and their families through advocacy and professional development.

Southern Early Childhood Association



Southern Early Childhood Association

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A Voice for Southern Children

Southern Early Childhood Association



2007 Board of Directors

Terry Green (KY)
President

Georgia Lamirand (OK)
President-Elect

Dee Ard
Alabama

Diana Courson
Arkansas

Janice Sean
Florida

Beth Parr
Georgia

Kathy Attaway
Kentucky

Susan Noel
Louisiana

Beverly Peden
Mississippi

Susan Carrigan
Oklahoma

Judy Whitesell
South Carolina

Debbie Ferguson
Tennessee

Judy Carnahan-Webb
Texas

Toni Cacace-Beshears
Virginia

Melanie Clark
West Virginia

Dr. Herman Knopf (SC)
Member-at-Large

Sandra Hutson (LA)
Member-at-Large

SECA Ends 2007 in Strong Financial Position

The accounting firm of Cobb and Suskie, LTD, Little Rock, Arkansas, produced the 2007 audit and federal tax return of the Southern Early Childhood Association. According to the 2007 audit, SECA finished the year in a strong and enhanced financial position.

Total Revenues and Other Support in 2007: \$548,039
Total Expenses for 2007: \$487,613

Net Assets/Investments at the Beginning of 2007: \$404,762
Net Assets/Investments at the End of 2007: \$470,454
Change in Net Assets: \$65,692

Program expenses included:

Conference	\$81,228
Publications	\$137,522
Governance	\$63,362
Operating	\$108,345
Personnel	\$94,143

(Operating includes postage, shipping, office expenses, and technology.)

The audit included no notes of deficiencies or recommendations for changes in office operating or financial systems.

EMBRACING THE JOY OF SOUTHERN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

SECA celebrated its 58th annual conference on March 29-31, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency Riverfront in Jacksonville, Florida.

With over 900 attendees and 50 exhibitors, the conference provided something for everyone.

The SECA Seminar on Thursday was focused on the development of Quality Rating Systems, an issue in all Southern states. Panelists for the day included **Anne Mitchell, Dr. Kathy Thornburg, Judy Collins**, and a representative of the National Institute for Early Education Research. **Dr. Pam Schiller** offered another option for attendees on Thursday with presentations for infant/toddler caregivers and pre-K staff.



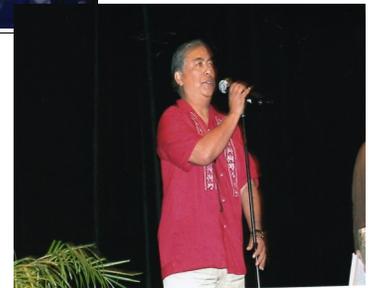
Movin' and Groovin' at SECA 2007! (top)
José Louise Orozco (right)

Keynoters for the conference :

- **Dr. Sue Bredekamp**
"Effective Curriculum and Teaching Practices in Early Childhood Education"
- **Dr. Thelma Harms**
"The What, Why and How of the Environment Rating Scales: A Dialogue Presentation"

- **José –Luis Orozco**
"Songs, Games and Rhymes for the Multicultural Classroom:"

Dr. Libby Doggett of Pre-K Now was the featured speaker at the annual Public Policy Luncheon.



SECA 2007 also offered over 70 interest sessions on a variety of topics and special sessions for students.