

Southern Early Childhood Association

SECA

Reporter

SPRING 2007

Meet SECA's New President-Elect



Georgia Lamirand is SECA's new President-Elect, and she began her term of office as President-Elect in January of this year.

A resident of Oklahoma, Georgia has more than 28 years of experience in child care and is an early care and education instructor at

Francis Tuttle Technology Center, a position she has held since 1988.

Georgia spent 10 years at Action, Inc. Head Start as an Education Coordinator and a teacher of 3-year-olds. She has also worked as an adjunct professor at Seminole Junior College and is a Child Development Associate (CDA) Representative for the Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition. Additionally, she is a certified Child and Family Parenting Specialist.

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

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

Welcome to Georgia! We appreciate her previous service to SECA and look forward to her leadership during her two years as President.

Southern Early Childhood Association



SECA By-laws Amended at the Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting of the Southern Early Childhood Association was held on Saturday, March 31, 2007 at the annual conference in Jacksonville, Florida. Two changes to the SECA by-laws were adopted at that meeting.

1. **All SECA members are now on a standard membership year.** The membership begins on the date that the membership is posted by the SECA office and is valid for one year from that date. (For example, if the membership is posted in the SECA office on April 1, 2007, the membership will expire on April 1, 2008. Your SECA expiration date may vary slightly from your state expiration date due to delays in processing and receipt of information in the SECA office.)
2. **If a vacancy should occur in the office of President, the Immediate Past President or President-Elect will automatically assume the office of President.** Previously the Vice-President (an appointed position) would assume the office. This change ensures that a person elected by the membership will always fill the role as President of the organization.

Don't Miss SECA 2008!

The 2008 annual conference will be held in Northern Kentucky (across the river from Cincinnati, Ohio) on March 27-29, 2008. We'll begin posting information about the conference at the end of the summer.

If you're interested in presenting at SECA 2008, go to www.SouthernEarlyChildhood.org/conference for the Call for Proposals.

Start planning now! We'll see you in Northern Kentucky in 2008.

2006 Annual Report Available

The 2006 Annual Report of the Southern Early Childhood Association is available at www.SouthernEarlyChildhood.org. Go to the SECA homepage to find a PDF version of the report.

SECA and Assurant Health

SECA has entered into an agreement with Assurant Health to make individual health products available to SECA members. These health plans include individual health, travel health insurance and student insurance plans.

To get more information and access these products, go to our website at www.SouthernEarlyChildhood.org and you'll find ads that are only a click away from the Assurant Health websites. These products are available on-line and we know that they will be of value to you in meeting your needs for health insurance.

Nobody Can Afford to Go Without Health Insurance

When money is tight or you're seeking permanent employment with benefits, health insurance might seem like one expense that can wait. But unexpected illnesses and injuries can and do happen every day, and without dependable insurance coverage, the financial consequences of such events could leave you in debt for years to come. It's important to have reliable health insurance that will pay your medical expenses if the unexpected occurs before you can secure permanent coverage.

No matter one's age or health status, going without insurance puts not only future finances at risk, but also overall health:

- Nearly a quarter (23%) of the uninsured must change their way of life significantly in order to pay medical bills.
- 23% of the uninsured have been contacted by a collection agency about unpaid medical bills in just the last year.
- A lack of insurance ultimately compromises health because the uninsured are less likely to receive preventive care, more likely to be hospitalized for avoidable health problems, and more likely to be diagnosed in the late stages of disease.

(Source: The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, January 2006)

Temporary health insurance is a smart option for protecting one's health and finances during any period not covered by a permanent health plan. Perfect for recent college graduates, people between jobs, individuals waiting for a new employer's coverage to begin, and dependents no longer eligible for parents' plans, temporary health insurance provides reliable major medical coverage for periods of 30 days to one year (duration varies by state). The affordable security offered by temporary health

insurance prevents the financial devastation that can result from uninsured accidents and illnesses.

Temporary health insurance is an affordable and simple way to protect against the possibility of disastrous debt. The application and enrollment process for temporary health insurance policies is quick and simple, and coverage can be available as early as the next day. Applicants can choose to pay in a lump sum if they know the exact duration of needed coverage, or they can pay monthly if they are unsure how long they will need coverage. With the widespread availability of temporary coverage, there is no need to take chances with your future.

For more information, call 800-893-7974 or visit www.southernearlychildhood.org and click on "Assurant Health."

Article Provided by Assurant Health

The claims paid by one provider of temporary health insurance, Assurant Health, on behalf of its Short Term Medical customers illustrate how easily an uninsured person can fall into financial ruin.

- **Spinal cord injury due to fall from tree**
 - Male, age 45
 - Premium paid: \$265.40
 - Total claims for injury: \$623,529.99
- **Broken leg from fall off bike**
 - Female, age 27
 - Premium paid: \$62.70
 - Total claims for injury: \$11,048.03
- **Aneurysm**
 - Male, age 25
 - Premium paid: \$332.65
 - Total claims for illness: \$1,185,673
- **Pneumonia**
 - Male, age 39
 - Premium paid: \$218.70
 - Total claims for illness: \$14,339.43
- **Multiple injuries from motor vehicle accident**
 - Male, age 26
 - Premium paid: \$379.62
 - Total claims for injury: \$384,029.28

Claims shown are based on actual Assurant Health claims data. Individual premium paid and total claims paid may vary. Assurant Health is the brand name for products underwritten and issued by Time Insurance Company.

Annual SECA Awards Support Our Affiliates and Chapters Throughout the South

At the 2007 Annual Conference, a Marian B. Hamilton Award was presented to the Northern Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children. This award (\$250) is presented each year to three states in the SECA region to support state and local affiliate projects. The Virginia Association for Early Childhood Education (our state affiliate) selected a project of the Northern Virginia Association as their state's award recipient for 2007.

The Northern Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children's (NVAEYC) Scholarship Program provides financial support to child care professionals who are pursuing an academic degree or a Child Development Associate credential and to child care programs that are implementing training programs and professional development for staff.

NVAEYC was fortunate during 2006-2007 to be able to expand its annual scholarship program by partnering with the Fairfax County School Readiness Collaborative (SRC). The SRC is funded by one of three "Investing in Virginia's Children" grants awarded in the state. Recipients of this year's scholarships represented a diverse group of professionals—family child care providers, teaching staff at child care centers and preschools, an instructional assistant with the public schools and a center director.

The other recipients of the 2007 Marian B. Hamilton Awards were the West Virginia Association for Young Children to support their Ann B. Nutt Memorial Scholarship Fund and the Student Chapter of Coastal Bend College, the recipient nominated by the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children.

SECA is pleased to be able to support such significant projects at the local level and look forward to providing those awards in 2008 to projects in the states of Alabama, Arkansas and Florida.



South Carolina Early Childhood Association Raises Funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

During their annual conference in January 2007, the South Carolina Early Childhood Association (SCECA) dedicated the proceeds of their first Silent Auction to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

A check in the amount of \$1,255.50 was presented to representatives of St. Jude at the morning Saturday session of SECA 2007. It's wonderful to know that our states and members are caring and supportive of SECA's 2006-2007 Community Service Project. For more information about opportunities to support St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, check out the information on the homepage at www.SouthernEarlyChildhood.org.

Winners of the Alfred P. Sloan Awards for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility

The South was well represented in the list of Alfred P. Sloan Awards that are presented by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Families and Work Institute, the Institute for a Competitive Workforce of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Twiga Foundation. These awards recognize corporations throughout America for their support of families with workplace programs that help employees balance work and family. Of the 17 states and the District of Columbia that were recognized, 6 of them were in the South. The following communities were recognized:

- Chattanooga, TN
- Dallas, TX
- Durham, NC
- Richmond, VA
- Tampa, FL
- Washington, DC

To find out more about these awards and the employers in these communities, go to www.familiesandwork.org. We are fortunate to have such great employers in the South.

Early Childhood Teacher Preparation Programs in the US

The Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute has published a detailed picture of the nation's early childhood teacher preparation programs (an update of the 1999 report by the National Center for Early Development and Learning) and has 45 accompanying state reports. The reports provide basic information about programs, faculty and student characteristics. The reports are available at www.fpg.unc.edu.



Call for Proposals 2008

CALL FOR PROPOSALS 59th Annual Conference SOUTHERN EARLY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION March 27-29, 2008 Northern Kentucky (Covington, KY)

POSTMARK DEADLINE: August 1, 2007

The Southern Early Childhood Association serves the needs of professionals, paraprofessionals, parents and others in early childhood education and care. This includes professionals who work with children ages birth-8 years and SECA is seeking a balance of presentations, including **Infant/Toddler, Preschool, Primary and School-age**, for each conference. The planning committee for the conference seeks sessions on innovative practical experiences, programs and applied research in the following areas.

- Child Growth and Development
- Classroom Management and Discipline
- Curriculum Development & Implementation
- Assessment and Evaluation
- Leadership and Management
- Professional Growth and Teacher Preparation
- Community Involvement
- Public Policy
- Family Partnerships
- Diversity
- Applied Research
- Other (If you feel that your topic does not fit under one of the listed topics, you may use the "other" category, and the proposal review committee will determine the appropriateness of your topic for the SECA audience.)

You may propose workshop and interest group presentations that focus on the topics outlined above. **Proposed sessions may be 1 1/2 hours or 1 hour in length.** If your proposed session is accepted and is proposed for 1 1/2 hours, you may be asked to reduce the session to 1 hour in length in order to accommodate scheduling.

SECA will not accept proposals based on the same title or content for more than 2 years. Previously submitted and accepted proposals will receive review after all other proposals have been accepted or rejected.

Use of Audiovisual Equipment

SECA does not provide AV equipment for interest sessions. Proposals that are dependent upon AV equipment may be rejected unless the presenter states his/her intent to provide AV equipment. Presenters may rent AV equipment through the approved conference vendor or bring their own equipment on-site.

SECA does not have funds available to compensate interest session presenters. All presenters must register for the conference. The **Lead Presenter** (as identified in the proposal) is provided complimentary registration for the core conference. (Friday & Saturday)

Mail **3 copies of the proposal** with **1 copy of your vita** to:

2008 Conference
SECA
PO Box 55930
Little Rock, AR 72215-5930

Proposals must be postmarked by August 1, 2007. Notification of acceptance will be made by October 1, 2007.

Proposals Should Include:

1. **Name, address, telephone number, e-mail address and professional title of individual making proposal.** If there are multiple presenters, this information is required for each presenter.
2. **Vita for all presenters.** (This may be a brief vita of 1-2 pages.) SECA does not maintain archives of vitas from previous presenters, so your vita must accompany the proposal each year. **(There are no exceptions to this requirement. SECA must have presenter vitas in order to award CEU credit for the conference.)**
3. **Title of presentation** that clearly and concisely describes its content. SECA reserves the right to edit titles if the presentation is accepted.
4. **Workshop classification** from topics listed above.
5. **Presentation Language (English or Spanish or both)**
Spanish language presentations are encouraged.
6. **Description of presentation including:**
 - a. Goals/objectives for presentation
 - b. Synopsis of content (including a presentation outline)
 - c. Type of presentation techniques to be used
7. **Abstract** appropriate for use in the conference program *(This abstract should not exceed two sentences.)*
8. **Brief narrative** (150 words or less) outlining the presenter's qualifications to do this presentation
9. **List of presentations** during the last 3 years, including title of presentation, audience, site of presentation (conference, training event, etc.) and date.

SECA REPORTER

Missed the 2007 Conference?

Join us for a little stroll through a fun filled conference. Our photographer was Deni Schofield of South Carolina. Enjoy!



1. Don Monopoli of the Learning Station and Jeanne Greene, our 2007 Outstanding Member
2. Beth Parr and Judy Whitesell, SECA Board Members, enjoy one of our general sessions.
3. Dr. Stephen Graves and Jose Luis Orozoco boogie down!

4. Terry Green, SECA President, and Anne Mitchell, NAEYC President
5. John Peyton, Mayor of Jacksonville, welcomes SECA
6. Dr. Ann Levy, a SECA Fossil, shows off her exotic footwear.
7. Dr. Herman Knopf, a new SECA Board member, has some firsthand experience

- with early childhood.
8. Beverly Oglesby, former SECA President, shows she still has that SECA spirit!
9. With folks like Crystal Campbell, SC President, SECA makes everyone feel welcome.

New Web Site Available to Help with Government Benefits

www.GovBenefits.gov is a one-stop source for information on more than 1,000 benefit and financial assistance programs administered by Federal and state government agencies and is a partnership of 16 Federal Agencies. GovBenefits.gov is designed to be a valuable resource for persons to learn more about benefit programs, including how to apply and take advantage of all the federal financial assistance that is available to them. Program categories that can be searched include:

- Financial Help
- Housing
- Food/Nutrition
- Child Support Services
- Disability Assistance
- Disaster Relief
- Insurance
- Unemployment Assistance & Job Skills Training Programs
- Medicare/Medicaid
- Student Financial Aid and Loans

Try it out for yourself or help your families to access the information. It's always helpful to find the one source that can give you the information you need to get started and find the support that you need.

How to Develop New Leaders

Leadership Day at SECA 2007 was attended by almost 70 of your state affiliate leaders and the topic of the discussion for that day was:

How do we develop new members into future leaders and keep them involved?

As you can imagine, it was a lively time of networking and sharing, and we even had one group that reported their suggestions in the form of a rap song! Some ideas that emerged from the discussion.

- To **increase attendance at meetings**, you should consider streamlining the agenda, meeting at various locations throughout the state, separate Executive Board meetings from the general Board meetings and provide food, food, food!
- Conduct an effective **Board orientation** to make sure that new members understand their roles and responsibilities.
- Make sure that your **meeting is productive** and provide some social time for members to get to know each other.
- Develop a plan to **recruit college and high school students**. Obviously, they are the future membership and leadership of the Association.

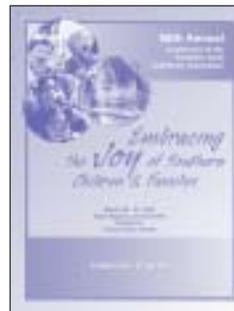
- **Motivate and recruit new Board members** by letting them start on a fun committee, adopting change that makes the Association better, giving them a mentor to help them through the process.

SECA has developed a few programs to assist you in this process.

- ✓ Our new **student matching scholarship program** for attendance at the SECA conference is a great way to bring students to professional meetings and to assist them in getting involved at the state and local level. This program will be available again for the 2008 conference. Check the SECA website for more information.
- ✓ We've developed **Board training materials** that will make it easy to ensure that your new Board members are ready to go and knowledgeable about leading a professional association.
- ✓ We are providing **stipends** (maximum of \$1000) to assist your state affiliate in sending your leaders to Leadership Day at the SECA conference.

Take advantage of these SECA programs and help to make your state and local affiliates/chapters the place to grow our new leaders.

Weren't Able to Attend SECA 2007?



We had some wonderful presentations by keynoters at SECA 2007, and we didn't want you to miss them. We have presentations by some of the keynoters posted at www.SouthernEarlyChildhood.org. Go to our conference page and you'll find the presentations of:

- Dr. Sue Bredekamp
- Anne Mitchell
- Dr. Kathy Thornburg
- Judy Collins
- National Institute for Early Education Research

You'll find a wealth of information in these presentations. All are posted as downloadable PDF files. Keep checking—we may have others to post in the future.

New Preschool Resources

The National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP) has a new report entitled, *Effective Preschool Curricula and Teaching Strategies: Pathways to Early School Success*. Included is information from research and practice about curricular and teacher support strategies that are critical to reducing the achievement gap for young, low-income children. The full text and summary of the report are

available at http://www.nccp.org/pub_pes06b.html. The National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) has produced “*Is More Better?*” *The Effects of Full-Day vs Half-Day Preschool on Early School Achievement*. Results from a randomized trial that compared children in half-day and full-day programs show that children attending full-day programs did better on mathematics and literacy tests and that the achievement gains continued until at least the end of first grade. The paper is available online at <http://nieer.org/resources/research/IsMoreBetter.pdf>.

Education Week Develops a “Chances-for-Success Index”

The “Chances-for-Success Index” was developed to assist in predicting an individual’s opportunity to achieve a successful life in their state. The index combines information from 13 individual indicators which include family income, parent education, preschool enrollment and others. Here’s how the Southern states fared:

Top Ten Highest Ranked States (We had one out of 12.)
1. Virginia

Top Ten Lowest Ranked States (We had 8 out of 12.)
49. Louisiana 43. West Virginia
48. Texas 41. South Carolina
45. Mississippi 41. Kentucky
45. Alabama
40. Oklahoma

We’ve still got a long way to go!
Source: Education Week, January 4, 2007

What’s Happening in the SECA States

Arkansas

The state of Arkansas just concluded its biennial legislative session and early childhood education was a winner. The state allocated an additional \$40 million per year to pre-K, bringing the total funding allocated to support pre-K to over \$100 million dollars. Arkansas is moving toward a voluntary, universal pre-K program and has a new Governor, Mike Beebe, who is dedicated to supporting that effort.

Florida

Governor Crist has taken a leadership role in supporting several children’s issues during the Florida legislative session. The Governor spoke at a press event in favor of degreed teachers in Florida’s pre-K classrooms. An opinion editorial, signed by six of Florida’s former governors and Rhea Chiles, the wife of the late Lawton Chiles, helped to bolster the press event and keep the focus on children’s issues. (Source: *Children’s Campaign, Inc., Legislative Update*, April 16, 2007)

Louisiana

In her executive budget and agenda for the current legislative session, Governor Kathleen Blanco asked for \$611 million for education initiatives to fund teacher pay raises, expand the pre-K system and fund a high school redesign plan. This proposal is being considered in the current legislative session.
(Source: www.theadvertiser.com, April 10, 2007)

South Carolina

Fifteen months ago, a circuit judge ruled that South Carolina failed to provide its youngest residents with sufficient early childhood education programs. This decision came as a part of a school equity lawsuit, filed by eight rural school districts against the state. In response, the South Carolina General Assembly allocated \$23.5 million to a pre-K pilot program in many low-income districts. Critics say that the pilot program doesn’t begin to address the judge’s ruling and discussions are on-going about going back to court to ensure that the program goes statewide. (Source: *The Post and Courier, Charleston.net*, April 10, 2007)

Texas

Texas Appleseed, a public interest law center, has published a report analyzing the use of alternative schools and the effectiveness of zero-tolerance policies in Texas school districts. The report found that more than 100,000 students per year are sent to Disciplinary Alternative Education Programs. Of those students, nearly 600 were pre-kindergarten/kindergarten students and more than 3,000 were first-graders. Texas lawmakers are considering changes to the state discipline system.
(Source: www.texasappleseed.net)

Virginia

The Virginia General Assembly finished its work on April 4, 2007. During that legislative session, lawmakers approved a bill that would require children 8-years-old and younger to be in booster seats while riding in a vehicle, boosted teacher pay by 3 percent, expanded publicly funded preschool (although not as much as Governor Kaine had proposed) and added money to enhance the state’s reading program for struggling readers. (Source: www.washingtonpost.com, April 12, 2007)

West Virginia

West Virginia was recently recognized as one of only six states in the country to make pre-kindergarten education available by law to all children. The NIEER report ranked West Virginia sixth in the nation in terms of accessibility. Two benchmarks, teacher degree requirements and assistant teacher degree requirements, are still to be achieved. (Source: NIEER)

SOUTHERN EARLY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

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Save the Date!



March 27-29, 2008
Northern Kentucky

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