

What's Happening at SECA

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New Public Policy Resources from SECA

April 2010 Update—Special Edition of *Public Policy Notes: State of the State Addresses*

State of Preschool 2009 : SECA Summary of the NIEER Report

May 2010 Update: *Early Childhood Advisory Councils*

Coming soon

Health Care Reform: The Final Chapter—What It Means to You and Your Business

Meet the Candidates!

2010 is an election year for SECA and we've got two wonderful candidates who are vying for the office of President-Elect.

In submitting their name for consideration by the SECA Nominating Committee, each candidate was required to answer in writing these questions:

1. What do you see as the major challenges facing SECA during the next 4 years?
2. What issue/issues would you like to address if you are elected President?
3. What are SECA's strengths?
4. What are SECA's weaknesses?
5. How will your leadership help SECA to address the weaknesses and how will you build on the current strengths of the organization?



Nancy Cheshire of West Virginia



Beverly Peden of Mississippi

answers to these questions in a variety of SECA publications and you'll find a large article with some of their responses in the winter 2010 *Dimensions of Early Childhood*.

Check out the spring 2010 *SECA Reporter* on the SECA website. We've included information about their vision for SECA in that issue.

The spring/summer edition of *Dimensions of Early Childhood* will include a full page article with information on the candidates' background, including education and work experience. Look for this issue around the end of June and you'll find the article on the inside front cover of the journal.

It's almost time to vote!

We've been including their

Ballots Will Be Mailed in August 2010

SECA is preparing the ballot for SECA President-Elect and those ballots will be mailed to the membership in August 2010.

In the last election, we tried sending the ballot out with return postage paid, and it

increased the return of ballots enormously. **We'll make it a postage-paid return again this year.**

When you receive your ballot, make sure that you do the following:

- 1) **Select the candidate of your choice**
- 2) **Be sure to include your state and/or state affiliate.**

Ballots are counted by state, and if the ballot is not marked with your state affiliate, it will be counted as a non-affiliate vote.

How the SECA Election Works

Over many years, the SECA Board of Directors worked tirelessly to develop an election system that would ensure equity among the states represented on the Board of Directors and assure a fair and equitable election. Many of SECA's members worried that if a majority popular vote were utilized, SECA states with small member groups would have very little success in putting forward a candidate who could be elected.

In order to remedy that concern, the SECA Board moved to an approach

that recognized the majority vote in a state but also recognized the equality of each state in the Association.

Each state's votes will be counted and the candidate who receives the largest popular vote will be deemed the "winner" in that state. Your representative on the SECA Board of Directors will then cast your state's vote for that candidate. Each state will cast one vote and the candidate winning the most votes from the states will be elected.

The two members-at-large will represent the non-affiliated voters and cast one vote for the candidate selected by those voters.

The SECA President will cast a vote in the event of a tie.

During the last two elections, it has proven to be a very close race with this system, and it has ensured that all states had equal representation in electing the next leader of the Southern Early Childhood Association.

President Humphries Initiates Networking Calls with State Presidents

In discussions generated through focus groups and within meetings at the annual conference in Little Rock, it became apparent that enhanced communication among the state presidents and the SECA leadership would benefit everyone.

To assist in strengthening the communication channels with the state presidents, President Janie Humphries has initiated a series of conference calls (one about every 2-3 months) to discuss issues of interest to the states and to provide feedback

to the SECA office about issues and program initiatives.

The first call was held on March 30, 2010 and these items were discussed:

- Affiliate state conferences (schedule, keynoters, special events, etc.)
- Displaying the SECA logo and link to the SECA website on state affiliate websites
- Defining what states consider to be "Southern issues".

The second call was held on May 25,

2010 and these agenda items included:

- A discussion of the current *Leadership Letter* and how we might strengthen and revise it to be more useful to state affiliates.
- SECA Day at state conferences.

The calls are limited to one hour and scheduled as needed. State presidents are invited to submit agenda items .

Ad-Hoc Committee Formed to Develop Proposal for Disaster Relief

During the 2010 Presidents' Breakfast (held each year at annual conference), we asked the Affiliate State Presidents to assist us in developing a policy concerning a SECA response to natural disasters throughout our region.

During the last several years, the SECA region has experienced hurricanes, ice

storms and tornadoes that have had significant impact on many early childhood programs in those states.

President Humphries requested that the following state presidents assist in this effort:

- **Kris Curtis** of Texas (Chair)
- **Gege Kreisler** of Florida

- **Cindy Rushing** of Louisiana
- **Terry Green** of Kentucky
- **Linda Novak** of West Virginia
- **Linda Whaley** of Oklahoma

The committee has been meeting by conference call and will have a proposal for the summer SECA Board meeting.

The Next 20 Years: Updating the SECA History

As a sequel to the original SECA history, *The First Forty Years: A History of the Southern Association on Children Under Six 1949-1989*, SECA has undertaken the development of the history of the next twenty years.

The Next Twenty Years: Becoming the Southern Early Childhood Association 1990-2010 will be published on the SECA website in June 2010. It's been a wonderful journey of discovery in going back

through all the challenges and opportunities that have faced the Association in the last twenty years.

We have been very fortunate to have **Dr. Milly Cowles** serve as editor, reviewer and "gatherer of information" for the new history, and you'll find her thoughts and recollections included in the history. You'll also find a year-by-year snapshot of the SECA leadership, the main events of that year, information on the annual conference and that year's President's thoughts and recollections.

In addition to the actual history, we'll also publish *SECA At-a-Glance* that will include easy to read lists and a history timeline. And, as a "special feature", we've used the marvel of modern technology to scan old photos of SACUS/SECA into a **pictorial history** of the organization. **Remember white gloves and hats?!**

You'll find the *First Forty Years* posted on the SECA website. Click on the Leadership button and then on Additional Leadership Resources.

SECA Board of Directors to Meet July 11-12, 2010

The SECA Board of Directors will hold its summer Board meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas on July 11-12, 2010.

This Board meeting is designed as a strategic planning meeting that will assist the organization in moving into 2011 and set priorities for the remainder of 2010.

During the meeting, the Commission on Public Policy will conduct a strategic planning session that focuses on "**What are Southern issues?**" SECA has for many years stated that it focused on is-

suues that were specifically Southern, but it's time to state those issues more concisely and to ensure that the organization is focusing its time and resources appropriately.

The SECA Board of Directors is composed of representatives from each of the 13 states affiliates, the President, the Immediate Past-President, and two members-at-large. If you'd like to find out more about the current Board of Directors, go to the SECA website and click on the Leadership button. You'll find their photos, contact e-

mail and a brief bio about each one.

If you have an agenda item that you would like to submit for consideration, please e-mail that information to Dr. Humphries, President, at

Humphries@latech.edu.

Information must be received by June 15, 2010 in order to be considered.

Interview with Dr. Joshua Sparrow Now Available on SECA Radio

We've just recently posted an interview on SECA Radio with Dr. Joshua Sparrow of the Brazelton Touchpoints Center at Children's Hospital,



Dr. Joshua Sparrow

Boston. Dr. Sparrow is a co-author of six books with Dr. T. Berry Brazelton and writes a New York Times syndicated weekly column, Families Today.

The radio interview includes information on the Touchpoints model that is designed to promote healthy development in infants and toddlers. Dr. Sparrow gives insights about how early child-

hood educators can contribute to children's development and parent knowledge.

You'll find **SECA Radio** on the home page at www.southernearlychildhood.org. Just click on the icon and you'll find the interview, plus the archived interviews from the last year. You'll also find some supplementary materials in the "members only" section..

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Southern Early Childhood Association



2010 SECA Board of Directors

Janie Humphries (LA), President

Georgia Lamirand (OK), Past-President

Dee Ard, AL State Representative

Dr. Joanna Grymes, AR State Representative & Prof Dev Chair

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 St Rep, Vice-President & Leadership Chair

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

Dr. Herman Knopf, (SC), Member-at-Large & Public Policy Chair

Carol Montealegre (FL), Member-at-Large

Go to the SECA website for e-mail addresses for the Board.

Moving and Playing: Keeping Southern Children Healthy & Happy

SECA 2011 in Savannah, Georgia is quickly approaching and we've got a wonderful line-up of keynoters and featured speakers. We're working fast and furiously to complete the planning for the conference and we're focusing on how early childhood educators can promote healthy development. **We're also drawing on our Southern roots with speakers from North Carolina, Florida, Arkansas and Virginia.**

On Thursday afternoon, we'll again feature the nationally recognized trainers sponsored by our vendor companies. This year, we'll ask our vendors to focus on concepts and products that ensure children stay healthy and keep moving!



On Friday, **Dr. David Tayloe**, Immediate Past President of the Academy of Pediatrics will join us to share what pediatricians are doing to combat the childhood obesity problem. Dr. Tayloe is himself a Southerner, hailing from Goldsboro, North Carolina.

On Friday afternoon, we'll have a change of pace with **Don Monopoli** of the Learning Station. Don will "rock" the room with music and movement activities that will soon find their way into your classrooms! Don's from Florida.



Don
Monopoli

On Saturday morning, we'll have **Rae**



Rae Pica

Pica, a nationally recognized early childhood consultant who started *Moving and Learning*. She's an expert on movement and physical activity and she's now from Alexandria, Virginia.

For our Public Policy Luncheon, we'll welcome **Dr. Joe Thompson**, Director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for the Prevention of Childhood Obesity, in Arkansas.



Dr. Thompson