

AECA Update

SPRING 2011

Hello everyone!

Many of you are receiving the newsletter via e-mail for the first time. It is very exciting for us to not only embrace the digital age, but to also join the ranks of many other professional organizations in “going green.” Thank you for your participation in our digital efforts. We hope it will be not only convenient (you’re likely already checking your e-mail throughout the day), but also helpful for you stay informed with the happenings of AECA.

An e-mail was sent out to notify everyone of some changes in our administrative task. The previous Association Manager, Lindsey Sexton, resigned from her position with AECA recently. The AECA board decided to “job share” a position with SECA (our parent organization). Maurena Farr is now working part-time for AECA as the Association Manager. She has been an excellent addition to our AECA family. We are so happy to have her! More information can be found on page 5 of this newsletter.

Right now, the board and conference committee is very busy planning for the 50th Anniversary Conference! Please mark your calendars now to attend the conference. There will be some great speakers, talented professionals, and even a PARTY! We’re 50, and we are going to celebrate!

The 50th Annual AECA Conference is October, 13-15th. The Pre-Con flyer will be published soon for you to have a sneak peak at all the good things that are going to happen during our 50th celebration.

Sincerely,

Robin Jones

AECA President

**2011
Executive Board**

President

Robin Jones - Fayetteville

President-Elect

Deniece Honeycutt
Fayetteville

Immediate Past President

Barbara Gilkey
Little Rock

Secretary

Jamie Morrison
Greenbrier

Treasurer

Dawn Jeffrey - Southside

Historian

Jessica Martin -Little Rock

1ST VP Publications

Jennie Gates - Beebe

2nd VP Membership

Shacuna Jones
Little Rock

Members-at-Large

District #1
Amy Pinkston - Batesville

District #2
Evelyn Bass
North Little Rock

District #3
Michelle Wynn
Springdale

District #4
Marilyn Bailey - Pine Bluff

SECA Representative

Joanna Grymes

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Please make plans to join us for
the **50th Annual AECA
Conference!!**

**October 13-15, 2011
Hot Springs Convention Center**

This is a *HUGE* milestone for AECA
and we want you to be there!
Come celebrate all the work AECA's
members have done for the children of
Arkansas these last 50 years!



Exciting changes are taking place this year in conjunction with AECA's 50th birthday! As Robin mentioned we are "going green" and this is our first digital addition of the newsletter! There is more....we are currently working to give our website a **MAKEOVER!** We are excited about this and hope you are too! I think this will provide another avenue to receive up-to-date information! Be looking for more updates soon!

**AECA Mission Statement : Enhancing the lives of children, families
and early childhood professionals in the state of Arkansas.**

**Do you want to be more involved with AECA?
Do you have ideas you would like to share and help put
into action? If so, we need you!!**

A few good people are needed to serve on the Arkansas Early Childhood Association Board in positions that will become open in 2012. The positions of President-Elect, First Vice-President for Publications, Treasurer, Member-at-Large Districts 2 & 3 will need to be filled and nominations are being solicited from the membership.

Last year we had an opportunity for the membership to “Meet the Candidates” at a forum during our annual conference. Our goal was to make sure you were fully informed so you knew who you were voting for when making your decisions. It was well received by members and we had a much higher voting turnout than in years past! We will be doing the same format this year. You will have a chance to “Meet the Candidates” at the AECA conference. Then in our fall issue (November), we will send out a ballot with a small bio for each candidate in case you weren’t able to attend the conference or the candidate session.

If you are interested in serving in one of the capacities above or know anyone that you believe would make an excellent leader, please contact Barbara Gilkey by sending an e-mail to gilkeybj@archildren.org. Thanks for your support!

~Our AECA Board wants to extend a thank-you to Barbara Gilkey for serving as Past-President again this year and helping with the nominations!! ~

ATTENTION LOCAL AFFILIATES

I know many of you will start planning dates for 2011-2012 meetings soon! Please remember to send us a copy of your schedule and we will include it in our next issue!!



2011 AECA Service Project

We are so excited about our AECA 2011 Service Project! Each year we try to find a project that will help children and families in our state. This year we are donating to the non-profit **Bags Not Rags.**

They collect *gently used* luggage and conference bags, etc. so that foster children have a real bag to carry their belongings in. Please bring your gently used bags to the conference or contact your local affiliate and drop them off.

For more information go to:
www.bagsnotrags.com



We need your help!!



Congratulations! AECA has been a part of Arkansas' Early Childhood community for 50 years. A celebration will be held at the annual conference in October 2011. We hope you can all join us. In preparation for the celebration, we are gathering pictures and special items from the past 50 years. If you have any pictures, booklets, conference programs, or other memorabilia, we would love to use them. You can send them to Jessica Martin (Historian) at 1819 Calgary Trail, Little Rock, AR 72211 or e-mail them to 123jess@sbcglobal.net. Please include the names of the people in the photographs and where/when it was taken. If you would like them returned to you, please let me know. Thanks for your help – and hope to see you in October!

****This is the email that was sent out notifying members of the change. A copy has been included in this newsletter to make sure everyone received it.****

I have the privilege to inform you of some important changes to the Arkansas Early Childhood Association. Recently, Lindsey Sexton resigned as AECA Association Manager. We were so sad to see her go and wish her the best in her future endeavors. At the same time of her resignation the Southern Early Childhood Association was looking to expand the employment for an employee, Maurena Farr. After much discussion, the idea of "job sharing" an employee seemed like a win-win for both organizations.

The AECA board voted to contract the services of the Association Manager's position to SECA, specifically to Maurena Farr within the SECA office. Maurena is a real gem; it will be a great privilege to have her work with us. Benefits of this arrangement are endless, but there will be a few changes:

- ***First, the new AECA phone number is: 501-221-2635.*** The phone will be answered from 9:00am-4:30pm, and the line is dedicated solely to AECA. Maurena will be the one who typically answers the AECA phone number.
- The address will remain the same. ***We will continue to receive mail at P.O. Box 2898 Little Rock, AR 72203.*** Maurena will be housed at the SECA office during regular business hours.
- The AECA e-mail address will remain the same, too. Members will be able to reach Maurena at: ***aeca1@aol.com***

Again, I'm very excited to be able to announce the change in our membership services. The AECA board hopes that the new contract of services will bring AECA further to serve you now and into the future with your membership needs.

Robin Jones



P.O. Box 2898
Little Rock, AR 72203

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 02485
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

Return Service Requested

Dear Members,

So many exciting changes taking place!!

I just wanted to say a big thank you to Lindsey for her past service as association manager and a thank you to Maurena for jumping in with two feet! The association manager is a HUGE help to me in this position and they do a lot of "behind the scenes" work to help keep our database with emails and addresses up-to-date.

We are accepting member submissions for the next newsletter! To celebrate our 50th anniversary, please feel free to send in short snip-its of memories you have with AECA or what AECA means to you. I think it would be neat to include some of those comments in the next newsletter! Please submit all entries by September 1, 2011! You can submit as much or as little as you like. Please mail to Jennie Gates P.O. Box 1000 Beebe, AR 72012 or send by email to jkgates@asub.edu! We appreciate you!

Jennie Gates

First Vice-President - Publications

