

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SECA

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR AFFILIATE
LEADERSHIP



SECA Updates

- **Preliminary SECA 2009** conference information is posted on the SECA website conference page. **Don't forget that our annual conference is earlier this year**, so start your planning now. We'll be in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina on January 29-31, 2009.
- **Leadership Day at SECA** is scheduled for Wednesday, January 28, 2009. The meeting will begin at 3:00 pm and will go through dinner that evening. The meeting is designed for all state affiliate leaders who will be attending SECA 2009. We'll be sending more information soon.
- The **Student Matching Grant Application** is now posted on the conference page of the SECA website. We'll look forward to welcoming our students to Myrtle Beach in 2009. Don't miss this opportunity!
- **On-line registration** for the SECA conference is now available at www.southernearlychildhood.org. The **conference registration brochure** is available on the website. **Printed brochures** are being mailed this week.

WELCOME TO THE NEW SECA PRESIDENT-ELECT!

We're pleased to announce the results of the 2008 election for SECA President.

Janie Humphries of Louisiana has been elected the next President of SECA. Janie will assume her position as President-Elect at the spring Board meeting that will be held in conjunction with the 60th annual conference in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Janie is currently a professor of Family and Child Studies, School of Human Ecology, and coordinator of Early Childhood/Child Development Programs at Louisiana Tech University. She received an Ed.D. degree from Texas A & M-Commerce in 1986.

She served as the director of the Model Learning Center, College of Education at Texas A & M -Commerce and was a kindergarten teacher in the Greenville Texas School District and the Noble Oklahoma Public Schools.

She has served as President of the Louisiana Early Childhood Association, Louisiana's representative on the Board of Directors of SECA and as the chairperson of SECA's Editorial Committee.

The job of SECA President is one that entails an enormous commitment of time and resources. The SECA President travels in the fall to state affiliate conferences and is responsible for ensuring that both the organizational and fiduciary responsibilities of the SECA Board of Directors are met. The President is the "public face" of SECA and represents the Association to the members.

Additionally, the SECA President is responsible for leading the Board in strategic planning, coordinating with the SECA office and staff to ensure that organizational goals are met, and acts as a liaison to state affiliate Presidents and other organizations.

We welcome Janie to this leadership role with the Association and look



Janie Humphries
SECA President-Elect

forward to working with her over the next four years to promote the organization with our membership and the field.

Also, we'd like to thank all our members who took the time to cast their vote. When you become a member of SECA, it's your privilege and responsibility to ensure that the leadership of the organization stays strong.

Congratulations Janie!

Thanks to Judy Whitesell

If only an election could have two winners! It's always difficult to find the ways to say "thank you" to candidates for their commitment to the organization. We have been so fortunate this year to have two extremely talented and committed persons who put "their name in the hat", and we want to take this opportunity to thank Judy for her service and commitment to SECA.

Thanks, Judy!



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

November 4, 2008 is Election Day and, for the first time in recent history, we have two very different candidates for President of the United States.

They differ in generation, perspective and solutions to the problems that the United



Don't forget to vote!

States faces over the next four years.

We hope that you've taken the opportunity to learn about the candidates and to make an informed choice. You can find their election platforms on their websites.

For Senator McCain, go to www.JohnMcCain.com

For Senator Obama, go to www.BarackObama.com

For information on the candidates and their position on children's issues, visit

www.everychildmatters.org.

REMEMBER: If you're attending NAEYC in Dallas this year, you may be in Dallas on election day. Make sure you either submit an absentee ballot or take advantage of an early voting opportunity if your state offers it.

As Americans, we have a clear choice to make, and SECA encourages you to exercise your right as an American citizen to elect the new leader of our country. It's your chance to make your voice heard!

Have you received your copies of *The SECA Leadership Letter and Public Policy Notes? If not, let us know and we'll get you on the list.*

THE 2008 SECA ELECTION

We thought it might be helpful to remind you how the SECA Presidential Election is counted and certified.

According to the SECA By-laws, each state casts a vote for the candidate elected by popular vote. In other words, if your state casts more votes for candidate A, your state vote will be cast for candidate

A. Your representative on the SECA Board of Directors is required to sign a statement certifying that your state's vote is cast for the candidate elected by your membership. (This is like the electoral college system that we use nationally.) The two Members-at-Large on the SECA Board cast a vote for

the candidate elected by our non-affiliate members. This method ensures that all states have equal representation in electing the next SECA President.

The SECA office will send out these statements for signature, and the vote will be officially certified at the fall meeting of the Board on November 14, 2008.

FALL MEETING OF THE SECA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The SECA Board of Directors will meet by conference call on November 14, 2008 at 4:00 pm CST. The following agenda items will be discussed:

- The 2009 SECA Budget.
- The election of new members of the SECA Editorial Committee.
- The selection of the 2009 Outstanding Member.
- The selection of the 2009 Friend of Children.

All other business will be deferred until the spring Board meeting that will take place in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina on January 26-28, 2009. As previously announced, the Board has determined that all necessary business can be conducted by conference call prior to the January meeting. This decision was made to ensure that SECA financial resources are wisely spent and to avoid the costs of two meetings within 60 days of each other.

Agenda items for consideration by the SECA Board may be sent to gbean@southernearlychildhood.org. Information should reach the SECA office by December 1, 2008.

OBESITY BOOK NOW AVAILABLE

We're unloading the boxes today and the storeroom is quickly filling up!

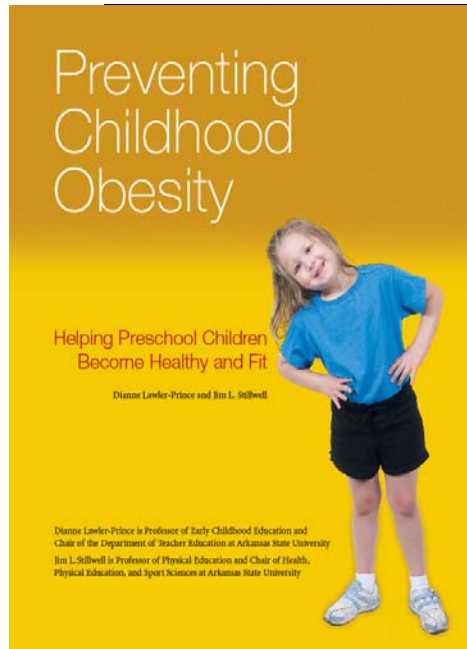
Our newest publication, Preventing Childhood Obesity, is finally a reality, and we think you're going to be so pleased with the "hands on" book that we've developed.

The book will be available through the SECA office and on-line through the SECA website at www.southernearlychildhood.org. (We hope to have our on-line store up and going by the middle of November.)

Additionally, we've

scheduled a session at SECA 2009 with the authors, Dr. Dianne Lawler-Prince and Dr. Jim Stillwell. Participants at that session will receive a copy of the book as well as other materials to help them work with the children in their classrooms, homes and programs.

The book is available for \$15.95 for members and \$17.95 for non-members. .



WHAT'S NEW IN CHILDREN'S BOOKS



We have another new book that will be available in the next few weeks.

What's New in Children's Books? 2008 Edition will feature our first group of reviews written by our Children's Literature Reviewers. We began this project over a year ago and recruited individuals who would review new children's literature

and provide a review that included lots of useful information for readers. The 2008 Edition includes books with 2006 and 2007 copyrights. We will publish a new edition each year, and the 2009 edition will include books that are new in 2007 and 2008. The book will be available for less than \$10 each year.

Notification of the status of proposals for the SECA 2009 conference has been sent.

STUDENT MATCHING GRANT APPLICATIONS ARE COMING IN

For our 2009 conference, SECA will continue the matching grant program that we've had in place for the last 2 years. These grants are designed to assist student groups in attending the SECA conference.

The matching grants are available to a maximum of \$1000 per group. The student group is required to raise funds

sufficient to match any funds requested from SECA.

We have **three letters of intent in the office** at this time and hope that we'll receive more in the next month.

The grant information is



Bring your students to SECA 2009!

posted on the conference page of the SECA website. We hope you'll consider bringing your students to SECA 2009. We're planning a special event "Just for Students" so we know they will have a great professional experience.

Southern Early Childhood Association

1123 South University
Suite 255
Little Rock, AR 72204

PO Box 55930

Phone: 800-305-SECA
Fax: 501-227-5297
Info@southernearlychildhood.org



A Voice for Southern Children

Southern Early Childhood Association



www.SouthernEarlyChildhood.org

Go to our website for:

- Links to your state website
- Links to vendors and other organizations
- Public policy information
- Indexes for *Dimensions of Early Childhood*
- *SECA 2009 conference information*
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WATCH YOUR MAILBOX!

In the next few weeks, you're going to receive several mailings from SECA. They are all going out around the same time, and we want you to know what 's coming.

Dimensions of Early Childhood

The fall 2008 issue is almost complete and will be mailed in November.

SECA Reporter

We held this fall issue a little later than usual so that we could include information about the Presidential Election for our members. This edition will also include the following:

- Our new **resource catalog** that contains all our SECA publications.
- An announcement about **SECA's new community ser-**

vice project. We've joined with *Reach Out and Read* to promote early literacy community service projects for our members.

It will be mailed in November.

2009 Conference Brochure

The 2009 conference registration brochure is being mailed this week. You can find a downloadable version of the registration brochure on our website at www.southernearlychildhood.org. Click on "conference". You will also find that you can do on-line registration and avoid the hassles of mailing the registration form.

We hope that you'll take the time to review the materials. It's our way of communicating with you and providing your

SECA "member benefits". You'll find both personal and professional information in these regular publications.

Also, we wanted to let you know that, with our new website, we'll begin posting back issues of the *Reporter*.

We'll also have a searchable archive of *Dimensions of Early Childhood*, and you will be able to purchase either single articles or a PDF of the entire journal in our on-line store. These will be priced to make them widely available, and we think students will be thrilled to be able to access the articles this easily.

As always, if you don't receive your publications, give us a call at 1-800-305-7322. Please share this with your members.