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President's Perspective

By Janice Jones



As I write this article, I am following discussions throughout our state about Senate Bill 726 that will establish a Quality Rating System in Missouri. As early childhood professionals we need

to be aware of those initiatives that affect us and the children and families we serve. Missouri AEYC is supporting the establishment of a Quality Rating Scale.

Rivers Bend AEYC is asking our members to become knowledgeable about SB 726. You can get started on page 3 of this newsletter. You can also go to the Missouri Senate website and find more about the bill. If you have any questions about SB 726, you can contact our Public Policy Chair Amy Sedlis through the Rivers Bend AEYC website at www.RBAEYC.org.

We are all advocates for children and families. As we go about each day, we express our beliefs about what makes quality programming to our families, friends or government officials locally, or at the state or national level. Being an advocate simply means you are aware of the issues, build relationships with others and communicate your ideas on an issue.

There are several ways you can express your support for or concerns about proposed legislation that will impact early childhood programs.

1. Write a letter to you senator or representative.
2. Make a phone call to your senator or representative.
3. Speak to people in your community.

When calling your legislators about an issue, you need to:

- Identify yourself.
- Identify the bill by name and number.
- State your position.
- Ask the person you are speaking to what their position is on the matter.
- Be brief and to the point.
- Follow up with a short note.

When writing, the same things are important. Remember again to be brief, identify the bill by name and number, and give personal examples of how this cause has affected you or someone you know. If you have research to support your position, refer to it. Ask for a written reply and thank the official.

Set up an appointment with local state and federal officials when they are in your area. Prepare what you want to say so it is clear and concise. You may want to have a short written statement with your opinions or concerns. Remember to respect their time and prepare for a brief visit.

Invite your legislators to visit your workplace. Let them see firsthand what you do and help them to understand why the early years are so important.

Don't wait for someone else to speak up. If we all wait for someone else to speak up, then who will advocate for our children and families? Don't put it off, start today by studying the issues and making your voice heard.

Janice Jones
President, Rivers Bend AEYC
mjgjones@netscape.net

Rivers Bend AEYC
c/o Cindy Imhauser
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Kansas City, MO 64139

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Disclaimer

RBAEYC and the newsletter committee assume no responsibility for any statement of fact or opinion appearing in articles printed in this publication.

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Editing: Margo Heger & Pam Batchelor

Publishing: Cindy Imhauser

Spring Curriculum Conference

By Nancy Dees & Kathy Drews, Conference Co-chairs

The 2008 RBAEYC Spring Curriculum Conference was a tremendous success for many reasons:

- The weather cooperated beautifully.
- Attendance was high.
- We had a nice number of vendors.
- There were many baskets donated for the Rybicki Scholarship Raffle.
- Vendors provided some wonderful door prizes.
- The feedback from evaluations was overwhelmingly positive.

We did have a number of last minute presenter cancellations due to health and family emergencies, but were able to provide some excellent back-up presenters.

The biggest change for this year's conference was that it offered more sessions than ever, with almost 50 unique sessions presented by professionals willing to share their time, talents and expertise with fellow colleagues. With the increased number of sessions, we were able to expand from three to four session choices this year, and offer a total of five clock hours.

Thanks to the participants, we had the largest evaluation response ever. Almost 60 percent of attendees completed their evaluations. This is the tool we will use to plan for the next conference.

Last year many respondents requested workshops on outdoor activities, so this year we had three sessions on that topic. We do read your ideas and work hard to meet your professional development needs.

We are already working on plans for next year and hope to expand our venue and offer a Friday pre-conference session

for administrators. So watch for more info on that throughout the coming year.

As always, we are already looking for presenters for the 2009 conference. If you or someone you know would be interested in presenting, you can find the Call for Proposals in the conference brochure or check the website at www.RBAEYC.org.

The other new feature we offered this year is a link through our website to the vendors who chose to purchase that option. If you saw something at a vendor's table that you would like to purchase, or other materials from their company that you would like to explore, please go to the conference link on the www.RBAEYC.org website to link to their business website.

And finally:

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
for the April 18, 2009 conference!**

*Rivers Bend Association for the
Education of Young Children*

Spring Curriculum Conference
Children's Opportunities, Our Responsibilities

**SATURDAY,
APRIL 18, 2009**

**ST. CHARLES COMMUNITY COLLEGE
4601 MID RIVERS MALL DR.
ST. CHARLES, MO 63376**

Public Policy Update

By Amy Sedlis, Public Policy Chair

AEYC-MO position statements

As you might be aware, Rivers Bend AEYC has adopted the same public policy platform as AEYC-MO and also supports each of the state association's three position statements for 2008. You can find AEYC-MO's public policy platform along with position statements about the Quality Rating System, child care subsidies and voluntary universal pre-kindergarten at http://aeyc-mo.org/public_policy.

The state Senate and House of Representatives have labeled the Quality Rating System legislation as Senate Bill 726 and House Bill 1524. Find the latest information about what's happening with those bills at www.senate.mo.gov by searching for SB726 and HB1524.

At the time of publication, this is what has happened with the QRS legislation:

Senate Passes Quality Rating System

The state Senate passed legislation to establish a voluntary, statewide quality rating system for child care programs by a 19-14 vote.

SB726 was then sent to the House of Representatives for consideration and was referred to the Special Committee on Family Services with a hearing on May 7 at 8 a.m. For more up-to-date information, search for SB726 at www.senate.mo.gov.

The bill, sponsored by Majority Leader Charlie Shields, R-St. Joseph, would give parents a way to more easily identify and select high quality early childhood education programs.

SB726 also would create a Quality Im-

provement Grant Fund that would help providers pay for quality improvements so that programs would not have to pass on costs of increasing quality to parents. The Quality Improvement Fund could provide grants for technical assistance, capital improvements, educational materials, staff scholarships, and wage assistance. The final version of SB726 included a \$5 million pilot pre-k program targeting 3- and 4-year-olds in unaccredited school districts as well as a provision that allows programs already accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children to automatically receive a 5-star rating under QRS.

During debate on the bill, Sen. Jolie Justus, D-Kansas City, offered an amendment to increase the affordability of child care for low-income families by expanding eligibility for child care assistance. The amendment failed.

SB726 would be a positive step toward improving the quality of early childhood education programs in Missouri, however it is equally important to simultaneously improve quality and affordability to have the greatest return on investment for Missouri.

Child Care Subsidy Update

Additional funding for higher eligibility for transitional child care subsidies was not recommended in either the House or the Senate budgets for fiscal year 2009. According to Citizens for Missouri's Children, "Although Sen. Jolie Justus, D-Kansas City, offered an amendment on the floor to expand funding for child care subsidies, it was defeated by a vote of 10 to 22. Because both chambers funded subsidy at the same levels, the issue will not be

brought up in conference committee. As it stands now, the level of funding included in the fiscal year 2009 budget will maintain eligibility for child care subsidy benefits at 127 percent of the federal poverty level, and will provide for transitional assistance up to 139 percent of poverty."

How to speak up for children, families and providers in Missouri:

1. **Register to vote:** If you are age 18 or older, a U.S. citizen and a Missouri resident, you can register online, or at your nearest office of the Department of Motor Vehicles, or at the office of your local election authority. See page 4 of this newsletter for how to register online.
2. **Contact your state legislators:** Communicate with your legislators on behalf of children and families. See page 4 to find out who your state legislators are and how to contact them. Let us know that you did by sending in the Legislative Contact Record (also on page 4) to Public Policy Chair Amy Sedlis.
3. **Get involved locally, and encourage others to do the same:** Join the RBAEYC Public Policy Committee to help make sure your voice is heard as important issues come up in Missouri's legislature. The majority of this committee's work is either by phone or email and can be completed with less than one meeting a month. If you are interested in helping to spread the word, contact Public Policy Committee Chair Amy Sedlis at 314-534-6015 or ASedlis@visionforchildren.org.

Mission Statement

Rivers Bend Association for the Education of Young Children promotes excellence in early childhood programs and systems through education, professional development, and advocacy.

HOW TO FIND YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS

The easiest way to find out the names and contact information for your state Senator and Representative is if you know your zip+4 code (your zip code and the four numbers after your zip code). Go to the **Missouri Legislator Lookup website: www.senate.mo.gov/lookup/leg_lookup.aspx**

The page will look like this:

If you don't know your zip+4 code, the legislator lookup website also includes a link to the **U.S. Postal Service website: <http://zip4.usps.com/zip4/welcome.jsp>**

Just fill in the information requested to find out your zip+4 code. Then go back to the legislator lookup page and enter your zip+4 code.

Tracking Advocacy: Legislative Contact Record

In an effort to track the advocacy work of RBAEYC members, we are asking for your feedback. This is a form for recording any advocacy efforts or legislative contacts that you have made recently. Please send the information requested below to Public Policy Chair Amy Sedlis by email at: ASedlis@visionforchildren.org.

Name _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

State/Federal Representative or Senator _____

Agency _____

Topic _____

Results _____

Next steps _____

Job Board

Director, Early Childhood Education Center, St. Louis Jewish Community Center

Responsibilities: The St. Louis JCC is looking to identify a highly intelligent self-starter to serve as the Director of the JCC Early Childhood Education Center. The position is responsible for planning, organizing and directing all operations of the early childhood program, including the direct supervision of two ECE supervisors and a large professional staff and hands-on management and the operation of the two facilities

Qualifications:

- The Director of the Early Childhood Education Center will preferably have at least five years of increasing responsible experience in the area of education of young children,
- Minimum of a Master’s degree in Early Childhood Education,
- And extensive Judaic knowledge and a deep commitment to the JCC mission and vision.

The salary will be commensurate with experience. For more information on please visit: www.jccstl.com.

Application: For the complete job description or to submit a resume, contact: Dr. Jane Herzog

Harris Rand Lusk
 551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3300
 New York, New York 10176
 Tel: 212 808-8235
 Fax: 212 808-8088
 e-mail: jherzog@harrisrand.com

WEBSITES

National Association for the Education of Young Children
www.naeyc.org

Association for the Education of Young Children of Missouri
www.aeyc-mo.org

Rivers Bend Association for the Education of Young Children
www.rbaeyc.org

Director of Early Childhood Center in Kansas City

Responsibilities: daily operations, hiring/supervising staff, budgeting, enrollment, church meetings, building strong relationships. Communication, supervisory, administrative skills & strong knowledge of NAEYC accreditation are important

Qualifications:

- MA/BA in early childhood education
- Courses in management
- 3+ yrs. experience in accredited program.

Resume & references to:

Central Early Childhood Center,
 attention Jim Thornton
 5144 Oak
 KC MO 64112
 Fax 816-756-1553
 or email ecc@centralcares.com

Early Care & Education Director Needed For Innovative Program

Responsibilities: Non-profit organization in greater Kansas City area seeks highly qualified candidate to direct and manage early care and education center in a culturally diverse neighborhood.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood Education with at least five years supervisory experience coaching and mentoring teachers.
- Bi-lingual preferred.
- Must be experienced with NAEYC Accreditation process, ECERS-R and ITERS-R.
- Must understand different funding streams for child care and be able to manage fiscal goals.
- Start date approximately June 1, Salary low 40’s, w/benefits & possible relocation bonus.

Application: Send letter of interest, three reference letters and application to vickiwhllg@aol.com.

Survey Results

Thank you to all of our members who responded to the membership survey in the last newsletter! We learned a lot about how diverse our membership is from your responses.

One of the main things your responses showed was that our members have a wide range of age, experience and education. We have many members who just entered the field of early childhood education and many others who have been working in the field for more than 20 years. The education level of those who responded to our membership survey ranges from high school/GED to masters level and every level in between.

You are teachers, family child care providers, directors, coordinators, trainers, specialists, students and much more. We have members who work at accredited centers and several who are seeking NAEYC accreditation as well.

Many members who responded to the survey said that they appreciate the “Coffee Talk” program meetings but would like to see more offered for teachers working through school districts and more in a variety of locations. Some of your specific suggestions for topics included: QRS, accreditation, comparing curriculum, positive behavior management and grant writing.

Thank you for all your positive comments, topic suggestions and for the feedback. We are working hard to meet the professional needs of our members and will use your suggestions as we plan the next activities.

Also, thanks to those of you who have expressed interest in a leadership position or in hosting a “Coffee Talk” program meeting in your area. If you would also like to help but did not mention that on your survey (or did not return a survey), please send an email with your contact information and interest to rbaeyc@rbaeyc.org. See page 12 of this newsletter for more information about each of the committees and how you can help.

NAEYC Accreditation Q & A

By Judy Simpson, RBAEYC Accreditation Chair

Q: How much evidence or pieces of children's work is required for each child's portfolio?

A: There really is no optimum or minimum amount of documentation needed for each portfolio. You might consider some of the following:

- September – Self portrait, parent information sheet.
- October – Drawing and writing sample, language arts/literacy, observation assessment.
- November – Self portrait.
- December – Drawing and writing sample.
- February – Preschool progress report, drawing and writing sample.
- March – Self portrait.
- April – Drawing and writing sample.
- May – Self portrait, language arts/literacy, observation assessment, child profile checklist, transition checklist.
- June – Preschool progress report.

Imagine that you need to document as

many of the curriculum projects as possible and document with lots and lots of pictures. Rather than keeping children's artwork, make copies of it so children can take their work home. Also, document each piece in the child's portfolio with the criteria number that it relates to.

If you have questions about the NAEYC accreditation process, please send them rbaeyc@rbaeyc.org and we will help you locate an answer and include those questions in the next newsletter. You can also post questions on our discussion board on our website at www.rbaeyc.org.

NAEYC Accredited Centers in the RBAEYC Area

Taken from the NAEYC Website on 4/30/2008

Name of Program	Valid Until	Contact	Address	City	Zip	# Of Children
Center For Child Studies Southeast Missouri State University	6/30/2008	Dr. Sara Starbuck	One University Plaza	Cape Girardeau	63701	112
Clayton Child Center Infant Toddler Program	8/31/2012		1 Oak Knoll Park	Clayton	63105	69
Douglass Community Services Early Head Start	2/28/2011	Cynthia Johnson	711 Grand Ave	Hannibal	63401	57
Downtown Children's Center	5/31/2008		607 North 13th Street	St. Louis	63103	85
Elegant Child Early Learning Center	4/30/2010	Kathy Wolfe	513 Strecker Road	Wildwood	63011	490
Elm Point Early Childhood Center	2/28/2011	Nancy Ebert	3601 Mueller Road	St. Charles	63301	144
Eugene Field Preschool Program - Hannibal Public Schools	5/31/2008	Diane Addison	1405 Pearl Street	Hannibal	63401	13
Family Child Care Center	6/30/2011	Roberta L. Crawford	1164 Bueneman Lane	Troy	63379	20
First Academy Child Care	2/28/2009	Marcy Tribley	2688 Highway K	O'Fallon	63368	139
Florissant Valley Child Development Center of the St Louis Community College	9/30/2008		3400 Pershall Road	St. Louis	63135	189
Fredericktown R-1 Preschool	6/30/2008		405 Henry Street	Fredericktown	63645	40
Good Shepherd School for Children	9/30/2009	Corinne Esneault	1170 Timber Run Drive	Saint Louis	63146	84
Hannibal Children's Center	3/31/2011	Meredith Andrews	150 Medical Drive	Hannibal	63401	140
Just US Kids	9/30/2008		9700 Page Avenue	Saint Louis	63132	69
Kids International Early Childhood Education Center	7/31/2010	Sidney D. Estes	412 Old State Road	Ellisville	63021	91
KinderCare #0071 Learning Center	7/31/2008	Laura Deist	2051 Croftdale Drive	Florissant	63031	56
KinderCare #1110 Learning Center	8/31/2008	Carol Licklider	1901 Thoele Road	Saint Peters	63376	57
KinderCare #1412 Learning Center	10/31/2008	Diane Irwin	12821 Portulaca Drive	St Louis	63146	91
KinderCare Learning Center	5/31/2010	Michele Taylor	11850 West Florissant	Florissant	63033	110
KinderCare Learning Center	6/30/2010	Renee Reckel	2500 Hampton Avenue	St Louis	63139	0
KinderCare Learning Center	9/30/2008	Jessica Smothers	12727 Old Tesson Road	Saint Louis	63128	114
KinderCare Learning Center	5/31/2008	Tori Behlke	2580 New Baumgartner Rd	St Louis	63129	94
KinderCare Learning Center	5/31/2010	Beverly Hampton	2275 Village Green Parkway	Chesterfield	63017	159
KinderCare Learning Center	11/30/2008	Andrea Barbeieri	1400 Wyncrest	Ballwin	63011	65
KinderCare Learning Center #1525	8/31/2008		1481 Hawkins Road	Fenton	63026	122

NAEYC Accredited Centers in the RBAEYC Area continued ...

Taken from the NAEYC Website on 4/30/2008

Name of Program	Valid Until	Contact	Address	City	Zip	# Of Children
KinderCare Learning Center #301422	10/31/2009	Pam Schmidt	6016 Young Drive	Weldon Spring	63304	84
La Petite Academy Monsanto Child DC	10/31/2010	Kellie Jackson	800 North Lindbergh Boulevard	St Louis	63167	168
Lemay Child and Family Center	7/31/2009	Susan Fels	9828 South Broadway	Saint Louis	63125	99
Lemay Head Start Center	5/31/2011	Sarah Wilson	320 East Ripa Avenue	Saint Louis	63125	68
Little Guppy Child Development Center	6/30/2011	Renee Knobbe	3151 Elm Point Industrial Drive	St. Charles	63301	172
New Day Child Development Center	5/31/2011	Nannette Penn	1530 First Capitol Dr. South	St. Charles	63303	93
NMCAA Downing Head Start	2/28/2011	Heather Rohn	PO Box 966	Kirksville	63501	15
NMCAA Edina Head Start	3/31/2011	Heather Rohn	1011 South Jamison	Kirksville	63501	14
NMCAA Glenwood Head Start	3/31/2011	Heather Rohn	1011 South Jamison	Kirksville	63501	20
Radiant Faith Academy	8/31/2010	Lee Furnace	5446 Ridge Avenue	St Louis	63112	27
Rainbow Castle a Child Dev Center	3/31/2013		PO Box 50261	St. Louis	63105	56
Ritenour Early Childhood Center	6/30/2009	Karen M Flavin	9330 Stansberry Avenue	Saint Louis	63134	85
Saint Charles County Family YMCA Early Childhood Center	8/31/2009	Aaron Berkenwald	3456 Harry S. Truman Blvd.	Saint Charles	63301	99
Saint John Lutheran Preschool	4/30/2011	Rhonda J Peregoy	15808 Manchester Road	Ellisville	63011	52
Superior Childrens Center	2/28/2011	Stacy Singer	1243 Hanley Industrial Court	Brentwood	63144	59
Superior Children's Center	8/31/2009	Nicki Ballew	1 Centene Drive	Farmington	63640	62
The Early Learning Place	6/30/2011	Rhonda Nichols	PO Box 85	Bell City	63735	31
Together We Can of St. Louis LLC	3/31/2013		7110 Oakland Avenue	St Louis	63117	70
Uncle Sam's Kids Child Dev Center	9/30/2009	Pam Taylor	PO Box 50261	Clayton	63105	35
United Services Day Care & Preschool	7/31/2012		4140 Old Mill Parkway	Saint Peters	63376	381
United Services West	7/31/2012		2025 Hanley Road	Dardenne Prairie	63368	308
University Child Enrichment Center	6/30/2011	Amy Blackman	1912 Broadway	Cape Girardeau	63701	66
Urban League Head Start of Metro St. Louis-Head Start, Jennings	7/31/2011	Ruby Sims	8964 Jennings Station Road	Saint Louis	63136	276
Washington University Nursery School	5/31/2011	Andrea Atkinson	Campus Box 1037	St Louis	63130	86
Webster Child Care Center	8/31/2009	Lisa Jones	624 Lohmann Forest Lane	Webster Groves	63119	165
Webster Groves Early Childhood Education Center	3/31/2011	Julie Wuch	222 West Cedar Avenue	St Louis	63119	192
Webster Hills Preschool	5/31/2010	Linda Whitley	698 West Lockwood	Webster Groves	63119	84
Youth In Need Head Start/ Early Head Start	12/31/2009	Amber Buchheit	2100 Campus Drive	St Charles	63301	36
Youth In Need Head Start/Early Head Start- Troy	5/31/2008	Kari Preston	19 Fairgrounds Road	Troy	63379	40
Youth in Need Marvin Marks Child Development	7/31/2011	Cammie Maue	1022 Steinhagen	Warrenton	63383	76
YWCA Educare Headstart Learning Center	5/31/2012		1911 Beltway Drive	St. Louis	63114	80
YWCA Garfield Early Head Start/Head Start Center	5/31/2011	Sharon Clark-Hooks	4146 Garfield Avenue	St. Louis	63113	114
YWCA Head Start - Jennings Center	6/30/2011	Lisa Riley	2650 Lordan Drive	Saint Louis	63136	104
YWCA Kinloch Head Start	5/31/2011	Annie Cooper	5650 Jones Avenue	St. Louis	63140	0
YWCA North County	7/31/2011	Latasha Milton	10725 Vorhof	St. Louis	63136	314
YWCA of Metro St. Louis Head Start- University City Head Start	4/30/2010	Cynthia Jones-Williams	737 Kingsland Avenue	St Louis	63130	50
YWCA of Metro St. Louis, Pagedale Head Start/Early Head Start	5/31/2011	Joan Petralia	1436 Ferguson	Saint Louis	63133	188
YWCA Overland Head Start	1/31/2010	Erika M Sample	2210 North Warson Street	St Louis	63114	142
YWCA St Louis Head Start West Florissant Center	7/31/2011	Debra Thomas	4632 West Florissant	St Louis	63115	162
YWCA St. Louis Head Start/Early Head Start Pine	5/31/2011	Sharon Norman	4100 Snow Avenue	Saint Louis	63120	71
YWCA St. Louis Head Start-Manchester Center	7/31/2011	Marlowe Tulloch	5035 Manchester	St. Louis	63110	216

RBAEYC Nominations

Compiled By Tracey Stanton, Governance Committee Chair



**President-Elect
Judy Simpson,
St. Louis**

I have worked for TodayCare Children's Centers since 2000. As the Sr. Vice President, Business

Development and Operations, I am responsible for business development and operations. In this role, I work with employers to facilitate, design and manage state-of-the-art child care facilities for their employees. All of our centers are NAEYC accredited and/or are working on becoming accreditation.

Prior to joining TCCC, I worked in corporate-sponsored child care programs for more than 18 years overseeing the development and management of work-site child care centers. I was responsible for developing corporate centers for many clients including Eli Lilly, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Walgreens, Sears, J.C. Penney, University of Virginia, Vanderbilt Medical Center, the Medical University of South Carolina, PHCC Community College, John Muir Medical Centers and the Pentagon. I have a BS and MS degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Illinois and the University of Missouri and an MBA from Webster University.

I have been active in both local and national NAEYC activities. I was fortunate to be chosen to participate in the first Accreditation Academy training class in 1984 and have participated as a validator/local assessor for them since then. (Ok, so I just told you how old I am.) I have enjoyed visiting in many centers in Missouri and have also traveled to Germany and Sicily to do accreditation visits. Accreditation is one of my passions because it improves learning opportunities for young children. My other passion is my five grandchildren, ages 5 and younger. I have served on the local Rivers Bend AEYC board as Treasurer and Accreditation Chair.

I welcome opportunities to work with centers to help them meet NAEYC Accreditation standards and criteria.



**Treasurer
Karen Pittenger,
St. Louis**

I am a native of Colorado, and I moved to St. Louis in 1971. I have

been involved with AEYC since my undergraduate days at the University of Colorado in Boulder and Colorado Springs. I received my Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education in 1971. I began my teaching career in St. Louis, teaching kindergarten for the Rockwood School District, from 1971 to 1974.

From 1975 to 1980, I stayed home with my children, Blake and Laura Crosslin. From 1980 to 1984, I was a lead teacher at Clayton Early Childhood Center. In 1983, I received my Masters Degree in Early Childhood Education from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. In 1984, I began working for the St. Louis Board of Education. I was a Preschool Instructional Coordinator at Henry School from 1984 to 2002. While at Henry, I served as the school treasurer for many years coordinating our staff school funds and various school wide fund raisers. Along the way, I received my certification in the Project Construct Curriculum model. At the beginning of the 2002 school year, I moved to Stix Early Childhood Center, a Project Construct Magnet school, joining the pre-school team. A couple of years ago, the kindergarten team was expanded, and I accepted a position as the sixth kindergarten teacher.

Over the years, I have been involved at various levels with our local chapter. I have co-led the Spring Curriculum Conference. I have been a presenter at the Conference on the Young Years and the Crucial Early Years Conference. Currently, I am the Action Grant Chair and the Rybicki Scholarship Chair.

As treasurer, I would continue to work with and for RBAEYC to help our organization grow and prosper as a viable early childhood entity.



**AEYC-MO
State Rep from
Rivers Bend,
Linda Estes,
St. Peters**

I serve as coordinator for the "Child Care

& Early Education" program at Saint Charles Community College, and I have been actively engaged in the education of young children for more than three decades — as a classroom teacher, program director, and currently as a teacher educator. Over the years, I have endeavored to be both student and teacher through my participation in professional experiences with future generations of teachers.

My education includes a B.A. in Elementary Education from the University of Louisville in 1980, a M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education from the University of Missouri, St. Louis in 1984, and a Ed.D. in Education/Curriculum & Instruction from the University of Missouri, St. Louis in 1991.

The publication of my textbook, "Essentials of Child Care and Early Education," has given me many opportunities to share my knowledge, insights and enthusiasm about early childhood with others who are dedicated to the quality care and education of young children.

For more than twenty years, I have used my involvement in professional organizations, such as the National Association for the Education of Young Children and its affiliates, to support the ongoing efforts of fellow educators and teacher education students on behalf of children and their families.

The Governance Committee presents the following slate of candidates for the designated positions. Additional nominations may be made with the written consent of 10% of last years RBAEYC members by June 1, 2008. If additional nominations are made, a separate ballot will be mailed out before June 15, 2008.

Ballot for 2008 RBAEYC Election

President-Elect: Judy Simpson

Treasurer: Karen Pittenger

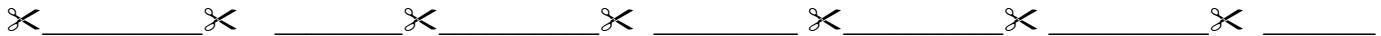
AEYC-MO State Rep from Rivers Bend: Linda Estes

_____ I accept the slate as presented

_____ I wish to make additional nominations
(with the signatures of 58 current members)

Please return ballot by June 15, 2008 to:

Tracey Stanton
9109 Rusticwood Trail
St. Louis, MO 63126



NAEYC, AEYC-MO, and RBAEYC are going electronic!

*Do we have your
email address?*

*Have you been receiving
the state newsletter the
UPDATE by email?*

If you do not have a current email address listed with NAEYC, then you are missing many "publications" that are being distributed by NAEYC and AEYC-MO. This includes your state newsletter, monthly updates through NAEYC-E-News, and "time sensitive" materials distributed by RBAEYC and AEYC-MO. (i.e. scholarships, grants, advocacy opportunities, ect)

We desperately want you to receive all the materials and correspondence sent out by all of these entities. Therefore, we are trying again to get your email recorded in the NAEYC database—which is where all the electronic mailings originate from. Please look at the mailing label on this newsletter. IF we have an email address for you, it is printed above your name. If there isn't an email shown, or the one shown is outdated, then we need your current email address.

Here's all you need to do:

- Cut the ballot and this box into 2 pieces.
- Write your name and email address on the lines provided.
- Fold the paper in half and tape the edges together.
- Stamp and return to address on "outside" of paper.
- Your information in the NAEYC database will be updated and you won't miss out on your member benefits.

Name:

Email:

Membership Report

By Melanie Collins, Member at Large/Membership Chair

I look forward to helping serve the members in any way I can. Should you hear of someone needing assistance please give them my e-mail address mlbcollins@hotmail.com.

Membership committee activity in the past four months:

- Sent out more than 150 e-mails welcoming new members to RBAEYC.
- Made contact with 10 past members by phone who were unaware that their membership had expired. They were happy I called and said they were going to renew right away.

- Called more than 80 past members to ask if they would renew their membership.
- Obtained e-mail addresses to add to the NAEYC database.

So, don't let your membership expire. It's fast and easy to renew or to sign up online.

- Just go to www.NAEYC.org and follow the prompts for membership.
- RBAEYC is **Chapter # 39**
- If you need assistance through the process please contact me by email at the address listed above.

Programs Report

By Sally Halfaker, Program Chair

There were "Coffee Talk" program meetings held on two different weekends this past year at six different locations. While some sites had more attendance than others, all attendees agreed that the professional development opportunity was well worth it.

The Program Committee will be setting the Fall "Coffee Talk" program meeting dates very soon as well as reviewing the survey compilation for sites and topics. If you would like to provide space for a "Coffee Talk" program meeting please send that information to rbaeyc@rbaeyc.org.

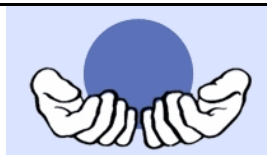
Watch the www.rbaeyc.org website for the fall dates, so you can get it on your calendar. Have a great summer, and we look forward to seeing you in the fall.



Please fold in half, and secure open edges with tape.

RBAEYC
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REUSABLE RESOURCE ASSOCIATION
A National Program
11th Annual Play Coach Leadership, Training & Networking Retreat 2008

SHOW-ME HOW TO PLAY AGAIN

&

Developing a Reuse Center

3-Day Retreat for Parents and Educators

“When replicated with adults, ‘hands-on’ play and reflection experiences lead to insight into children’s learning and teaching process. In the same way that children engage in the reverie of play, adults can rediscover the joy and importance of their own play and creativity” Walter F. Drew, Ed.D.

Where: Fontbonne University - 6800 Wydown Blvd. - St. Louis Missouri 63105

When: June 26-28, 2008

Cost: 3 - Day Training \$325.00 (by June 1st) \$375.00 (at the door - call first)

Price Includes: All Meals, Play Kit, Tote Bag, Materials Fee, “Van GO” visit & Resource Book

OPTIONAL COSTS

Room Accommodations: Availability Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

Fontbonne Campus Medaille Hall \$40.00 per person - per night.

Note: Bedding, towels and personal items not provided.

Fontbonne University Credit & CEU’s Available

Presenters:

Edgar Klugman - Playing for Keeps - Newtonville, Massachusetts

Walter Drew - Institute for Self-Active Education - Melbourne Beach, Florida

Robert Brown - Extras for Creative Learning, A Reuse Center - Cambridge, Massachusetts

Susan Blandford - St. Louis Teachers' Reusable Resource Centers - St. Louis, Missouri

Patricia Durkin - Fontbonne University - St. Louis, Missouri

Amy Peterson - Sheboygan Reusable Resource Center - Sheboygan, Wisconsin

Joan Green - Dancer, Choreographer, Visual Artist - Massachusetts

Robert Fishbone - On The Wall Productions - St. Louis, Missouri

Kathryn Zellich - Cornerstone Center for Early Learning - St. Louis, Missouri

SPONSORS: AEYC-MO, Fontbonne University, Reusable Resource Association, St. Louis Teachers’ Recycle Center, Inc., On the Wall Productions, Dr. Drew’s Toys, Yucandu, Sportsprint

To register or for more information contact Patty Durkin at 314-889-4527 or go to:
<http://www.sltrc.com/RRAcurent08.html> and <http://www.pppif.homestead.com>

How Can I Get Involved?

The success of Rivers Bend AEYC is directly related to the volunteers who serve on the board and on the committees that do the work of the organization.

Under the current structure, there are two persons who oversee several sub-committees and their work. Those two positions are the Marketing Chair, Lee Furnace, and the Professional Development Chair, Kelly Hantak. The sub-committees in most cases are still in need of volunteers.

If you are interested in serving on one of these committees, please contact the chairperson associated with it:

Kelly Hantak
redlollipop2002@yahoo.com

Lee Furnace
racademy@sbcglobal.net

Professional Development

ACTION GRANTS COMMITTEE: This is for persons interested in reviewing the action grants submitted to RBAEYC for special projects by members.

CURRICULUM CONFERENCE COMMITTEE: This is the committee that organizes and oversees the yearly chapter curriculum conference.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE: This committee solicits and collects articles, edits, writes, and reviews the quarterly newsletter for distribution to all current members of RBAEYC.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE: This committee plans and organizes local program meetings ("Coffee Talks") for the chapter.

TECHNOLOGY: This newly forming committee will look for ways to enhance the technological side of RBAEYC.

Marketing

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: This committee will examine and organize the most effective ways to recruit and inform new and current members.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE: For persons interested in promoting awareness of early childhood issues throughout RBAEYC and the chapter's many local media venues.

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD COMMITTEE: Many volunteers are needed to help plan and carry out this yearly celebration across the chapter.

www.RBAEYC.org

1-800-210-2602

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