



SDAEYC Newsletter

Fall 2009 General Membership

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SDAEYC/SDHSA 2010 Conference

**Watertown Event
Center
April 15-17, 2010
Watertown, SD**

Now accepting
Presenter Proposals

[2010 SDAEYC/SDHSA Call for Proposals](#)

SDAEYC Board Members

President:

Carol Whalen

Vice President:

Gayle Bortnem

Past President:

Tami Skorczewski

Dear Kathy,

Welcome to the first edition of the SDAEYC eNewsletter. We are hoping this format will provide a convenient way for our members to stay informed of all the association's news and events.

From Your President

Carol Whalen, SDAEYC President
cwhalen@badlandshs.org



It is my privilege to serve as your President for the next two years. In this letter I wanted to give you the opportunity to get to know me a little better, just as I want to get to know each of you better over the next couple of years. I am married to Bruce and we have three children at home. Jeremiah is eight years old, Elizabeth is six years old, and Bruce, Jr. is two. I enjoy having this range of the early childhood years at home. And now another blessing is coming soon: Bruce's oldest son is married and they are expecting a baby in November! I have been in the Early Childhood field since the late 1980's in both paid (full-time and part-time) and volunteer positions. I have taught in elementary schools and in churches; I have been a caregiver of young children in homes and in Group Family Daycare; I have taught Early Childhood and Elementary Education classes at Oglala Lakota College; and I am currently the Area Services Manager in Shannon and Bennett Counties for Badlands Head Start.

As I look forward to the next two years, there are a few areas I would like to focus on:

- helping parents and families reclaim their role as their child's "best first teacher".
- helping caregivers and Early Childhood teachers grow in their understanding of their role and importance in the lives of young children and families.
- helping communities and policy makers understand that Early Childhood is neither babysitting nor is it watered-down Elementary Education.
- increasing the awareness of our members in how to access federal, state, local and private funding

Treasurer:

Kay Ballard

Secretary:

Cheryl Voorhis

Midwest Rep.:

De Gilkerson

Affiliate Council Rep:

Carol Whalen

Member-at-Large:

Steph Lebeda

Member-at-Large:

Bobbi Piasecki

Accreditation Chair:

May Bowne

Membership Chair:

Carmen Gregg

Public Policy Chair:

Rhonda Swanson

**Upcoming
NAEYC Conferences**

**NAEYC Annual
Conference**

Nov. 18-21, 2009 Washington,
DC

Public

Policy Forum Feb.2-3,
2010 Washington, DC

NAEYC

**19th Professional
Development
Institute**

June

6-9, 2010
Phoenix, AZ

NAEYC Annual Conference
November 3-6, 2010 Anaheim,
CA

- opportunities for Early Childhood
- increasing our membership efforts to groups who should be, but often are not part of our membership, such as family child care providers, Pre-K - 3rd Grade teaching staff, home schooling families, etc.

Now that school has started and before the holiday season is upon us, it's a great time to reflect on what we plan to do this year for young children and families. Take a look throughout the newsletter for ideas, and be sure to share other ideas with your local affiliate. Often it seems that our good intentions slip by the wayside in the busyness of life. At the Board retreat in September each person made a simple bracelet to remind them of what we discussed and the plans we made. What will you plan to do? What tangible item can be your reminder of your plans? Remember, a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. Our journey is not just about the destination, but about the impact we have on young children and families along the way.

Working Together for Children and Families -

Carol Whalen

SDAEYC Welcomes New Governing Board Members

Steph Lebeda, Member-at-Large



Hi! I'm Steph Lebeda and am very excited to be part of the SDAEYC Board. It is an honor to serve with such a great group of dedicated people. I have spent my professional career in early childhood education and that is where my passion is. I started my career as an assistant director in a child care center and then became the director at a group family daycare center. After this, I provided child care in my home. I then spent several years working in a Head Start program, before going to work for the South Dakota Department of Education working with Consolidated Applications (Title I) and as Title III Director. From there I went on to become the South Dakota Head Start State Collaboration Director until accepting my current position as a Head Start Specialist.

I am married to Dale and we have three children, Shae, 10, Mason, 8, and Kadee, 5. I enjoy spending time with family and friends, most of which is spent watching our children's activities. I also enjoy walking, and playing softball.

Cheryl Voorhis, Secretary



This is my first year to be involved with SDAEYC as Secretary, but I spent 16 years as a dedicated member/officer for our local affiliate while I lived in Washington state. After living most of my life in South Dakota, I moved to Colorado to get a Master's degree in Early Childhood Special Education, then moved to Washington state to teach integrated preschool and provide TA to school districts. I've had the privilege to teach in a wide range of areas throughout my career, from physical education k-3, multi-age rural middle school, second grade, birth-six early childhood and special education, teens and adults in community colleges and universities in Washington. My passion in the early childhood field is incorporating the multiple intelligences, movement and outdoor learning in all of our teaching/learning opportunities. I'm excited to have been selected as a Physical Activity Consultant (PAC) for the new Head Start Body Start program. Currently, I am the Education and Disabilities Specialist for Badlands Head Start-Early Head Start in Belle Fourche.

I have 5 grown children living in South Dakota and Washington, 11 grandchildren ages 22 years to 15 months, and am looking forward to being a great grandmother in February. As a large extended family, we enjoy the outdoors, art and photography, movies, sports, church activities and family holidays together.

Affiliate Council News:

Tami Skorczewski

Mission: The Affiliate Council acts as an advisory body to support the continuing transformation of the NAEYC affiliate structure as a high-performing, inclusive organization.

Purpose: Provide a forum for networking among affiliates, develop recommendations for NAEYC board with particular focus on affiliate issues, and identify and develop a strong, inclusive leadership.

The President of SDAEYC attends the Affiliate Council meetings twice a year. The last meeting was in June in Charlotte, NC and besides doing affiliate business, discussion occurred around the Affiliate Criteria Review Taskforce Final Report. The development of an Affiliation Review Process will formalize a systematic and routine evaluation of the existing criteria, establishing guidelines and policies and procedures for the affiliate network. More information will be filtered through the local affiliates. The next meeting will be in November during the NAEYC Annual Conference & Expo in Washington, DC.

2009 NAEYC Annual Conference & Expo. The early childhood education community is gathering in Washington, DC, on November 18-21, 2009. More than 20,000 early childhood professionals from around the world attend the NAEYC Annual Conference & Expo to discuss the everyday issues of our work with young children and families. Also at the conference will be the Expo, with more than 1,000 exhibit booths featuring the latest learning tools and materials. For more information or to register, please visit the naeyc.org website.

2010 Institute for Professional Development.

NAEYC's National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development is designed for teacher educators, program administrators, and others who provide professional preparation and ongoing professional development experiences for the early childhood workforce. The theme for the 2010 Institute for Professional Development is "Emotional Intelligence: A 21st Century Skill for Children and Adults." The Institute will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, on June 6-9, 2009. Visit the naeyc.org website for more information.

Let's Take A Look Back At SD's Early Childhood Issues In 2009: The "Good", The "Bad", & The "Could Have Been UGLY"!

Rhonda Swanson, SDAEYC Public Policy Chair

The "**Good**": ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009) projects in SD include:

- Child Care Assistance for Dislocated Workers (provides up to two months of free child care assistance for qualified recently unemployed South Dakotans)
- Child Care Provider Enhancement Grants (licensed and registered child care providers may apply for grants to purchase high-quality items to enhance the child care environment)
- Grants for Rural OST Programs (operational sustainability grants for currently licensed OST programs in communities with a population of 10,000 or fewer)
- Provider Scholarships for Infant-Toddler Training (for currently licensed or registered providers caring for children ages 3 and younger to attend a variety of infant-toddler training opportunities)

The "**Bad**": Unfortunately, our legislature did not pass any legislation advancing pre-kindergarten--instead they defeated the bill (SB 191) that sought to launch a pre-kindergarten framework to serve children from low-income circumstances.

And the "**Could Have Been UGLY**": Efforts to eliminate funding for our Birth to Three program (SD's Early

Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities Part C program) were squashed, and funding continues.

Remember-your vote (or non-vote) has an influence on what happens to kids in SD! Not a registered voter? Log in to www.sdsos.gov to download and print the proper forms to mail in or drop by your county auditor's office. Kids are counting on you to do your homework and vote on their behalf!

~Thanks to Pat Monson, SD Child Care Services, for the ARRA update, and to Susan Randall, SD Voices for Children, for the legislative action information.

Accreditation Update

Mary Bowne, Accreditation Chair

Reminder: We're here to help!

NAEYC Accreditation began in 1985 with the goal of providing an accrediting system that would raise the level of early childhood programs. Today, nearly 8,000 programs are NAEYC Accredited. For those centers or agencies that are currently in the process of seeking NAEYC accreditation or are thinking about it for the near future, SDAEYC is here to help! South Dakota AEYC chapters/ affiliates have one specific individual who is on an accreditation committee for SDAEYC. These individuals will help you find additional resources and/or answer any questions or concerns you may have regarding accreditation. If any center or agency would like more information on this, they are encouraged to contact their local affiliate or chapter.

Additionally, for centers or agencies that have financial constraints or issues, there are several different scholarship programs available through NAEYC as well as SDAEYC. Scholarship applications through NAEYC can be found at:

<http://www.naeyc.org/academy/primary/helpscholarships>

SDAEYC also has scholarships available for self-study kit rentals and monetary assistance for those centers or agencies in need. If interested, please contact Mary Bowne at mary.bowne@sdstate.edu

*Information obtained from www.naeyc.org

Local Affiliate News

Dakota Midland AEYC Affiliate News

Suzy Braun, President

We are excited to announce that we will be joining the NSU Student group for our meetings this year. We are looking forward to sharing ideas and activities with this energetic group. A big thank you to Gayle Bortnem and the NSU students for letting us join them. DMAEYC will also be

doing our Annual Children's Carnival again for Week of the Young Child, highlighting age appropriate games and activities sponsored by local members, hosting a bake sale and a raffle. DMAEYC will also be holding our Member Appreciation Banquet in May, distributing a DMAEYC Directory, working on putting together some New Member packets and co-sponsoring the Annual Early Childhood Academy to be held next fall.

So watch your mail for information regarding upcoming meetings and activities.

East Central AEYC Affiliate News

Tammy Clark, President Elect

Our first meeting of the year was held in Brookings at South Dakota State University in conjunction with the SDSU Student group of AEYC on Monday October 19, 2009. This is an annual tradition for the first meeting of the year where networking and dinner was shared by the group.

Our local affiliate will be working with the local ICAP Early Head Start/Head Start group on local arrangements for the upcoming SDAEYC conference to be held in Watertown, SD. If you would like to assist in these activities, please contact Tammy Clark at tclark2k@hotmail.com.

Missouri Valley AEYC Affiliate News

Co-Presidents: Sherrie Bosse sbosse@usd.edu

Angie Haas, Angela.Haas@k12.sd.us

Our September meeting was held in the pre-school classroom at St. Agnes Elementary School in Vermillion. Members shared fun fall activities and planned the schedule for the upcoming year. Topics for upcoming meetings include "Exploring Water with Young Children" on November 18th at The University of South Dakota. Attendees will view segments of the training series from NAEYC and engage in some hands-on water play. The January 20th meeting will take place at South Dakota Public Broadcasting's offices and will combine the topics of literacy and winter ideas, hosted by Wess Pravecek, coordinator of SDPB's Ready to Learn project. A St. Patrick's Day meeting will be held at Austin School in Vermillion with a "Spring into Spring" theme. The members also have plans for Week of the Young Child activities during the week of April 12th and will conclude the year with a picnic at Prentis Park in Vermillion. Congratulations to Missouri Valley members Gera Jacobs and Kathy Crowley on the publication of their newest book; "Reaching standards and beyond in kindergarten: Nurturing children's sense of wonder and joy in learning" which will make its' debut at the national conference in

November!

Siouxland AEYC Affiliate News

Amie Bennett, President

We hope everyone is getting into their busy fall schedules. We have had board meetings in August and September; we have been busy working on our 2009-2010 activities. Due to our low numbers at our 2008 fall event, we decided to donate some funding to collaborate with the Sioux Empire United Way - Reading Festival committee, to allow our members to attend this great training opportunity on October 16. We had a good turnout at the Reading Festival; we gave away some door prizes and were able to get a few new members signed up!

The **Ooey Goey Lady, Lisa Murphy**, is coming to Sioux Falls!!! We are one of the many childcare sponsored organizations in the Siouxland area responsible for bringing her to town! She will be here Saturday January 30, 2010, at the Downtown Holiday Inn from 8:30am-3:30pm.

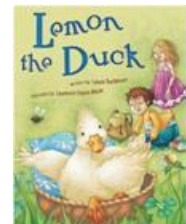
We look for opportunities to have events and trainings to support what we all are committed to, young children!

Our SAEYC focus continues to work with the state to increase our membership. We have had booths at several early childhood events throughout our community showing what we do and what the benefits of being a member of SAEYC/SDAEYC/NAEYC.

Book Review

Gayle Bortnem -Vice President

Lemon the Duck, by Laura Backman



It is sometimes difficult to find books that deal with special needs that children in the early childhood years will understand. The book, *Lemon the Duck*, seems to fit. It is written by Laura Backman and illustrated by Laurence Cleyet-Merle.

It is based on a true story. This very uplifting picture book introduces the concepts of disability and special needs to children. Ms. Lake and her class have tended to an egg-hatching project for the past month and are eager to welcome four ducklings into the world. But the students soon realize that the soft little one they've named Lemon is different from the other hatchlings. She looks like a duck and quacks like a duck, but she can't stand or walk like a duck. How can Lemon ever be happy if she can't do all the things ducks love to do? Through working with Lemon, the students learn that acceptance, love, and extra special

care can go a long way. They also come to understand that her difference doesn't make Lemon any less special.

This book has been recommended by Reading Rockets, Muscular Dystrophy Canada, and Turtle Magazine (Children's Better Health Institute). It was also featured on NPR's "Here and Now," NECN's "The Secret Life of Animals," MSNBC, and more than a dozen NBC affiliates. Featured in Time for Kids, Providence Journal, Boston Herald, Rhode Island Monthly, and more than thirty American newspapers and magazines. And now it is being promoted by SDAEYC.

Primary Education

Gayle Bortnem -Vice President

In the field of early childhood, it is known that the ages of children are birth to age eight (8). That would include the children in Kindergarten through 2nd or 3rd grade. So the caretakers/teachers in the early primary grades really have to keep in mind what is developmentally appropriate practice (DAP) for this age child. A major theme in DAP is to make learning meaningful for the individual child, using practices which reflect both the age, culture and individual needs of the child. A strong emphasis is placed on learning to think critically, work cooperatively, and solve problems.

So the use of strategies which include learning and activity centers and thematic units will support the children's need to learn in small groups and to understand and learn. Themes or projects link together content from various subject areas and depict the connections that exist across disciplines. In a DAP classroom, the development of "aesthetic literacy" is encouraged through the exploration of poetry, dance, painting, and music. A child's active participation in self-directed play with concrete, real-life experiences should continue to be a key to motivated, meaningful learning in kindergarten and the primary grades.

Appreciation for the Arts

Gayle Bortnem -Vice President

In the South Dakota Early Learning Guidelines (doe.sd.gov) it is stated, "We want to help children develop an appreciation for the arts. This appreciation can broaden their perspective of the world. The arts can help children gain greater understanding and appreciation for diverse cultures, as well as their own. The arts may be able to deepen this appreciation more than most other areas of the curriculum".

One of the areas in the arts is STANDARD 2 - Music

Children engage in a variety of musical activities for enjoyment and self-expression and demonstrate an appreciation for music. Some ideas to support this area are:

1. Use a song to greet each child in the morning during morning meeting as part of attendance.
2. Use a song or instrumental music during transition times such as clean-up time or snack preparation time.
3. Play background music during free play or centers time. Be sure the music isn't too loud or distracting from the children's activities.
4. Play quiet lullabies or soft classical music during nap time or rest time.
5. Use music to teach letters, shapes, numbers or any other concepts in the curriculum.
6. Sing songs and play instruments as part of the daily routine.
7. Use music to enhance games and movement activities.
8. Add music to creative drama and art activities.
9. Use music to help children learn about other cultures and other lands.
10. Use music to celebrate special events and holidays.

Music has a way of setting the mood of a time, place and feeling. So enjoy and include music in the lives of your young children.

Be watching for additional eNewsletters in the months ahead. We are hoping this format will allow us to communicate with our membership on a more frequent basis and in an environmentally and economically responsible way!

Sincerely,

Kathy Schwartz
SDAEYC Operational Manager
