

AAEYC News

The Austin Association for the Education of Young Children
825 East 53rd 1/2 St.
Austin, TX 78751

Letter from the President by Cindy Gamez



Dear Members and Friends,

Summer is here! As children and teachers fully enjoying their summer break, your AAEYC Board is having a change of guard and are preparing for a new year with new leadership. It has been such a wonderful opportunity to lead the AAEYC Board as President this past year. With such dedicated individuals to work with—my job was pretty easy!

I'm pleased to announce that Kim Kofron will take the helm as President of

AAEYC on July 1st. As President-Elect, Kim helped me in many capacities this year and I have no doubt we will continue to benefit from her leadership in the upcoming year. Along with a new President, we also have open positions for President-Elect, VP of Membership and Secretary. Please take a few moments to read about the nominees and to cast your vote on the ballot enclosed in this newsletter.

Community involvement has always been high on our list of goals. In this issue, you will read about how we had record attendance at our annual conference this past April! You'll get to meet the outstanding educators, students and advocates in early childhood whom we recognized at our annual Awards Banquet. This year's winners will auto-

matically be entered as nominees for the statewide Texas AEEYC Awards which will be announced in October at the TAEYC conference in Corpus Christi. Go Austin winners and good luck!!

In an effort to better connect with our membership, we've added a new section highlighting new members of AAEYC. Anybody joining the association in the previous quarter before going to print will be included.

As always, we encourage you to get involved with AAEYC by helping with committees for Conference or Week of the Young Child. Or, for those of you who train, we will continue to offer free Professional Development workshops on NAEYC Accreditation standards and we will be seeking presenters. We

Summer 2008

welcome your expertise and input in any of our activities. Please log onto our website at www.austinaeYC.org and contact us to volunteer.

Enjoy the summer!

New AAEYC Members

Welcome to all the new AAEYC members who joined this past quarter!

Kathleen Richter, Mulkeet Singh, Chris Owens, Gloria Perez, Ann Anderson, Jennifer Thomas, Becky Olivarez, Tina Gamez, Evelyn Michaels, Kathy Gerding, Beverly Walker, Bekky Carter, Kim Sweat, Annette Becerra, Stephanie Reber, Lourdes De La Cerda, Rosemary Garza and Rosie Bishop

We look forward to your involvement with AAEYC this coming year!

Election Year: You Can Make a Difference by Jackie Taylor

Who should I vote for? The beauty of living in a democracy is that you can make the choice to vote for whomever you feel best reflects your views and beliefs. Since AAEYC is a non-profit, laws prohibit us from endorsing any one candidate. To help you decide, NAEYC, our parent organization, gave all candidates for President of

the United States, Republican and Democratic, the same questionnaire for response. As a 501(c)(3) organization, we are allowed to submit questions to candidates and to publish the candidates' responses without change. To see who responded to the questionnaire, and to find links to all presidential

candidates, visit <http://www.naeyc.org/policy/presidential/presCanQuestionnaire.asp>

Children can't vote, but you can! What things are important to and for your children? Using your voting power allows you to advocate on

behalf of your children and those in the community. Voting is a great example for your children to follow.

Don't Forget!

October 6th—Deadline to register to vote in Presidential Election

November 4th—Presidential Election

2008 Week of the Young Child By Michelle Crawford



2008 Austin AEYC Award Recipients—Pictured from Left to Right: Kim Kofron, AAEYC President-Elect, Ruth Ann Lastracco, Mabel Pitts Recipient; Larry Elsner, Madeleine Sutherland Recipient; Dr. Timy Baranoff, Jeannette Watson Recipient; Edna Hayes, Sallie Beth Moore Recipient; and Cindy Gamez, AAEYC President

This year's Week of the Young Child Awards Banquet was one of the best ever! It was held at the Hyatt Regency Townlake with a beautiful view of the Austin skyline. Those attending included director and teachers from NAEYC accredited child care centers, NAFCC registered family home providers and all current Austin and Texas Rising Star Providers from the Central Texas Area. The 2008

2008 AAEYC Conference by Karlene Bennett

Our 2008 AAEYC conference on April 19, 2008 was a resounding success, according to the evaluations. We are very grateful to Austin Community College for allowing us to use their facilities once more to train so any child care professionals this year.

Of the 435 teachers and directors who registered for the conference, 362 actually attended sessions offered in 12 classrooms. Session topics fell into 11 categories, including the keynote address on "Loving Guidance" delivered by Jill Molli. She based her dynamic presentation on Becky Bailey's theories about guiding children's behaviors. The keywords were: Connection=Cooperation. The evaluations showed that her interactive keynote address was well received by the audience.

For the first time, we offered a track on Infant and Toddler care, presented by

Cindy, Rodriguez, Executive Director, Raising Austin, and her team of trainers. This track was also a success, according to the evaluations. Other presenters listed on the conference program were well received by the attendees. They were selected to share their expertise, based on needs in the child care community that were identified by the conference committee. Many of them, still very active in the field of child development, traveled from out of town to participate in this educational event.

Our hospitality room, managed by Kim Kofron was very popular with presenters. Several spirited discussions occurred there in-between and after session presentations. All the presenters said that they enjoyed presenting at our conference, and would like to come back next year to do so, so if they were asked.

award winners include an executive director, an administrator, a teacher and a community advocate. All recipients received a commemorative plaque and the beautifully written and illustrated children's book as a thank you from the AAEYC board members for all of their service within the Early Childhood Community. The award recipients have an average of 20+ years of service to the community! In addition to awards, educational grants were also given out to help students with rising tuition costs. Each recipient shows wonderful dedication to children and their continuing education. Thank you for your nominations and we look forward to celebrating with you again in 2009.



2008 Education Grant Recipients—Pictured from Left to Right: Sarah E. Jackson, Marisol Cedillo, Sophia C. Downing and Virginia Flores

Some of the evaluations indicated that we needed more space, more choices and more rooms to accommodate the crowd assembled on April 19th. Thanks to those who enjoyed the conference, in spite of this disappointment. The conference committee has already decided to add more choices and rooms next year so that everyone will feel less crowded in some sessions.

This conference could not have been a success without the hard work of everyone involved in planning the event. Thanks to our outgoing president, Cindy Gamez, who was very supportive of us all as we all eagerly followed her lead during planning sessions. Thanks to all the committee members who did their jobs diligently. We look forward to an even more successful conference next year under the leadership of our new president, Kim Kofron.

AAEYC Professional Development



The Austin AAEYC Board would like to introduce Professional Development Training available to all Austin AEYC members. We introduced the series last year as a pilot program as a way to help local child care directors and teachers have more high quality professional development training opportunities.

The pilot program was so successful that we have decided to continue it again this year! There will be one training in Fall, 2008 and another one in Spring, 2009. There is no cost for current AAEYC members and the cost for non-members is just \$5.00!

The training is immediately after the AAEYC board meeting, which members are always welcome and encouraged to attend. The trainings are from 7 - 9PM at Workforce Solutions off Airport Blvd. Each participant will receive training materials and great information, in addition to the certificate and CEU credits, if needed. Last year's topics included looking at the environments of high quality programs and addressing the physical and social issues

surrounding childhood obesity and how to combat the problem in the early childhood classroom.

This year, we would like to hear from you. If you have a topic that you would like to be to have more information on, please feel free to send an email and let us know. You can send your topic or information request to Michelle Crawford at mrcrawford@familyconnectionsonline.org

In order for the training to meet your professional needs, we need to know what you are interested in discussing. Light snacks and refreshments are served at every training, so come join us for the AAEYC board meeting and stay for the Professional Development Training. Check the AAEYC website for meeting dates. We look forward to seeing you there!

2009 Child Care Directors' Symposium—Round Rock, TX

by Cindy Gamez

Workforce—Greater Austin Area Workforce Board and Rural Capital Area Workforce Development Board will once again hold a Child Care Directors' Symposium in Round Rock, TX at the Marriott North La Frontera on March 6-7, 2009.

The Symposium offers basic to advanced management training for child care center operators, directors, staff and Registered Family Home Providers. Training sessions cover topics including: budgeting, tax information, time management, staff training, supervision, evaluating staff, child care licensing requirements, professionalism, employer/employee rights and responsibilities, and issues regarding opening a child care facility.

The Symposium was developed in 2001 by Workforce and the Rural



Capital Area Workforce Development Board to provide training that would increase the effectiveness of existing child care providers and to support entrepreneurial efforts for new business development in support of the region's growing need for child care.

Grants from the Texas Workforce Commission have provided funding for this event in years past. This year, the two workforce development boards will fund the conference along with support from the City of Austin HHSD, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and local partners.

For more information about the Child Care Directors' Symposium, contact Cindy Gamez at 512-597-7191 ext. 198.

Registration information will be sent January 1, 2009 to all child care providers in Travis and surrounding 9 Rural Capital counties.

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**Proud to be a local affiliate of
NAEYC
www.austinaeyc.org**

Calendar of Events 2008-2009

- 10/16-18 TAEYC Annual Conference—Corpus Christi, TX
- 11/5-8 NAEYC Annual Conference—Dallas, TX
- 3/6-7/2009 Directors' Symposium—Round Rock, TX
- 4/25/2009 AAEYC Annual Conference—ACC Eastview Campus, Austin, TX

Please log on to our website (www.austinaeyc.org) to check dates for future AAEYC Board meeting times and location.

