



The Voice

Speaking Out for Wyoming's Children

WECA Newsletter - August 1, 2008

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Letter from the President

One of my favorite times of year is fast approaching. I always love the fall season when school begins and teachers are re-energized in gathering the latest techniques and strategies for assisting the development of their students. Families and caregivers are returning from vacations, fairs, and other away activities. There begins to be a sense of order and routine in our days.

also the time of our favorite professional development conferences. First the Wyoming Early Childhood Association's Fall Conference – "Connecting Our Stories" to be held at Casper College – Roberts Commons on October 3-4; and then we're off to Dallas for the NAEYC Annual Conference on November 4-8. We hope you are all getting excited about the opportunities.

This year we are privileged to have **Opalanga Pugh**, a storyteller that provides inspiration and builds bridges as our Saturday keynote speaker. She will also provide a breakout session. **Rick and Audry** are an entertain duo from the DC area that will kick off the conference on Friday night with our free, open to the public session: *Imagine That!* A Sing-Along Celebration. The luncheon and membership meeting will surround **Gwen Simmons**, NAEYC Director of Affiliate Relations as she speaks on the Essential Spider Rule – a personal journey in early childhood.

We hope you will all plan to join us for this exciting and enriching experience. See you in Casper!

Mary Marie Smith – WECA President

State Council Update

The Affiliate Council of NAEYC met for an all day meeting on June 7, 2008 in New Orleans, LA. We had a business meeting in the morning and then a very informative presentation on the NAEYC Interest Forums in the afternoon.

Part of the business meeting Gwen Simmons gave a report from the NAEYC Affiliate Relations office. Included in her report was a description of the money NAEYC spent in the last year in to help support state and local affiliates. The amount was close to \$300,000. This support is provided through technical assistance, monthly leadership calls, travel stipends for affiliate representatives, liability insurance and value of membership grants, to name a few.

Wyoming has benefited from the travel stipends and is always represented at the Affiliate Council meeting, as well as the technical assistance program. This year our technical assistance points were used support our new strategic plan and to strengthen WECA's use of technology. We have redesigned our website to make it more interactive and up to date. It looks great and as we continue to add to the site we hope it will be much more useful for WECA members. You are also seeing our technical assistance points used well as you read this newsletter via the internet.

Thanks to the support from NAEYC we will be able to provide this paperless form of THE VOICE to you each quarter.

The Interest Forum Presentation (PowerPoint presentations by Dr. William Strader, Facilitator, NAEYC Student Interest Forum Facilitator, and Dr. Walter Drew, NAEYC Play, Policy and Practice Interest Forum Facilitator) in the afternoon was very informative and offered some great ideas how State Affiliates can work with Interest Forms to expand and enrich the services that are being made for children, families and the people who work with them in each of our states.

It was great food for thought and it reminded me of how the interest forums add a great dimension for all NAEYC members by providing networking and learning opportunities for people involved in specialized areas within the umbrella of NAEYC. If you have never checked out the list of interest forums in the Members Only portion of the NAEYC website I urge you to do so. It really opens your network of peers and makes available opportunities that go beyond the boundaries of Wyoming.

It was always great to network with other NAEYC Affiliate Representatives during the meeting in New Orleans. I am

ys amazed how much each of our state affiliates have in common and how much we can learn from each other. Thank you WECA for giving me the honor of representing you at these meetings.

- Betsy Carlin, WECA Past-President and Affiliate Delegate

Student Chapter News

Student chapters are on vacation. If you attend University of Wyoming or one of the many Community Colleges, please let us know about being part of a student chapter by contacting Peggy Marie Smith, President – grammiepa@tetontel.com or Lisa Follari, Student Council Board Representative – lfollari@excite.com

Treasurer's Take

WECA Budget

The WECA board adopts a one-year budget each spring. The fiscal year 2009 budget (July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009) is \$42,960. The annual WECA conference is the largest piece of both the revenue and expense. Membership is the second largest revenue piece of the budget consisting of a portion of your membership dues to NAEYC that is passed on to WECA to operate the organization.

Membership Services expenses include the cost to distribute four issues of the newsletter, Week of the Young Child, regional representative supplies, and other costs for membership committee activities. Board Expenses include the cost of bringing the state-wide board together 2-3 times annually to conduct association business, the cost of a contract for administrative services, and public relations activities.

Professional Development budget provides opportunities for those in leadership positions to attend NAEYC events, the NAEYC Conference, Professional Development Institute, and leadership conferences. The cost of liability insurance, an annual review of the organizations financials by an independent accounting firm, and other costs to operate the WECA are included in the General Operating category.

WECA has established a finance committee and is seeking participation by interested WECA members. The committee will review financial reports, assist in budget preparation, fund raising opportunities, and other related activities. Most meetings can be by telephone or e-mail, so the position does not require a lot of travel. If you are interested or would like additional information please contact the WECA Treasurer, Teresa Williams, at (307) 673-0067, extension 222.

Board ByLaws Update

Please review the proposed changes to the [by-laws](#) highlighted in red. The purpose of these changes is to expedite the movement of members in the Board by changing the term lengths and the rotation of officers. The Board has approved these changes to be brought before the membership for a vote. You will be receiving a ballot soon.

From Around the State

West Region: Barbara Burrough – lbburrough@wyoming.com

North Region: Debi Dawe – dawesome@bresnan.net

North Basin is off and running with many sizzling summer programs in full swing. Both Cody & Powell took a break from months of work to be able to enjoy fun & sun with the kiddos they work with.

We would like to extend our sympathy to Betty Carmon and her family on the loss for her husband. Betty has always been a key part of our area training. Our thoughts got out to her.

With gas prices are high so I want to encourage all providers to use the Work Force Services funds to help you get to what ever class or training or continued education which will help you be the best for the kids in your care, especially the WECA Conference – Oct. 3-4. Wishing you all a fun, healthy & safe summer.

River Region: Chandra Nettles – cnettles@bresnan.net

West Region: Tammy Wentz – sweetmomma5@msn.com

In our region I have been working on making contacts for new members and renewing members who have lapsed. With the fair weather we are having up it will be a good time to see people that normally are hard to make contact with. A plan is being devised to recruit hospital volunteers for conference. Anyone with ideas for this or who would like to help out please contact me.

Consider, if you can try to make it the Stand & Celebrate conference August 1 & 2, 2008 in Casper. There will be awesome early childhood educator & motivational speaker "The Ooey Gooey Lady", Lisa Murphy. She has many ideas on all aspects of early childhood. We saw her here last year at NAEYC in Chicago and I am so excited to see her coming to Wyoming. A great way to plan & inspire your family for children is thinking these words by Lisa Murphy "What if today was there only day?" Wishing you all a great summer.

East Region: Andrea Sears – searsandrea@yahoo.com

The Sundance Rod and Gun Club's annual kid's fishing derby was held on Saturday June 14, 2008 at Sundance. As usual, kids were treated to a number of prizes along with a free lunch and a great day of fishing.

The Child Development Center in Gillette, a St. Jude Trike-A-Thon was held that included children and their families. This event was held on June 19th. 100 people participated in the event. Safe Kids Wyoming donated helmets for the occasion.

Check off the week of the young child Sheridan YMCA held a healthy kids day. To finish the week, the Sheridan College held their 10th Annual Literacy Festival on April 19th. They had a great turn out.

There were plays, games, free toys, art, and physical activities for the child and the families to participate in. Childcares in Sheridan participated in the Children as Artists Reception and Main Street Stroll. The children created artwork at the childcare centers that was displayed and they created why each child was special. Then they took their families and strolled down town to enjoy their artwork and to eat cookies.

Central Region: We are seeking a new Regional Representative from the Casper area. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please email Peggy Marie Smith, President – grammiepa@tetontel.com

South Plains Region: Scott Moncrief – Smoncrie@lccc.wy.edu

On June 7, the Eastern Plains Region in conjunction with the Wyoming Community Foundation hosted a training entitled: CREATING A THERAPEUTIC LEARNING ENVIRONMENT. Topics include structuring the classroom environment, behavior management, and classroom management. The session was presented by Martha Nesslinger, MA, LPC and Michelle A. Worden, MS,

LPC. Feedback from the original training was excellent. The training is available by DVD. Please contact your local WECA representative or Wyoming Children's Action Alliance for more information. STARS training hours are available.

West Region: CaSandra Clark – casandraclark@hotmail.com

Friend of the Young Child

Friend of the Young Child was held this year from April 13 – 19th. It is a time that we recognize the needs of young children and we have adults involved in their education and care. Research shows that high-quality early childhood programs help children, especially children from families with low incomes, develop the skills they need to succeed in their education and throughout their lives. By bringing these programs together for the children it has resulted in children bringing Wyoming together!

At the State Fair on April 12th at the Central Wyoming Fairgrounds Industrial Building, they had thirty booths for children with an estimated 800 people.

At the Camp Complex on April 5th, they had approximately 2500 people. Both large events were a great success. Other events were done in the classrooms and at child care centers and homes.

All young children deserve the best that we can give them. If your area had an event or if you have pictures of an event, contact Pam Stevens at pstevens@bresnan.net.

Member Moments

Member Moments – Maggie Viani – mviani@fremont38.k12.wy.us

September 1st, 2008, our Regular Membership Rate will increase from \$45 to \$50.

As an Affiliate of NAEYC, we keep only a portion of your membership dues. NAEYC uses part of your dues for their programs and activities, which supports the early childhood profession on the national scene. This \$5 increase will remain in Wyoming to cover our share with the costs of operating the affiliate office, supporting the work of the WECA Board, maintaining our website, printing and mailing our newsletter and organizing and preparing for the State Conference every fall. As costs rise, we want you to know that we appreciate your membership now more than ever.

Member News

Each year WECA strives to honor members that have given outstanding contributions to children, the WECA organization and the early childhood community. We have three categories:

- Early Childhood Professional of the Year
- K-3 Teacher of the Year
- Friend of the Young Child

Nominations are sought from WECA members throughout the state. Final selection will be done by the Executive Committee of the WECA Board. Please click here for more information and to submit a nomination form.

Board Officer Elections:

There are three positions open on the Board for the 2009-2011 terms:

President-Elect – [This person will move in as President January 2010] for a total term of three years.

VP of Programs – This is currently a vacant position; term is three years.

VP of Public Policy – This position is currently held by Ann Robinson, who completes her term at the end of 2008. Term is three years.

There are two appointed committee chair positions open:

Public Relations Chair – This person chairs a committee to assist with the publicity and communication for the organization in collaboration with the Board.

Newsletter Chair – This person chairs a committee that gathers, formats, and possibly writes articles for the new newsletter four times a year. Most contributions are assigned to various Board members. This person would be the liaison with our newsletter representative at NAEYC

Appointed Regional Representative for East Central Region which is Natrona County is being sought.

We also would like to form Regional Committees throughout the state.

WECA member that is interested should email Peggy Marie Smith, President grammiepa@tetontel.com

Important Dates:

August 1-2: DFS Stand and Celebrate – Casper Event Center

August 11-13: Annual Early Intervention and Education Conference.. The conference is going to be held in Cheyenne at the Hitching Post, August 11th – 13th.

August 19: DEADLINE: Applying for DWS scholarship grants for attending WECA Conference. Go to <http://wyqualitycounts.org/doc/grants-application-instruction.doc>

September 7: Nominations for WECA Special Awards due.

September 12: EARLY BIRD registration deadline

September 19: Hotel deadline for Block Rate See Conference Flyer for Hotels and Numbers)

October 3-4: WECA 28th Annual Conference – "Connecting Our Stories" at Casper College-Roberts Community & Student Center – Casper, WY. See WECA Professional Development for details and www.wyeca.org for flyer registration.

November 4-7: NAEYC Annual Conference in Dallas, Texas. Go to www.naeyc.org for information.

WECA Link: www.naeyc.org

Board

The board currently consists of seven elected officers and eight appointed regional representative. Also serving are chairs of various committees. We are always looking for more involvement from members across the state. Please email your interest to the Board members to get you involved.

WECA BOARD - E 2008							
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	First	Last	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip	Email
President	Betsy	Carlin	PO Box 428	Jackson	WY	83001	Bcarlin@tetonhospital.org
President	Peggy Marie	Smith	PO Box 1124	Victor	ID	83455	grammiepa@tetontel.com
Secretary	Jackie	Immel	PO Box 2455	Casper	WY	82602	exdir@wyoming.com
Treasurer	Teresa	Williams	1325 DeSmet Ave.	Sheridan	WY	82801	sheridancf@wyoming.com
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Public Policy	Ann	Robinson	1923 Grass Creek Rd	Casper	WY	82604	agrobinson@bresnan.net
Membership	Maggie	Viani	750 Lincoln	Lander	WY	82520	mviani@fremont38.k12.wy.us
Regional Representatives							
Northwest	Barbara	Burrough	PO Box 363	Pinedale	WY	82941	lbburrough@wyoming.com
Big Horn	Debi	Dawe	1502 26 Street	Cody	WY	82414	dawesome@bresnan.net
Wind River	Chandra	Nettles	1226 Washington	Riverton	WY	82501	cnettles@bresnan.net
Southwest	Tammy	Wentz	1700 Swanson Drive #243	Rock Springs	WY	82901	sweetmomma5@msn.com
Northeast	Andrea	Sears	370 E. Loucks	Sheridan	WY	82801	searsandrea@yahoo.com
East Central	VACANT			Casper	WY		-
Eastern Plains	Scott	Moncrief	1400 E. College Dr.	Cheyenne	WY	82007	Smoncrie@lccc.wy.edu
Southeast	CaSandra	Clark	PO Box 584	Laramie	WY	82073	casandraclark@hotmail.com
Education	Claire	Venn	1211 Garden Creek	Casper	WY	82601	Parents609@aol.com
YC Chair	Pam	Stevens	545 Fremont St	Thermopolis	WY	82443	mpstevens@bresnan.net
Public Rel. Chair	VACANT						-
Newsletter Chair	VACANT						-
Parent Chapter	Lissana	Follari	P. O. Box 1500	Sheridan	WY	82801	lfollari@excite.com

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