

Ozark Association for the Education of Young Children
Summer 2008

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Note from the President

Submitted By: President, Ashlee Davis

June 3, 2008



I would like to take a moment to introduce myself to those of you who may not know me. I am a director for the Tiger STRIPES before and after school program in the Republic R-III school district and a graduate of the MSU Child and Family Development program. I have been an active member of OAEYC for 5 years and I am very excited to be your new President. Along with my years of experience in the early childhood field I am bringing a new spin to OAEYC by broadening our focus to include those who care and work with school-age children. OAEYC's first big experience with this was our partnership with the Missouri State University Learning Connection's Spring Seminar. With a lot of hard work by not only Kim Roam, past-president and child care trainer with the Learning Connection, and the OAEYC board we were able to offer a whole training trac on working with school-age children. It was a huge success! The scope of NAEYC is the focus of early childhood birth through age eight. I think that sometimes we spend so much time focusing on the birth – five year olds that we forget about those K-2nd graders. My main goal for my term as President is to increase our member involvement. Right now we 165 members in our affiliate, but only about 10% are actively involved. If you are one those members who have not had a chance to become involved, but might be interested we would love to have you.

I look forward to working with you on behalf of the children and families in Southwest Missouri.

Until next time...Keep Advocating for Missouri's Youngest Children!

Ashlee Davis, President

Inside this issue:

A Message from the
Past President p. 2

Committee update p.3

Executive Committee p.
4

Staff Appreciation Arti-
cle p. 5

MSU Student Group p.
7

Candle Light Vigil & /
Relay for Life p. 7

Note from the Past President

Submitted By: Past President, Kim Roam

Dear Fellow OAEYC Members,

Well, This will be my last set of notes to you as OAEYC President, as my term is over! Ashlee Davis is now the President of OAEYC, I know she had great ideas to help enhance our efforts on behalf of children, families and early childhood professionals.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter there were many things going on in April.

- * We had over 200 child care professionals attending the Early Years are Learning Years Spring Seminar, in addition to many agencies and presenters who helped make this annual event a success!
- * We had great media coverage focusing on the Candle Light Vigil. The evening was winding and cold, but had a nice turn out. I would like to thank BACA (Bikers Against Child Abuse) for attending the vigil.
- * I would like to thank Maricia Hildebrand, Amber Norris, Joanna Cemore, Ashley Helms and Julie Wubenna for helping with our area. It was a great day and had contact with many children and families.
- * The Child Care Provider Appreciation Banquet was wonderful! Nancy Weggee was there and helped get us motivated. Her message was well received by all!
- * Our Relay for Life Team, met our goal and raised \$5,000.00. If you are interested in joining us next year we would love to have you on our team! We are going to begin fundraising for the next relay soon! We compiled some art and sensory ideas and put them in a form of booklet, if you are interested we can still get one to you, they are \$5.00 and the money goes towards Relay for Life.

Until next time...continue making a difference in the lives of children and families!

Kim

Membership Committee Update

Submitted By: Amber Terrill, Committee Chair

**The OAEYC Membership Committee would like to
welcome our new members:**

Melissa Corporon, Mary Ruth Londe, Laurie Ruckman, Threasa Shepherd,
Nikki Tappana, Ashley Crouch, Sheryl Hernandez, Pam Kay, Jessica
McCrary, Jeanne Najafi, Monica Rook, Katherine Thornton

We are looking forward to seeing you at meetings and events!

Norris701@gmail.com

Don't Forget to Update Your Information on the Web!!!!

Updating is easy anytime on-line by visiting the NAEYC website at www.naeyc.org. Once your on the website, simply access the "Members Only" section, log in, and make the necessary changes.

To continue receiving information please go on-line and provide us with a valid e-mail address.



The OAEYC Executive Committee wants to hear from YOU!

- Is there an activity or event that you the members feel OAEYC should be involved in?
- Do you have suggestions that would help make OAEYC more enticing to members who are not involved or to those who are not yet members?
- Do you have ideas for ways that we can better serve you?
- Were you once actively involved but no longer attend meetings, events, etc?

If you answered “Yes” to any of these questions we want to hear from you! The executive committee believes that in order to effectively govern an organization you need input from your members. So we are asking for yours. Many of our Board and more active members have kept OAEYC going for many years, but we want to know what we can do or what it will take to get some new professionals in our ring.

If you have any comments, suggestions, or ideas please let us know what you feel by emailing Ashlee Davis, President (ashleefdavis@gmail.com)

Names of those who respond will be kept confidential, what you have to say is what's important.

Thanks!

The OAEYC Executive Committee

How One Ozark Child Care Center Shows Appreciation

Submitted by Joanna J. Cemore

Missouri State Student Community Group - Faculty Advisor

Last fall I wrote about my experiences as a preschool teacher and the impact appreciative gestures shown to me affected my everyday thoughts about my career. I also asked all of you to send in ideas on how you show your teachers and staff appreciation. This month I am focusing on the University Child Care Center in Springfield.

Jennifer Crouch, the center's director, shared three ways her teachers and staff are supported.

- * Parents and others give staff verbal feedback. This is something so easy, yet it easy to forget to do.
- * Every couple of weeks Jennifer writes a note of appreciation to a different staff member. She's always "amazed at how much a little note can make someone's day."
- * They have "thumbs-up" slips in our staff room. Staff can write down something they appreciate about another staff member or something they see another staff member doing well, etc. These get turned into the director. The staff member who has the most thumbs-up each month gets a prize at that months' staff meeting. It helps staff remember to encourage each other and helps build some community among staff.

A new way that the University Child Care Center is dedicated to teacher/staff appreciation is their "Employee of the Month" program. Initiated this May, Lesia, the assistant director, was the first to receive this honor. Lesia told parents, board members, and co-workers "I deeply appreciate all the 'gifts' that were handed out for employee of the month. My favorite thing was the cards, the one from the staff and the one from the Board. The things written in them really touched me and made me feel good."

Would you like to implement something similar in your center? At the University Child Care Center the Employee of the Month receives the following:

- * Their picture will be posted on an "Employee of the Month" bulletin board along with the comments from the people who nominated them.
- * Teacher Grab Bag (fun little surprises)
- * One hour paid lunch break during which the employee can leave the center
- * \$10.00 gift card to use for lunch
- * \$20.00 IPA Educational Supply gift certificate
- * Gift certificate for a manicure

Remember that small gifts given with thought are the most appreciated. Above you see all the things this particular employee received and yet she still found the individual notes of appreciation the most gratifying. Go out and let someone know how much their dedication matters!

"No one who achieves success does so without acknowledging the help of others. The wise and confident acknowledge this help with gratitude." ~Author Unknown

**From the MSU Student Group:
NAEYC Conference in Chicago
November 7th-10th 2007**

This past year a couple of us from the MSU-AEYC group got a chance to go to Chicago to attend the NAEYC conference. It was such a great experience. We got to see and talk to some of the special presenters such as Ella Jenkins and Greg & Steve. There was a huge marketplace area that had tons of different exhibits including Insect Lore, Scholastic, Discount School Supply and more. There were so many things that were given away free too! Our arms were always tired by the end of each day!

One of my favorite parts though was the student networking group presentations. It was so nice to be able to talk with and meet students from all around the world who are going into similar fields. Many of the students who came to the student networking group did a T-shirt exchange where everyone brought a shirt from their schools and traded with one another. It was great to be able to see where everyone came from!

Some of the presentations we attended that were made specifically for students included 'Secrets to Becoming a Great Teacher' where we learned about different tools and tips for teaching, 'Let's all Play Nice', where we learned how to use social and emotional strategies to avoid negative behaviors, and 'Smart Art', where we learned about creative art ideas. Discount School Supply provided us with all the materials so we could all do the art projects!

There was also a student interest forum that we got to be a part of. All of the students got together to talk about what things we wanted to see in next years conference; what things we liked and what things we didn't. It was great to know our opinions were counting and helping to make future NAEYC conferences fun for students too.

Since our nights were free we got to do plenty of site seeing around Chicago! It was a fabulous experience and I hope to go this year to the conference in Dallas!

Katie Perkins

MSU-AEYC President

Candle Light Vigil

We would like to thank B.A.C.A (Bikers Against Child Abuse), CASA (Court Approved Special Advocate) , and Carla Sandwell for being our special guests and speakers for this years Candle Light Vigil. We were able to get some great media coverage for the event.

If you would like to see pictures from this event. Email Kim Roam @kimroam@missouristate.edu and she will be happy to send you pictures.

Friends Fighting for Friends!

2008 Relay for Life of Springfield

May 16 - 17, 2008

This years relay was a huge success! Most of us made it all night, *without* sleep!

We had a great time for such an important cause!

The OAEY Relay for Life team reached their goal of \$5,000.00! We would like to thank everyone who donated money or purchased one of our recipe/idea books to help us reach our goal. Mr. Mark from the MSU Child Development Center helped us celebrate by having his beard shaved off! Thanks to Sharon from "A Barber Shop!"

We are beginning to think about the 2009 Relay, if you would like to be involved just let us know and we will be happy to get you the information.

Again, if you would like to see pictures from the Relay for Life, let Kim Roam know and she will be happy to send pictures to you!
(Kimroam@missouristate.edu)

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OAEYC is an Affiliate of
AEYC-MO, Midwest AEYC,
and NAEYC

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