

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

December 2017

President's Message



Judy Simpson
St. Louis, MO

Thank you so much for the privilege of being your President for the past two years. We accomplished a lot; made application with NAEYC to become affiliated directly with them during the restructuring process, updated our Bylaws to further our progress toward becoming the HPIO (High Performing

Inclusive Organization) organization that we want to be, and look forward to developing our services to members.

I thank you and look forward to working with you and our Board as Past President.

Judy Simpson

President-Elect's Welcome



Michelle Mathews
Columbia, MO

I am honored to be your incoming President. I look forward to getting to know more of you, and your interests and concerns, in the coming year. I have been a life-long resident of Missouri and a member of NAEYC and Missouri AEYC since 1990, when

I was encouraged to join as a college student. I am including my contact information in this welcome letter. You can reach me at MathewsM@Missouri.edu, or my phone number is (314) 623-4679. If we know one another, please reach out and email or text so we can re-connect. If we do not know one another, please reach out and introduce yourself. I would like to know what is on your mind, what is in your heart, and how we can work together to make our profession even stronger.

Given the climate in which we live and work,

it is more important than ever for us to come together, support one another, and build each other up so that we can better support the children and families we serve. I would like to take this time to remind you to take a look at our Vision, Mission, Core values and Beliefs, which can be found on our [website](#).

Thank you very much for your membership in MOAEOYC. I look forward to joining together to support all of those who work on behalf of young children and their families.

Michelle Mathews

Missouri Association for the Education of Young Children

An Affiliate of **naeyc**

MISSION

Our Mission is to promote high quality learning for all children, birth through 8, by connecting practice, policy and research. We advance a diverse, dynamic early childhood profession and support all who care for, educate, and work on behalf of young children.

Inside this issue:

- > President's Message
- > President Elect's Welcome
- > Changes in Structure
- > New Mission/Vision Statements
- > CYY T Shirts
- > Conferences in MO 2016-2017
- > Advocacy Handbook
- > Advocacy Day 2017
- > NAEYC Accreditation
- > Bylaws Revisions
- > Public Policy Update
- > KRT Leadership Scholarship
- > Elections 2017
- > Director's Credential
- > Membership Report
- > Financial Report
- > Board of Directors 2016-2017
- > Calendar 2017-2018

FROM:



TO:



Missouri Association for the Education of Young Children

“ On Jan 24, 2017 the NAEYC Governing Board approve the application , and MOAEOYC became an official Affiliate of NAEYC.”

An Affiliate
of **naeyc**

Changes in Structure

Over the past year many decisions and actions have occurred across the state, as AEYC-MO and its four Affiliate Chapters worked to become one Affiliate under the new directives coming out of the National Dialogue. The first step in this transitional piece was for each of the five then Affiliates (AEYC-MO, Central AEYC, Ozarks AEYC, Mid-America AEYC and Rivers Bend AEYC) to determine if they would apply to become an NAEYC Affiliate, or elect to be a chapter under another affiliate. In order to become an NAEYC Affiliate, there were several criteria that had to meet. This included:

- A minimum annual budget and reserves
- Minimum part-time staff
- A commitment to membership recruitment and retention targets
- NAEYC mission, vision, and brand identity
- Comply with HPIO principles
- Brand identity

After each Affiliate Chapter reviewed the NAEYC requirements as well as their specific assets, goals, needs, and desires to operate with less “business” requirements, the four Affiliate Chapters all chose to become new MOAEOYC Chapters. In doing so, they understood that all of the “business” requirements would then fall under the MOAEOYC organizations responsibilities.

Once all of the individual groups had made their decisions, the AEYC-MO Board worked diligently to meet all of the criteria to meet the 17 requirements on the application. This included updating bylaws, making formal name changes and developing guidelines and contracts for the chapters they would be supporting and overseeing in the new structure.

On Aug 30, 2016, MOAEOYC made formal application to NAEYC to become the Affiliate in MO, with multiple chapters operating under their board. In November the board was noti-

fied that all supporting documents had been received and reviewed, and they were being recommended to the NAEYC Governing Board for approval. On Jan 24, 2017 the NAEYC Governing Board did approve the application, and MOAEOYC became an official Affiliate of NAEYC.

Since the approval , a Charter Agreement has been signed between MOAEOYC and NAEYC, and Chapter agreements have been signed between MOAEOYC and the current MO chapters.

In addition to these structural changes, many “new” things have happened including:

- One website for all .
- New logos for all
- New branding colors
- New email address for MOAEOYC and all chapters
- Revised Face Book Pages for all
- Common Mission, Vision and Values statements with ALL NAEYC groups around the world

Mission, Vision, Values Statement

Vision Statement

All young children thrive and learn in a society dedicated to ensuring they reach their full potential.

Mission Statement

NAEYC promotes high-quality early learning for all children, birth through age 8, by connecting practice, policy, and research. We advance a diverse, dynamic early childhood profession and support all who care for, educate, and work on behalf of young children.

Values and Beliefs

Our core values are defined in the NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct and are deeply rooted in the early childhood profession. In addition, we seek to be a high-performing, inclusive organization that is enriched by and continually grows from our commitment to diversity, as embodied by our core beliefs.

FROM OLD LOOK



www.rbaeyc.org



www.aeyc-mo.org



www.mid-americaaeyc.org



www.cmaeyc.org



www.oaeyc-mo.org

TO NEW LOOK

OZARKS CHAPTER

moaeyc

Missouri Association for the Education of Young Children

MID MO FAMILY CHILD CARE NETWORK CHAPTER

moaeyc

Missouri Association for the Education of Young Children

moaeyc

Missouri Association for the Education of Young Children

www.moaeyc.org

RIVERS BEND CHAPTER

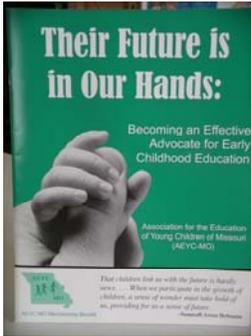
moaeyc

Missouri Association for the Education of Young Children

GREATER KANSAS CITY CHAPTER

moaeyc

Missouri Association for the Education of Young Children



MOAIEYC Advocacy Handbook

Their Future is in Our Hands: Becoming an Effective Advocate for Early Childhood Education

This book is a brilliant introduction to the legislative process in Missouri, and is a must-read for every advocate

who seeks a fully-funded early childhood system in our state.

Edited by Michelle Mathews and Denise Mauzy and dedicated to Dr. Kathy R. Thornburg and Dr. Peggy Pearl, this is the only guide specific to early child-

hood advocacy in Missouri.

Books can be purchased online through the MOAIEYC website <http://www.moaeyc.org>, in the “shop” section. Books sell for \$12.00 each plus \$3.00 shipping and handling.



Child Advocacy Day 2017

The 35th annual Missouri Child Advocacy Day was held on April 3, 2017 and sponsored by the Missouri Alliance for Children, Youth and Families. The event brought supporters from across the state, where participants attended workshops on advocacy

and issues. They also attended a rally and lobbied for more attention to young children by reminding legislatures to be mindful of budget cuts that hurt the youth of our state.

Mark your calendars now for the next Child

Advocacy Day which will be Tuesday April 3, 2018 in Jefferson City.

More information is available on the Child Advocacy Day website www.childadvocacyday.org, or “like” the Child Advocacy Face Book page for ongoing updates.

AEYC-MO Provides Conference T-Shirts for CYY

“The Power of Words” was the theme of the 43rd annual Conference on the Young Years, which was hosted by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education-Early Learning on March 9-11, 2017 at Tan-Tar-A in Osage Beach, MO.

AEYC-MO was pleased to partner with DESE again and offer the CYY

conference t-shirt. With over 1000 early childhood professionals in attendance, we were able to establish a strong presence and welcome back returning customers for the 7th year in a row.

In addition we were able to provide information on NAEYC membership, the Missouri Director Credential, NAEYC

publications, and copies of our Public Policy Platform

We appreciate this opportunity to meet new professionals, see old friends, share information, and welcome new members.

Mark your calendars for March 8-10, 2018, when DESE will once again host CYY, and where we will be selling t-shirts.



NAEYC Accreditation and Missouri Centers

Congratulations to the 23 facilities in Missouri that have worked hard and successfully achieved NAEYC Accreditation in the 2016-2017 fiscal year. We currently have 117 facilities in Missouri that maintain Accreditation.

A complete list of those can be found on the NAEYC website. Hopefully, each will renew their accreditation, and ideally new centers will pursue accreditation as we strive to continue improving quality programming for children

and families in Missouri.

The 23 newly accredited (or renewing) facilities are listed below. Congratulations and thanks. You are making a difference in the lives of children and families every day!



Creative Expressions Learning Center, Eureka	76 Legends Pkwy	Eureka
KinderCare Learning Center	1900 Zumbahl Road	St. Charles
University School for Young Children, Southeast MO State Univ.	2089 Bessie Street	Cape Girardeau
Urban League Head Start - Jennings	8964 Jennings Station Road	Saint Louis
Callaway Child and Family Development Center	1600 Westminster	Fulton
Interserv's Early Care and Education at Mitchell Woods	5210 Mitchell Avenue	Saint Joseph
Willilams Family Support Center for Families	801 East Breckenridge	Mexico
Worley Head Start	1402 Worley St.	Columbia
Goodvibe School	7530 Maryland Avenue	Clayton
Radiant Faith Academy	5314 West Florissant Avenue	Saint Louis
KinderCare Learning Center	5900 NW Prairie View Road	Kansas City
Countryside Montessori School	12226 Ladue Road	Creve Coeur

Clay Early Childhood Development and Parenting Education Center	Harris-Stowe State University	St. Louis
Woods Chapel KinderCare	821 NW Woods Chapel Drive	Blue Springs
Kiddie Academy of Des Peres	13133 Manchester Road	Des Peres
KinderCare	1404 South 7 Highway	Blue Springs
Ervin Early Learning Center	10530 Greenwood Road	Kansas City
Freda Markley Early Childhood Center	9201 East Bannister Road	Kansas City
Kindercare Learning Center	3107 Cook Road	Saint Joseph
Kindercare Learning Center	8643 Raytown Road	Raytown
Chouteau & Parvin KinderCare	3760 N Jackson Avenue	Kansas City
Springfield Public Schools MPP	2757 E Division Street	Springfield
Catholic Diocese of Kansas City - Saint Joseph	519 North 10th Street	St. Joseph

AEYC 2016 Conferences in Missouri

The 8th annual MOAEYC Conference, "Growing Missouri's Leaders", was planned for the fall of 2016 in Columbia, MO. Due to low registration, the conference was cancelled.

The Rivers Bend Affiliate Chapter held its annual two day Leadership and Curriculum Conference on April 7-8, 2017, with over 300 people attending the event. Many presenters shared very

valuable knowledge in over 50 breakout sessions.

The Ozarks Affiliate Chapter also sponsored their annual one day mini-conference in Springfield last June.

Three AEYC related conferences were offered in Missouri during 2016-2017

Bylaws Revisions-Approved Aug 2016

As previously explained, several revisions had to be made in the old bylaws to bring them into compliance with the NAEYC requirements for Affiliation. Those main areas were naming and branding, Mission & Vision Statements, membership categories and dues, as well as Chapter Status. The board approved the revisions in July and then sent them to the membership for approval in Aug 2016. All sections of the bylaws now reference the name MOAEOYC as well.		
	OLD BYLAWS	REVISIONS (<i>Bold Italics</i>)
ARTICLE I.	<p>Name The name of this organization shall be the Association for the Education of Young Children of Missouri (AEYC-MO).</p>	<p>Name The name of this organization shall be the Association for the Education of Young Children of Missouri (AEYC-MO) <i>doing business as the Missouri Association for the Education of Young Children (MOAEOYC).</i></p>
ARTICLE III.	<p>Mission, Vision and Purposes</p> <p>Section 3.1 Mission Statement. AEYC-MO, an organization for early childhood professionals, fosters excellence in early childhood systems and programs through advocacy, education and professional development.</p> <p>Section 3.2 Vision Statement. Missouri invests in early childhood education to ensure that every child is prepared for and succeeds in school.</p>	<p>Mission, Vision and Purpose</p> <p>Section 3.1 Mission Statement. <i>MOAEOYC, an organization for early childhood professionals, promotes high-quality early learning for all children, birth through age 8, by connecting practice, policy, and research. We advance a diverse, dynamic early childhood profession and support all who care for, educate, and work on behalf of young children.</i></p> <p>Section 3.2 Vision Statement. <i>Missouri AEYC believes that all young children thrive and learn in a society dedicated to ensuring they reach their full potential.</i></p>
ARTICLE IV.	<p>Members</p> <p>Section 4.2 Levels of Membership. All members of AEYC-MO are also members of a local affiliate chapter, Midwest AEYC Regional Alliance, and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and are entitled to the rights and privileges of membership consistent with the membership categories of those respective associations.</p> <p>Section 4.3 Classes of Members. The classes of members shall be Comprehensive Affiliate, Regular Affiliate, and Student Affiliate. The Board shall have the authority to establish additional classes of members.</p> <p>Section 4.4 Dues. Membership dues shall be determined by the Board. Any member who fails to pay his or her dues for the current membership year within three (3) months of its start shall automatically be expelled as a member of the Association.</p> <p>Section 4.5 Annual Meeting, Quorum, Voting. The annual meeting of the members of the Association shall be held during the annual conference of the Association at such place as the Board may determine. The membership shall be informed by mail, fax, telephone, or other means of electronic communication of the date and place of the meeting no later than four (4) weeks prior to the meeting. A quorum shall be members from a majority of Affiliate Chapters.</p> <p>Section 4.6 Chapter Status. A group of at least 50 members may seek status as an affiliate chapter through documentation that standards, as defined by NAEYC, have been met, and with the approval of the AEYC-MO Board of direc-</p>	<p>Members</p> <p>Section 4.2 Levels of Membership. <i>All members of NAEYC may choose to become a member of MOAEOYC Association, and are entitled to the rights and privileges of membership consistent with the membership categories of those respective Associations.</i></p> <p>Section 4.3 Classes of Members. <i>The classes of members shall be Entry, Standard, Premium and Family, as defined by NAEYC.</i></p> <p>Section 4.4 Dues. <i>Membership dues will be determined by NAEYC.</i> Any member who fails to pay his or her dues for the current membership year within three (3) months of its start shall be removed as a member of the Association.</p> <p>Section 4.5 Annual Meeting. Quorum, Voting. The annual meeting of the members of the Association shall be held during the annual conference of the Association at such place as the Board may determine. The membership shall be informed by mail, fax, telephone, or other means of electronic communication of the date and place of the meeting no later than four (4) weeks prior to the meeting. <i>A majority of the members present will constitute a quorum for conducting business at the annual meeting.</i></p> <p>Section 4.6 Chapter Status. <i>A group of a minimum of 3 MO-AEYC members may petition the Board to become a Chapter of Missouri AEYC, through documentation that standards, as defined by NAEYC, have been met, and with the approval of the MO-AEYC Board of directors</i></p>

<p>ARTICLE V</p>	<p>Governing Body Section 5.3 Composition The Board shall consist of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected officers—President, President-Elect or Past President, Vice President, Secretary, and <i>Treasurer</i> elected by the membership of the Association. • Executive Director of the Association who shall serve as a non-voting <i>ex officio</i> member of the Board. • Appointed positions—NAEYC Affiliate Council Representative, Outreach and Support Chair, Student Representative(s), Program Quality: Public Policy Chair(s), Student Representatives, Student Initiative Liaison, and Parliamentarian. • Committee Chairs—chosen from among the Board members. • Four at-large Regional Affiliate Chapter Representatives, one from each Affiliate Chapter, appointed by the state Board for two-year terms in odd years. • Four Affiliate Chapter Representative positions, elected by Affiliate Chapter members for two-year terms in even years. <p>No officer shall serve more than two consecutive terms in the same position with the exception of the Treasurer working closely with the Accountant/ bookkeeping firm hired by the Association.</p> <p>Section 5.5 Quorum and Voting A simple majority of the Board members present at a meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.</p> <p>Section 5.8 Executive Committee The Executive Committee shall be charged with carrying out the functions of the Board between meetings of the Board, and the actions of the Executive Committee shall be acts of the Board. The Executive Committee shall consist of the five principal officers of the Association, the Association's Executive Director and the Parliamentarian. The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the President or, at the written request of three (3) members of the Executive Committee, in the interim between meetings of the Board to consider and take action upon any business presented. Minutes of each meeting of the Executive Committee, including the Treasurer's report, shall be made to the Board as soon as practicable after any meeting.</p>	<p>Governing Body Section 5.3 Composition. The Board shall consist of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected officers – President, President-Elect or Past President, Vice President and Secretary elected by the membership of the Association. • The <i>Senior Staff person</i> of the Association who shall serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Board • Appointed positions - Student Representative (s), Membership Chair, <i>Social Media Chair</i>, Program Quality & Accreditation Chair, Public Policy Chair(s), <i>Treasurer</i>, Student Initiative Liaison and Parliamentarian. <i>The Board will vote to approve each position.</i> • <i>Committee Chairs –These positions will be recommended and approved by the Board as needed to meet the needs of the members</i> • <i>The Board may appoint up to 6 regional members at large to the Board.</i> • <i>Each Chapter may have a representative serve on the Board by recommendation from the Chapter and approved by the state Board.</i> <p>(Term limits deleted).</p> <p>Section 5.5 Quorum and Voting. <i>A majority of Executive Board Members plus a majority of the other appointed /approved voting members present will constitute a quorum for conducting business.</i></p> <p>Section 5.8 Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall be charged with carrying out the functions of the Board between meetings of the Board, and the actions of the Executive Committee shall be acts of the Board. The Executive Committee shall consist of the five principal officers of the Association, the <i>Association's Senior Staff Person</i> and the Parliamentarian The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the President or, at the written request of three (3) members of the Executive Committee, in the interim between meetings of the Board to consider and take action upon any business presented. Minutes of each meeting of the Executive Committee, including the Treasurer's report, shall be made to the Board as soon as practicable after any meeting.</p>
<p>ARTICLE VII</p>	<p>Nominations and Elections. Section 7.1 Governance Committee Appointment. The president will appoint the Governance committee chair. The governing board shall elect the four (4) members of the committee. The Governance committee members shall serve for two years. The chair and two members seated in even years and the other two members seated in odd years. The committee may be composed of board and non-board members in accordance with the Association bylaws and policies.</p>	<p>Nominations and Elections. Section 7.1 Governance Committee Appointment. <i>Deletes (The Governance committee members shall serve for two years. The chair and two members seated in even years and the other two members seated in odd years.)</i></p>

Editors Note: A complete copy of the current Bylaws can be found on the MOAEOYC website.



Alicia Noddings,
Public Policy Chair

Public Policy Update

The Public Policy Chair and the committee were involved in many aspects of information gathering and dissemination. Some highlights of the year include

- Continue to participate in weekly ACE phone calls during MO legislative cycle pertaining to Missouri legislation related to education and early childhood social services.
- As a member of the MO Child Advocacy day steering committee, invited and arranged booking of Linda Rallo of Alliance for Childhood Education (ACE) to present Lunch and Learn session at 4/6/17 MO Child Advocacy Day.
- Attended MO Child Advocacy Day (CAD) in Jefferson City on April 6. Met with my representative and senator and the representative for my employer's district on that day.
- Maintained contact with those 3 Missouri representatives after CAD, thanking them for their time and also informing house representatives about pending legislation related to early childhood. Maintaining contact

with all 3 throughout year, including attending July 27 local meeting with Schatz and DeGroot.

- Attended NAEYC Public Policy Forum in Washington, D.C. from 2/26-2/28, Met with offices of both MO senators and representatives for both districts, delivering framed child-created artwork to offices as thank you gift.
- Continued work on the state steering committee for Missouri Child

Advocacy Day.

- Involved in Missouri / Kansas workforce development work-group for early childhood education. Attended opening meeting in Kansas City on 11/7/16; and attended working session in Kansas City on 6/14/17. Both joined subcommittee for further work on higher education; and workforce development subcommittee.
- Attended NAEYC PLI in San Francisco, CA from 6/11-6/14 .

ADVOCACY:

Advocacy is an activity by an individual or group which aims to influence decisions within political, economic, and social systems and institutions.

FY16 Financial Report

(9/01/16-08/31/17)

INCOME	Membership Dues	21,004.55
	Mini Conference	570.00
	Promotional Sales	1,015.24
	CYY	1,520.00
	KRT Leadership Fund	2,000.00
	Fundraiser/Donation	50.00
	TOTAL	\$ 26,159.79
EXPENSES	Administrative	2,538.04
	Contract Services	19,854.40
	CYY	511.52
	Fall Conference	164.28
	Public Policy Forum	396.79
		TOTAL

TOTAL ASSETS

Checking Account	\$ 1,409.79
AEYC-MO Reserve fund	\$ 9,645.75
Kathy Thornburg Scholarship Fund	\$ 114,177.23



www.naeyc.org/get-involved/advocate

KRT Leadership Scholarship

The Kathy R. Thornburg Leadership Fund was established in 2004, by AEYC-MO to recognize Dr. Kathy Thornburg's contribution to the early childhood field, AEYC-MO, and specifically her dedication to supporting and developing new leaders.

The intent of the Kathy R. Thornburg Leadership Fund is to support MOAEYC's new and emerging leaders' attendance at conferences to

further develop their leadership skills.

To date twelve new leaders have received the scholarship. Yearly applications can be submitted by any member, and additional information about this scholarship and the application form are located on the MOAEYC website:

www.moaeyc.org

This years recipient was

Dorie Ranheim from St. Louis, MO. Dorie attended the NAEYC Conference in Atlanta in November 2017, and plans to share her experience, new information, and ideas with colleagues.

We wish her well as she develops her leadership skills.

Editors note: See related article by Dorie in this report



Kathy Thornburg
Columbia, MO

Elections 2017

After a formal call for nominations in June 2017, the MOAEYC Governance Committee and Board presented the following candidates for positions on the MOAEYC Governing Board that were set to become vacant on September 1, 2017.

The three positions and candidates that were nominated were:

President

(1 nominee)



Michelle Mathews,
Columbia, MO

Vice President

(3 nominees)



Judy Simpson,
St. Louis, MO



Juanita Springate,
Lee's Summit, MO



Tracey Stanton,
St. Louis, MO

Secretary

(no nominees)

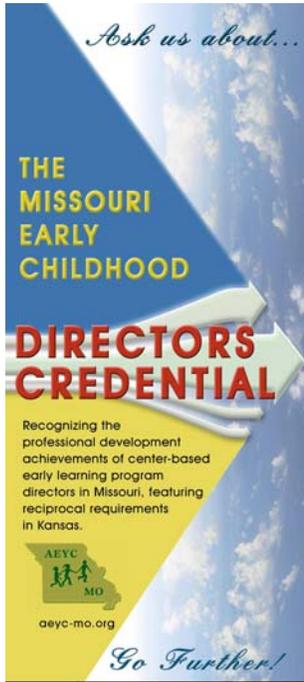
Additional information about each candidate was posted on the website and official elections were completed in Sept 2017 through Survey Monkey ballots emailed to current members.

The candidates receiving the majority of votes for their respected positions were:

- President, Michelle Mathews and
- Vice President Tracey Stanton.

They have assumed their duties for the fiscal year 2017-2018.





Missouri Early Childhood Director's Credential

The Missouri Early Childhood Director Credential was first introduced at the Early Childhood Summit on November 13, 2008. The Credentialing Committee worked for several years to develop this program. It is approved by NAEYC and is reciprocal with the Kansas Director Credential.

The Credential validates competencies achieved by early childhood professionals in 3 areas: education, experience and service. There are two levels of credentials offered, the Provisional Director Credential and the Director Credential. The application and directions for both Credentials can be found on the MOAEOYC website.

The Director Credential Commission is made up of three members with staggered terms of service, who review each application for official recognition. The other duty carried out by the Commission is the approval and recognition of Higher Education Institutions that have developed the 9 credit

hour block of Early Childhood Leadership Courses. This block of courses allows credential applicants a streamlined way to achieve the education requirements. Missouri State University BS and MS programs now provide a pathway to fulfilling the 9 hour block required as well as Park University and the University of MO, Kansas City.

We invite any secondary institution that would like to apply for this recognition to contact MOAEOYC to request an application. View our website for more information about the 9 credit hour block for institutions and the Provisional and Director Credential.

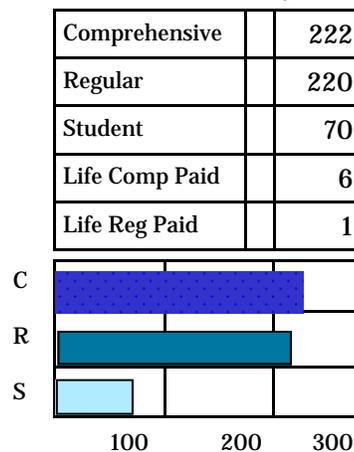
Membership Report

With almost all communications between NAEYC, MOAEOYC, and our members now being made electronically, please make updates to your personal information at NAEYC when addresses, phone numbers, and **emails change**. When kept updated you will continue to receive your full benefits of not only your Journal but also all emails distributed by NAEYC, MOAEOYC and your local chapter.

To check your data or make updates you will need to access the NAEYC website: <http://www.naeyc.org>. Follow the "Login" button link and instructions on the home page to access your personal data

"It is approved by NAEYC and is reciprocal with the Kansas Director Credential."

MOAEOYC Membership Aug 31, 2017 519 members (by level)



Kathy Thornburg Scholarship Recipient Attends NAEYC Conference

As a graduate student studying Early Childhood Education, I spend a great amount of time with my nose in a book. Over the past few years I have spent countless hours reading about early childhood mathematics, nature education and play. That is why it was such a thrill to be awarded the Kathy R. Thornburg scholarship so I could attend the NAEYC National Conference and learn from many influential educators in person!

Let me introduce myself, my name is Dorie Ranheim and I am in my final year of a doctoral program at Saint Louis

University. My doctoral project, which includes a blog that presents ideas for how natural materials may be used in teaching math, is the culmination of much hard work and dedication to the field of early education. For the past few years I have worked under the guidance and mentorship of Dr. Joy Voss, a brilliant professor and educator

who has inspired me to continue on this journey in pursuit of my degree. Along the way I married a very talented and handsome cellist with the Saint Louis Symphony and added two bouncing baby girls to my brood. My daughters are the lifeblood that keep me going, they are the reason why I study



this crucial time of development and why I push myself to learn more so I can be an advocate for them and for *all* children. Prior to starting my degree at Saint Louis University, I worked for six years in museum education, spent time as a full time preschool teacher and earned my Masters in Child Development from

the Erikson Institute in Chicago, IL. It was my instructors at Erikson who really pushed me to embrace my role in elevating the field of Early Childhood, which is why I was thrilled to reconnect, after ten years, with my former academic advisor, Dr. Jie-Qi Chen on the first day of the conference.

Dr. Chen presented about early childhood math and her invaluable resource for all teachers, The Erikson Institute Early Mathematics Collaborative. She spoke passionately about the important work of educating children and I enjoyed the opportunity to talk with her about my current project.

Looking back, I feel that the most important and gratifying part of the NAEYC conference is to connect and reconnect with friends, mentors and inspiring researchers. Each subsequent session I attended introduced new ideas about teaching and sometimes challenged my own beliefs and practices. At the end of the day, talking



Dorie Ranheim (L) and Joy Voss (R) at NAEYC Conference

with educators at social events allowed me to reflect on and process these new ideas. I left feeling rejuvenated about teaching young children and wanting to learn more. I believe this is the point, bringing together people who care about children to learn and grow from each other.

Moving forward, I hope to complete my project and earn my degree. I will send my blog out into the world in the hope that many MOAEOYC members will read it and offer feedback. I will continue to work in the field of early childhood as a teacher and, ultimately, a leader. I will always be grateful to those who supported me along the way, believing that I could make a difference.



We're on the Web:
<http://www.moaeyc.org>

2017-2018 Calendar

- Feb 3, 2018--Mid Mo Family Child Care Conference - Columbia, MO
- March 4-6, 2018-Public Policy Forum- Washington, D.C.
- March 8-10, 2018-Conference on the Young Years (CYY) (T-shirt sales)
- April 3, 2018 - Advocacy Day- Jefferson City
- April 13-14, 2018-Rivers Bend Conference - St. Charles/St. Louis, MO
- April 16-20, 2018- Week of the Young Child (WOYC)
- June 2018-Ozarks Conference
- June 10-13, 2018 -PLI- Austin, TX
- July 1, 2018- Annual Report -NAEYC
- November 14-17, 2018 -NAEYC Conference -Washington, D.C.

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AEYC-MO Board of Directors 2016-2017

President

Judy Simpson
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