



Annual Report 2019-2020



Missouri Association for the Education of Young Children

Annual Report

Dec 2020



Our Mission

The Missouri Association for the Education of Young Children (MOAeyc) promotes high-quality early learning for all children, birth through age eight (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.

Our members are connected through a network of local chapters that share MOAeyc's and NAEYC's goals in working on behalf of young children and early childhood professionals.

Our work is driven by five strategic priorities and goals outlined by NAEYC:

Priority: High-Quality Early Learning

- **Goal:** *Children birth through age 8 have equitable access to developmentally appropriate, high-quality early learning.*

Priority: The Profession

- **Goal:** *The early childhood education profession exemplifies excellence and is recognized as vital and performing a critical role in society.*

Priority: Organizational Advancement

- **Goal:** *NAEYC is a highly valued, credible, and visible organization.*

Priority: Organizational Excellence

- **Goal:** *NAEYC reflects excellence in all aspects of organizational health and vitality.*

Priority: Leadership and Innovation

- **Goal:** *NAEYC cultivates leadership and incubates innovative strategies that propel the field, profession, and systems of early learning.*

BOARD ACTION



MOAEOYC started out the 2019-2020 year on a very productive and positive note. Several processes and goals started the previous year were completed early in the fall. Two such actions included finalizing and approving a board recruitment packet, and finalizing and approving the MOAEOYC Public Policy Agenda to align with current ECE language. One new item that was addressed by the board centered on "board giving" versus board service. At the December 2019 board meeting a "board giving" policy was created and approved for the first time, and added to the annual board contract information. A social media policy was also created, reviewed, and approved by the board.

Two conferences were planned for April 2020. One in the St. Charles/ St. Louis area normally reaches 300-350 people on the east side of MO, and the one in the Kansas City area reaches 100-200 on the west side of the state. Also six professional development leadership sessions, provided by multiple board members, were scheduled for the DESE Conference on the Young Years in March, a presentation for Child Advocacy Day was planned for April, and multiple showings and discussions of the "No Small Matter" film were lined up across the state.

Two new chapters were created and approved by the board, and the chapter in Southwest Missouri initiated a change in leadership. The new chapters were established in St. Louis City & County, and as a YPAC Chapter of MOAEOYC, to accommodate all student groups on Missouri college campuses. The initial student group was created at MSU in Springfield, and a second student group was added shortly after at the UCM campus in Warrensburg. Another chapter is still in the developmental phase, as formatting and leadership for a chapter to support directors and administrators continues to be discussed. In total we now have six chapters established, and conversations around chapters starting in two other regions and at two other colleges.

A hardy endorsement for the Advancing Equity and Diversity Position statement was approved by the board prior to its release, and then MOAEOYC promoted the Diversity and Equity Position Statement on its website, through social media, and in e-news blasts, when it was released to the public. Members were encouraged to participate in the Power to the Profession (P2P) reviews and engagement meetings. Public Policy toolkits were used to support social media messaging on Twitter and Face Book as well as in the MOAEOYC Update (e-news). The organization was represented at the ACF Roundtable Listening Session held in Kansas City, and the Public Policy Chair attended the Public Policy Forum in Washington, D.C. during February 2020 and several meetings and calls with Kids Win Missouri during the year.

In the fall of 2019 the board conducted an organizational wellness assessment, and planned to use some of the items from that review

STRATEGIC PLAN AND GOALS



Missouri Association for the
Education of Young Children

MOAEOYC Strategic Plan 2017-2020

approved Aug 2018

Goal 1: Missouri AEYC advances developmentally appropriate practices as a mark of high quality early learning. (High Quality Early Learning)

Outcomes

- MOAEOYC will work with early childhood professionals who serve children ages **Birth to 8** to provide information on developmentally appropriate practices
- MOAEOYC will support Centers advancing DAP
- MOAEOYC will support Individual adults and entities advancing DAP

Goal 2: Missouri AEYC supports the early childhood education profession to exemplify excellence and to be recognized as performing a vital and critical role in society. (The Profession)

Outcomes

- MOAEOYC will work towards early childhood professionals being valued, supported, well compensated, and recognized as the workforce that provides children with the best foundation for success
- MOAEOYC board is involved in national and state-level policy-related work.
- MOAEOYC will inform, equip, and support membership and board on policy issues

Goal 3: Missouri AEYC is a highly valued, credible, and visible organization. (Organizational Advancement)

Outcomes

- MOAEOYC will demonstrate value through increased membership
- MOAEOYC will demonstrate value through increased attendance at conferences
- MOAEOYC will increase visibility through the use of social media or other means between state and local chapters.

Goal 4: Missouri AEYC reliably and effectively functions in response to the early learning community. (Organizational Wellness)

Outcomes

- MOAEOYC will be a high performing, inclusive organization.
- MOAEOYC will seek additional funding for long term sustainability
- MOAEOYC will support and promote emerging leaders

Goal 5: Missouri AEYC provides a vibrant leadership presence and offers opportunities for leadership development. (Leadership and Innovation)

Outcomes

- MOAEOYC will offer professional development on leadership
- MOAEOYC will create strategies to develop new leaders.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

FY17 Financial Report (9/01/19-08/31/20)

INCOME	Membership Dues	16,214.71
	CYY	584.47
	PPP Funds	6,120.00
	Advocacy Book Sales	85.56
	Chapter Contributions	12,113.22
	Board Donations	370.23
	Job Board postings	77.08
	KRT Leadership Funds (In/out)	1,850.00
	TOTAL	\$ 37,415.27
EXPENSES	Annual SOS Registration	27.10
	Office Supplies	211.27
	PO Box and postage	308.05
	Phone	137.35
	Insurance-D&O and Liability	2,852.00
	Contract Services	36,720.00
	Website	480.68
	CYY	586.65
	Child Advocacy Day	100.00
	KRT Funds/receptions (in/out)	1852.90
	Rivers Bend Conference	1,071.74
	Chapters Other	159.40
	Public Policy Forum	992.00
	TOTAL	\$ 45,499.14

ASSETS

MOAEYC Checking Account	\$ 22,471.08
MOAEYC Savings	\$ 24,080.66
Rivers Bend Reserve	\$ 10,752.00
MOAEYC Reserve fund	\$ 10,042.31
Total MOAEYC	\$ 67,346.05
Other chapters accounts	\$ 44,283.06
Kathy Thornburg Leadership Funds (overseen by MOAEYC)	\$ 136,913.56

ADVOCACY

MOAEOYC 2019-2020 Public Policy Work

Lisa Thompson, Public Policy Chair

MOAEOYC participated in several NAEYC Campaigns this past year designed to support children by informing voters and legislatures on various issues. The MOAEOYC Public Policy Chair, Lisa Thompson, guided the work of the board and participated in national and statewide efforts in the following ways.

Sept 2019 –Promoted review and feedback to ***Power to the Profession Task Force***, for Decision Cycles 7+8. The draft for Decision Cycles 7+8, address the resources, infrastructure, and accountability structures needed across states and systems to support a prepared, diverse, well-compensated early childhood education profession.

Sept 2019— Promoted NAEYC’s efforts, We Advocate to ***#FundChildCare***

Sept 2019—Promoted ***National Voter Registration Day***

Sept 2019- Disseminated Missouri State fact sheet from ***First Five Years Fund 2019 Report***

Sept 2019 –promoted NAEYC’s ***Advancing Equity in Early Childhood Education Position Statement***

Sept 2019—Promoted responses to a survey related to ***Stronger Together Missouri, Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five***

Oct 2019- Promoted contacting Senators and Representatives during their October recess, to reach out about how CCDBG and Head Start funding impacts children, families, and providers and so they keep hearing about how important it is for them to ***#FundChildCare*** as they move towards final FY 2020 appropriations bills!

OCT 2019– Karrie Snider participate in the listening session on child care that the ***Administration on Children and Families*** held for Region VII in Kansas City, MO

Nov 2019 - On behalf of MOAEOYC recommended that the Department of Education continue collecting data on early childhood programs and students as part of ***Civil Rights Data Collection***. This alert was also forwarded to organizations that advocate for racial equity in St. Louis (Metropolitan Congregations United) and Kansas City (Metro Organization for Racial and Economic Equity) who also submitted statements.

December 2019: Attended ***Kids Win Missouri*** 4th Quarter meeting in Jefferson City. Throughout the year posted related articles on MOAEOYC Face Book.



Lisa Thompson,
MOAEOYC Public Policy Chair
Public Policy Forum,
Washington, D.C.
February 2020

ADVOCACY:

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

ADVOCACY

February 2020--Attended **Public Policy Forum** in D.C. Met with aides to Sen. Blunt, Sen. Hawley and Rep. Clay. Created report for all Board members to share the main points from the workshops that I attended.

Feb 2020 –promoted “**Call into Congress**” on 2/25/2020

March 2020– Promoted the Power to the Profession Task Force’s work and the release of the **Unifying Framework for Early Childhood Educators and the Professional Standards**.

March 2020 - MOAECY signed onto a letter for **Congress on Child Care & COVID-19**



April 2020 - MOAECY was a sponsor of the virtual **Child Advocacy Day** trainings and celebrations

April 2020 - Disseminated information on the **Paycheck Protection Program** to child care workers and businesses

July 2020- Promoted NAEYC’s **#SaveChildCare Day of Action**– July 16

Aug 2020– promoted **Equity Challenge** provided by the Heart of Missouri United Way

Aug 2020– Promoted the campaign to get all children counted in the 2020 Census, **#CountAllKids**

Nov 2020—promoted the new, fourth edition of the **Developmentally Appropriate Practice (DAP)** position statement.

Yearlong- Ongoing Face Book postings regarding **COVID Relief and NAEYC Surveys**

Edited **Their Future is in Our Hands** (MOAECY Advocacy Book for ECE) and began work towards co-publishing a new and updated edition with Kids Win Missouri.

Oct 2020- Compiled information about **Amendment 3** to inform members for the November election.

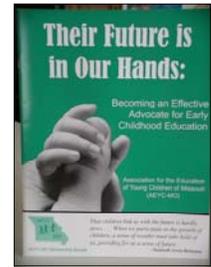
Spoke to three **Northwest Missouri State University classes** (on Zoom) about Advocacy.

Participated in **Kids Win Missouri** work group in visioning sessions and shared surveys that led to the development of a **Missouri Early Childhood Road Map** to be published in 2021.

Began serving on the planning committee for **Missouri Child Care Advocacy Day 2021**.

Early Education Campaign

MOAECY supported the America for Early Ed Campaign organized by NAEYC, with a goal of working to ensure that political candidates and other policy makers embrace early learning as a must, with a commitment from them to expand opportunity, support excellence, and value early childhood educators



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.

Books can be purchased online through the MOAECY website in the “shop” section.

Note: New Edition Coming Soon



[www.naeyc.org
/get-involved/
advocate](http://www.naeyc.org/get-involved/advocate)

ACCREDITATION

Congratulations to the ten child care facilities in Missouri (listed below) that have successfully achieved their NAEYC Accreditation in the 2019-2020 fiscal year. You are making a difference in the lives of children and families every day!

Due to the unprecedented times of this past year, many centers have been forced to close, and more have had to delay their accreditation or re-accreditation visits until restrictions are lifted.

Currently there are seventy three NAEYC Accredited facilities across the state, down from 115 at this time last year.

As we strive to continue improving quality programming for children in MO, our hope is that more centers will pursue accreditation and those currently accredited will seek renewal.

A search box to locate Accredited Centers across USA can be found on the NAEYC [website](#).



Check out the [NAEYC](#) website for more information about Accreditation.

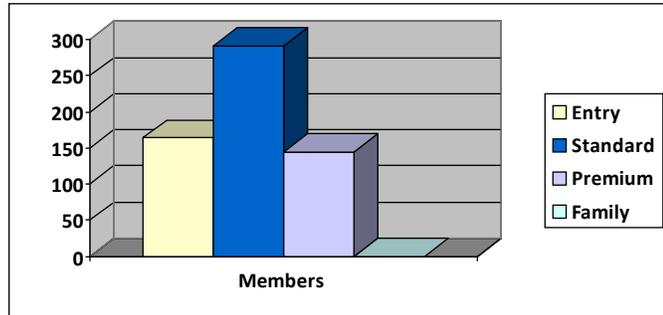
Gerner Family Early Education Center	8100 N. Congress Avenue	Kansas City	MO	64152
UMKC Edgar L. and Rheta A. Berkley Child & Family Development Center	1012 East 52nd Street	Kansas City	MO	64110
KinderCare Learning Center	497 Big Bend Road	Ballwin	MO	63021
The Children's Place	2 East 59th Street	Kansas City	MO	64113
KinderCare Learning Center	13550 Big Bend Road	Kirkwood	MO	63122
Sunshine Center	18400 E. Salisbury Road	Independence	MO	64056
KinderCare Learning Center	6200 Howdershell Road	Hazelwood	MO	63042
KinderCare Learning Center	4150 South Cloverleaf Drive	St. Peters	MO	63376
Ozarks Technical Community College Early Childhood Education Center	936 N. Hampton	Springfield	MO	65802
Learning and Fun Preschool	6007 Swope Parkway	Kansas City	MO	64130

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

MOAEYC Membership by the Numbers

Aug 31, 2020

Entry	164
Standard	291
Premium	144
Family	0
TOTAL	599



Membership Engagement through Chapters

We look to continue creating chapters, thereby bringing more early childhood trainings and support to local communities across the state.

Two new chapters were created and approved by the board this past year, and the chapter in Southwest Missouri initiated a change in leadership. The new chapters were established in St. Louis City & County, and as a YPAC Chapter of MOAEYC, to accommodate all student groups on Missouri college campuses. The initial student group was created at MSU in Springfield, and a second student group was added shortly after at the UCM campus in Warrensburg.

Another chapter is still in the developmental phase, as formatting and leadership for a chapter to support directors and administrators continues to be discussed. In total we now have six chapters established, and conversations around chapters starting in two other regions and at two other colleges.

All chapter events are open to any NAEYC member, and information can be found on the MOAEYC website. We are looking to continue creating chapters, thereby bringing more early childhood trainings and support to local communities across the state. Additional information on requirements to start a chapter are also on the website.

Critical Step to Keep Member Date Updated at NAEYC

To continue receiving electronic updates through NAEYC and MOAEYC, members must keep their personal data updated. To check your data and/or make updates to your address, phone number, and **email**, first access the NAEYC website: <http://www.naeyc.org>. Then follow the "Member Login" link in the upper right hand corner of the home page, and instructions on each of the linked pages to access your personal data.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Early Childhood Director's Credential

The Missouri Early Childhood Director Credential was first introduced at the Early Childhood Summit on Nov. 13, 2008. It is approved by NAEYC and is reciprocal with the Kansas Director Credential.

The Credential validates competencies achieved by early childhood professionals in three areas:

- Education,
- Experience, and
- Service

There are two levels of credentials offered:

- Provisional Director Credential
- Director Credential.

The application and directions for both Credentials can be found on the MOAEOC website.

Several universities offer a pathway to fulfilling the nine hour block of Early Childhood leadership and management courses required to earn the Director's Credential, including.

- Southwest Missouri State University (SEMO),
- Missouri State University,
- Park University,
- University of MO at Kansas City

All offer a streamlined way to achieve the educational requirements.

The Director Credential Commission is overseen by the Program Quality, Outreach, Support and Accreditation Chair, and consists of three other

board members who review each individual's application for recognition.

They also approve all Higher Education Institutions that have developed the nine (9) hour block of Early Childhood leadership and management courses.

Any Higher Ed institution that would like to apply for this recognition can contact MOAEOC to request an application.



**“ It is approved
by NAEYC and
is reciprocal
with the Kansas
Director
Credential.”**

2019-2020 GOVERNING BOARD



Michelle Mathews,
Columbia , MO

- President MOAEC
- Director of MU Child Development Center
- Assistant Teaching Professor, MU



Judy Simpson
St. Louis, MO

- Past President
- President/COO, TodayCare Children's Centers



Tracey Stanton,
St. Louis, MO

- Vice President
- Preschool Teacher, St. Louis Public Schools, Mason Elementary



Karrie Snider
Liberty, MO

- Secretary
- Assistant Professor, University of Central MO



Trinetta Brewer
Columbia, MO

- Treasurer
- Owner, Creative Futures Child Care



Cindy Rouner
Maryville, MO

- Parliamentarian
- Director, Northwest MO State University, Leet Child Care Center



Lisa Thompson
St. Louis, MO

- Public Policy Chair
- Instructor, Early Childhood Careers, South Technical High School



Lacy Butler
Kansas City, MO

- Program Quality Outreach, Support & Accreditation Chair
- MARC –Head Start Education Coordinator/Coach



Kim Roam,
Springfield, MO

- YPAC Liaison
- Professor in the Child & Family Studies Department, Missouri State University



Samantha Frank
Lynn, MO

- YPAC/Student Rep
- Student/University of Central MO



Kayla Roderman
Purdy, MO

- Regional At-Large Rep
- Instructional Coach at Monett School District



Sam Schissler
Leawood, KS

- Regional At-Large-Rep
- Educational Consultant/Kaplan



Jodi Jordan
St. Louis MO

- Regional At-Large -Rep
- Harris Stowe State College



Darla Wells
Rolla, MO

- Regional At-Large -Rep
- ECSE Teacher, Rolla Public Schools



Cindy Imhauser
Lee's Summit, MO

- Executive Director



Meet Karrie Snider Elected in April 2020 as MOAEYC Governing Board President-Elect

I am currently Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education at the University of Central Missouri. For 25 years, I have held roles in early childhood and elementary education settings including teacher, administrator, coach-mentor, teacher educator and researcher. My passion is working to support teachers, coaches and leaders in examining Project work in their classrooms and programs.

My most recent presentations and publications featured my research and stories of coaches, teachers and children conducting The Project Approach in early learning settings. I am the co-editor and co-author of the Teachers College Press publication, *Growing Child Intellect: The Manifesto for Active Engaged Learning*. I have authored book chapters on coaching and project work in *Mentoring and Coaching in Early Childhood Education*.

I received the 2018 University of Central Missouri Faculty Research Award and the 2019 University of Central Missouri College of Education Excellence in Scholarship Award for her research on The Project Approach. Lastly, I was recently featured in *Exchange* magazine as a recognized leader in early childhood education with the Exchange Leader Initiative

I recently served as Secretary of MOAEYC. I have recently initiated a NAEYC Project Approach Interest Forum, in which I will be a lead. I have served as a member on Advisory Boards, such as MCC-Penn Valley Child Growth and Development Advisory Board, Stronger Together Missouri Evaluation Advisory Board, and local workforce development teams. At the university, I have been chair of the University Research Council. I am currently chair of the UCM College of Education Teacher Education Council Exceptions Committee and co-sponsor of the Early Childhood Young Professionals organization.

I will be honored to serve as President of MOAEYC, primarily because my peers have invited me but also because I am passionate about the field of early childhood education. I have held many roles in education which provides me an insight from different perspectives. I have also worked in rural, suburban and urban settings so I also have those varied perspectives which to draw from. I believe I am a valued leader in the state, and so I hope to bring leadership, using my depth of knowledge, to inspire and enthuse practitioners as well as bring together other community groups to support one another as a strong team for ECE. I believe that it will be important to consider the future of our State Affiliate to find ways to connect and recruit new, talented and diverse members. I typically am willing to think outside the box and take risks to develop new strategies for solving problems.

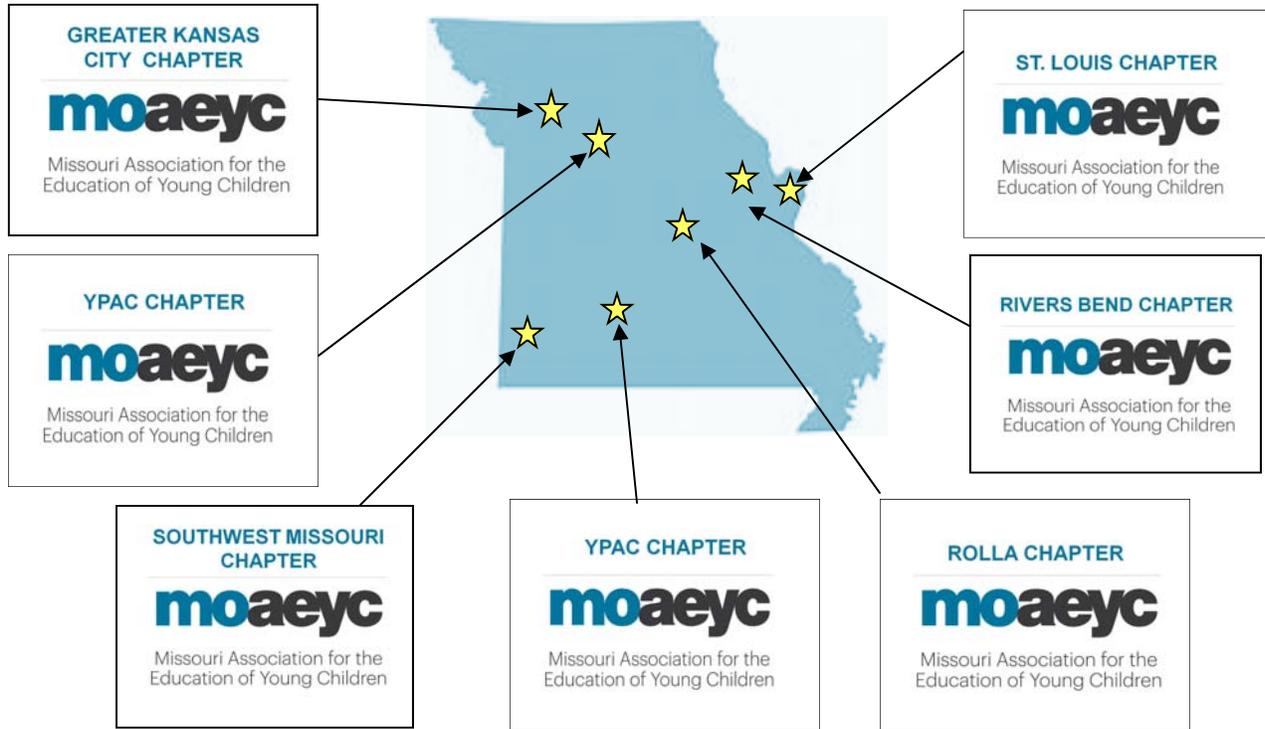
*Karrie assumed the role of
President-Elect on
Sept 1, 2020.*

*She will become the
MOAEYC President
on Sept 1, 2021
and will serve for two years in
that position.*

*On Sept 1 2023
she will become
Past President for one year.*

CHAPTER EVENTS

All Chapters are encouraged to offer opportunities for providers that support their professional development. In addition, families events are provided to encourage involvement and to demonstrate developmentally appropriate practices for children.



Planned Chapter & Affiliate Membership Engagement Events July 2019-2020

Many Chapter Events planned for 2019-2020 were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Chapters are hopeful they can return to more in-person events in late 2021. The following table indicates the planned activities and the actual number of attendees at the events that were held.

Greater Kansas City Chapter					
Conference	GKC Chapter	April 4, 2020	Kansas City		Cancelled - planned for 125-130
No Small Matter Showing	GKC Chapter	April 27, 2020	Kansas City		Cancelled
Provider Appreciation Day	GKC Chapter	May 8, 2020	Kansas City		Cancelled
YPAC Chapter at UCM					
Chapter meeting -Initial	YPAC at UCM	Aug 2019			
Chapter meeting - Goal setting	YPAC at UCM	Sept 2019			
Chapter meeting /Recruitment Party	YPAC at UCM	Oct 2019			
Child Advocacy Day	YPAC at UCM	April 8, 2020			Cancelled
Service Project with Alum K Classroom in CA	YPAC at UCM	Ongoing			
No Small Matter Showing	YPAC at UCM	WOYC	Lees Summit		Cancelled

CHAPTER EVENTS (Continued)

St. Louis Chapter

Happy Hour	St. Louis	February 4, 2020	St. Louis	7	Initial Meeting Get Acquainted
No Small Matter Showing	St. Louis	April 16, 2020	St. Louis		Cancelled

Rivers Bend Chapter

No Small Matter Showing	Rivers Bend	April 7, 2020	St. Charles		Cancelled
Conference	Rivers Bend	April 17-18, 2020	St. Charles		Cancelled -usually 300-350 attendees
Week of the Young Child Family Event at the Magic	Rivers Bend	May 17, 2020	Kirkwood		Cancelled -usually 100-125 attendees

Rolla Chapter

Chapter Meeting	Rolla Chapter	September 19, 2019	Wyman School, Rolla	7	Kick off-Toured Wyman
Chapter Meeting	Rolla Chapter	October 10, 2019	Greentree School, Rolla	12	Toured Greentree
Chapter Meeting	Rolla Chapter	November 14, 2019	Presbyterian, Rolla	9	Toured Presbyterian
Chapter meeting	Rolla Chapter	December 12, 2019	Head Start, Rolla	9	Toured Head Start
Chapter Meeting	Rolla Chapter	January 9, 2020	Rolla	9	WOYC Planning
Chapter Meeting	Rolla Chapter	February 13, 2020	Capable Kids, Rolla	8	Toured Capable Kids
Virtual Meeting-Officers	Rolla Chapter	March 20, 2020		3	Cancel March, April and May
No Small Matter Showing	Rolla Chapter	WOYC	Rolla		Cancelled
WOYC Event at Library	Rolla Chapter	WOYC	Rolla		Cancelled

MOAEYC Affiliate Events

Reception -Nashville	MOAEYC	November 20, 2019	Nashville	40+	Invitations sent to all know persons from MO attending
Leadership Series at CYY	MOAEYC	March 12-14, 2020	Tan-Tar-A	500+	6 Sessions-membership materials provided in each session
Reception -DESE- Conference on the Young Years	MOAEYC	March 12, 2020	Osage Beach	35+	Invitations sent to all know members & conference attendees
No Small Matter Showing	MOAEYC	April 8, 2020	Jefferson City		Cancelled
Child Advocacy Day	MOAEYC	April 8, 2020	Jefferson City		Virtual -MOAEYC was a sponsor
No Small Matter Showing	MOAEYC	TBD	Trenton -North		Cancelled
No Small Matter Showing	MOAEYC	TBD	St. Louis -Harris Stowe College		Cancelled

LEADERSHIP AWARDS and GRANTS

Kathy R. Thornburg (KRT) Awards Guidelines Revised

In 2004, the MOAEOYC Board established the KRT Leadership Fund to recognize Dr. Kathy R. Thornburg's contribution to the early childhood field, MOAEOYC, and specifically her dedication to supporting and developing new leaders.

The intent of the KRT funds is to support MOAEOYC leadership initiatives, including strengthening membership, student and young professional initiatives, creating new chapters, conference attendance, mentor projects, etc.

Applicant qualifications:

- Current MOAEOYC Member
- Active leadership with the local chapter/state board/committees

The complete guidelines and application are available on the [MOAEOYC website](#). An online submission form and budget template are also provided. Applications will be accepted year round and applicants will be notified within sixty days of application.



Kathy Thornburg
Columbia, MO

KRT Funds Granted for Conference Attendees and Two Receptions

The Kathy Thornburg (KRT) funds for leadership development were very important in providing an opportunity for the Rolla Chapter leadership team to attend the NAEYC Conference in Nashville in November 2019. In addition, KRT funds provided opportunities for two receptions to be hosted by the board at large conferences.

The first reception invited all of the Missouri attendees at the NAEYC Conference to meet at a local Nashville restaurant/bar one evening. Appetizers and a cash bar were provided. MOAEOYC President Michelle Mathews greeted the attendees and information was shared about the affiliate. About 40 people attended the reception and several new contacts made that evening have become board members or expressed interest in potential chapter leadership.

The second reception was held at the Missouri DESE Conference on the Young Years in early March 2020. An invitation

was sent out to all registered participants and MOAEOYC members before the conference, as well as being announced during leadership sessions provided by the MOAEOYC board at the conference, and on flyers at the MOAEOYC vendor table during the conference.

This reception was held at a local Osage Beach Bar and Grill, featuring finger foods and a cash bar, and had about 25 people in attendance. This reception also yielded some great contacts and conversations.



KRT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT REPORTS

By: Rachel Allison, Rolla, MO

Thanks to a scholarship from the Kathy R. Thornburg Leadership Award I was able to attend the NAEYC Conference in Nashville. What an amazing experience!

My peers and good friends (and fellow Rolla Chapter officers) Darla Wells, Kyla Gavura (also a scholarship recipient) and I traveled together from Rolla to Nashville on Tuesday night after work. I'm not going to lie we were tired but we laugh a lot on the trip! We rolled in to the Omni Hotel around 10 pm and looked a little like homeless people after our travels but we got a good night's rest and were ready to "get our conference on" Wednesday morning.

We attended some great sessions and then hit the town that evening. Ok, "hit the town" was dinner at the Hard Rock Cafe and a stroll down Broadway but that's living it up for these middle aged Rolla educators!

Thursday our itinerary was FULL of amazing sessions and then...the EXPO! What can I say about the expo? That was CRAZY and so much fun! It was so exciting to make connections with vendors, sign up for prizes and network with do many cool people, businesses and organizations!

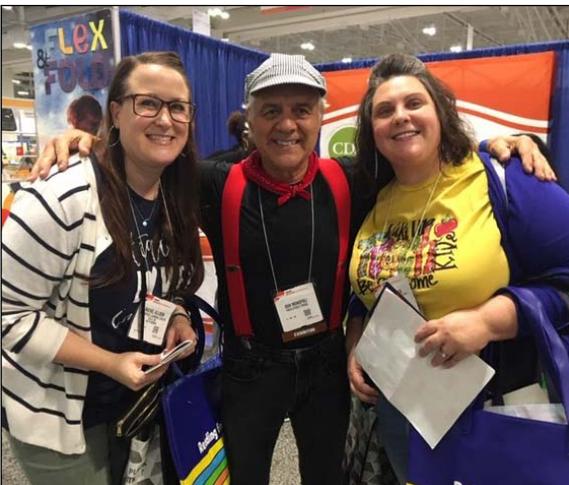
It was a highlight for sure but even the expo could be topped by meeting so many of my early childhood "celebrities" like Dr. Becky Bailey, Steve Spangler, Jamie and Gemma from Play to Learn Preschool and so many others. I tried to explain to my husband about these awesome people I met but he did not fully appreciate...you guys will, I know! Dr. Becky. Bailey.



Friday was another full day, my roomies were both fighting viruses but that didn't stop me from attending every session on my itinerary. Lisa Murphy was incredible. So funny and poignant. STEM, being a thrifty teacher, dealing with difficult behaviors, woodworking. Yes, you read that rightwoodworking! I had some reservations about that one but it was great. Pictures of four year olds using handsaws! Wow!

Saturday came too fast and before I knew it we were headed home with expo bags full of swag and brains full of new info and ideas!

I cannot thank Kathy Thornburg or the scholarship committee enough for making this opportunity possible.



KRT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT REPORTS

By Kyla Gavura, Rolla, MO

Assessments, Challenging Behaviors, STEM, and so much more! Those were all topics that I had the opportunity to explore while at the NAEYC National Conference in Nashville, TN during the week of November 20-23, 2019.

My travel partners and I left after our school days were done and drove the almost six-hour drive to the big city of Nashville. Some of us (me) were a little tired when we got to our hotel! We got there just in time to get some sleep before all the excitement started the following day.

We were up bright and early and chose the session titled "Building tomorrow's engineers by mindfully making and tinkering with toddlers and preschoolers today." We heard a lot about strategies for giving kids opportunities to tinker and make within the preschool environment. There was a great deal of discussion in this session, as well as, a chance to come up with a wheel that would withstand rolling off a ramp and travel the farthest. We were given solo cups, paper plates, chopsticks, and tape. As a group we worked to try to come up with the best design and then we got the chance to test them and reflect on what worked and didn't work. All things that can be done with preschoolers.

After lunch we decided to do a little sight seeing in Nashville. We visited Antique Archaeology and the Nashville Walk of Fame and threw in a little shopping. We made it back just in time to get in line for the Expo. Talk about crazy! So many people! So much to do! I honestly barely made it in the door the



first night because I kept getting so sidetracked by all the exciting booths and give aways.

Thursday, we took in another session on STEM and a great session on Challenging Behaviors. Who doesn't have some of those, right? In this session we heard about how a well-designed classroom can help prevent challenging behaviors and we got to discuss practical strategies for implementing these ideas in our classrooms. We also headed back to the expo for more info and free stuff.

Unfortunately, I had to miss the early morning session on Friday. I had not felt well the night before. I was extremely disappointed because I really wanted to attend the session on defending Play-based practices. I did, however, make it for the next session which was another classroom design session. It really made me stop and think about how our classrooms are setup and the impact that has on our students.

(Continued on page 19)

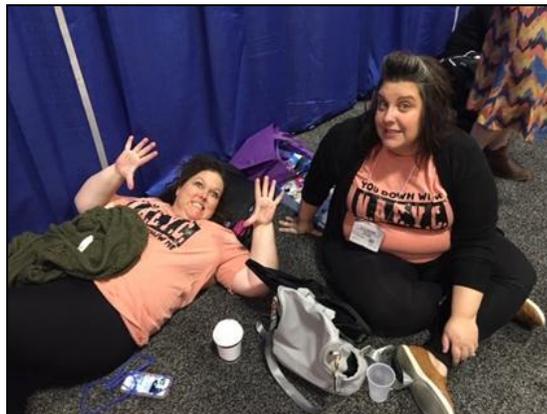
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After that, my friends went off to attend a session with Becky Bailey and I went back to rest and then met them later for the last night of the expo.

Saturday morning, we attended an awesome session titled “The gift of thrift: Collecting and creating priceless play and learning materials.” We all see those awesome toys and learning tools in the catalogs and don’t have the budget to get them, however, these ladies showed us some ways to make those things using dollar store, dollar tree, and hobby lobby items. I even won one of the giveaways (I never win things).

Then we headed to the last session of the conference...this one was way out of my comfort zone! It was on...wait for it...Woodworking with preschoolers! Total respect for these ladies and how they run their classroom, but I just don’t think I could let a four-year old handle a saw and hammer like that! It was educational and gave me some things to consider doing with my preschoolers. Notice I said...consider.

Finally, after almost five long days away from my family it was time to head home. We had so much stuff to take back with us that it was piled high in every part of our vehicle. It was an amazing experience with great friends who also have a passion for early childhood. I am so thankful that I was given the opportunity to attend. Now to organize all the stuff and start putting all that information into practice!



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

2020-2021 Calendar

- November 2020 -NAEYC Conference –Virtual
- February 28-Mar 1, 2021-Public Policy Forum– Virtual
- March 11-12, 2021-Conference on the Young Years (CYY) -Virtual
- April 8-12, 2021 - MO Advocacy Day– Virtual
- April 11-17, 2021- Week of the Young Child (WOYC)
- March 4, 11, 18, 25 & April 1, 2021-GKC Chapter Conference –Virtual
- April 16-17, 2021, -Rivers Bend Conference - Cancelled
- June 13-16, 2021 PLI– ?
- July 1, 2021- Annual Report -NAEYC
- Fall 2021- MOAEYC/St. Louis Chapter/RB Chapter Conference– Harris Stowe
- November17-20, 2021– NAEYC Conference– Orlando, FL

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