

Massachusetts Association for the Education of Young Children

# MASS LINKS

Linking Professionals in the Commonwealth

**This format combines MassAEYC news with your local affiliate information.**

Letter from President:  
Yvonne Beirne

Children: Our Link to the  
Future Conference

New partnership with  
Words That Cook, LLC

Advocacy Day 2007

## New Partnership Formed with Words that Cook

MassAEYC and Words That Cook, LLC proudly announce the formation of a partnership to promote literacy throughout the Commonwealth and beyond.

Words That Cook is an award-winning educational media company producing and delivering innovative literacy resources that empower parents and educators to inspire and motivate children. Words That Cook products and services include educational television and DVDs, web resources, accredited courseware and training, family literacy publications and literacy outreach programs.

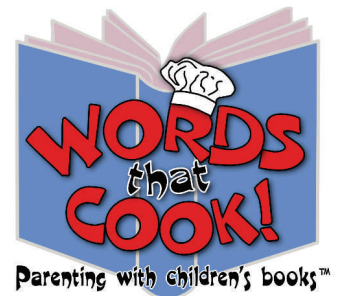
Through this partnership, MassAEYC will collaborate with Words that Cook and handle donations in support of new projects and initiatives, including the Invest in Literacy Campaign.

The Invest in Literacy Campaign aims to encourage and enable businesses, organizations and individuals to help reverse the nationwide decline of literacy chiefly through the Literacy Resource Partnership program, which provides vital funding to fulfill the needs of established non-profit literacy organizations

serving families and educators.

"We are absolutely thrilled about this partnership and the potential it holds to affect positive change," says Laurie Joy Haas, CEO of Words That Cook.

"Thanks to (cont. pg 4)



## MassAEYC Receives Unsolicited Donation from North Carolina Supporter

### Inside this issue:

MassAEYC Annual Conference	2
The Saga of EEC Grants	2
Gwen Morgan Award nominations due	2
Letter from Your president	3
Budget advocacy	3
Recruiting new Board members	3
Your local affiliate news	

The week before Christmas an envelope arrived in the mail. The return address was a firm in North Carolina. We are on so many mailing lists that I figured it was more junk solicitations. Imagine my surprise when I found a check inside made out to MassAEYC for \$3,222.00! Rinehart & Associates of Charlotte, North Carolina has made a commitment to

donate 10% of it's yearly profits back to charities and non-profit organizations. The president/owner has certain favored organizations, but then allows her employees to select their own favorite causes. New employee, Kristen Shields, choose MassAEYC. We all wondered if her family had been involved in early education, or if she had a great experience in EEC as she was growing up.

In response to our thank you note, she wrote a nice letter saying: "I googled different educational charities and looked at their websites. I was drawn to MassAEYC because of its commitment to young children and its location. I lived in Mass. my whole life. I believe in investing in children's education." **Thank you so much Kristen!**

## Children: Our Link to the Future March 30 and 31, 2007

It's almost conference time again. It is becoming our favorite time of the year! The combination of wonderful presenters and sessions, the chance to view all the new products in the vendor area, and of course, the chance to see old friends, make new ones, and celebrate at the award ceremony and dinner dance make it a weekend to look forward to.

We are pleased to announce that we are once again co-sponsoring with the Massachusetts School Age Coalition. MSAC members will receive reduced rates and we have chosen many workshops that will meet their training needs.

The future of our children's physical fitness is on our minds this year. Every day there are more articles in the paper about childhood obesity.

We will have two perspectives on the health crisis at our Saturday keynote. First we will hear from Dr. David Ludwig, from Children's Hospital, who will share a medical perspective on the issue. Then, Rae Pica, the nation's leading expert and author on movement for children, will give an interactive presentation with practical ideas for getting our children moving. There are many follow-up workshops on Saturday to further explore the topic. Rae will also be presenting a 5-hour workshop on the topic on Friday.

Our other focus this year is on child assessment. We have recruited national representatives from Teaching Strategies, the publisher of the Creative Curriculum system, from High/Scope, and from Pearson Publishing who distributes the Work

Sampling system. All three of these systems have been named by EEC as an acceptable prerequisite for the Universal Pre-school Pilot Grants. All three will be part of a 5-hour panel presentation on Friday. On Saturday, they will present individual sessions. There are also other sessions on assessment and documentation to help you get up to speed.

Friday night we will host the Gwen Morgan Emergent Leader Award presentation, followed by a dinner buffet and dancing to DJ Mike. We had a great time last year—please try to make it this year!

You may already have received the brochure in the mail, but if not, please go to [www.massaeyc.com](http://www.massaeyc.com) to download the brochure and more information. See you there!

## The Saga of EEC Competitive Grants

**The Grants:** How would people describe this fiscal year in terms of professional development and funding? Probably most would compare it to a roller coaster ride! And not one that was so much fun that they would like to ride again! It all started when the legislature surprised EEC and pulled out 3 line items from the Community Partnership Councils (CPC) funding: accreditation support, professional development, and mental health consultation services. They instructed EEC to go through a competitive bid process to allocate the money. After much discussion and work, the RFPs for the grants came out in mid October. MassAEYC collaborated with a number of bidding agencies to have funds included to support our work on a statewide, 10-hour training on the new NAEYC Accreditation system. We also were excited to work with another agency to support adult basic education training for family child care providers whose primary language is not English.

**The 9c Cuts** Then came the 9C cuts by former Governor Romney. Announced just days after

Deval Patrick's election, these cuts wiped out all the funds for the professional development grants and cut over \$20 million in other EEC programs. **The Announcement of the Surviving Grants.** The Mental Health Grants were announced and awarded without incident. The Accreditation Support grants were announced a week later. Much to every one's surprise, large areas of the state were left with out any support. Strong advocacy efforts persuaded EEC to rescind the grants and restore the money to the local CPCs for the rest of the fiscal year. **Governor Patrick restores 9C Cuts.** As one of his first acts, Governor Patrick decided reinstate all the money that Romney had cut. So, the professional development grants were on the table again. But due to time constraints, Commissioner Reale proposed to the Board of EEC that this money also be restored to the CPCs. As a result, the CPCs have recouped most of their 2006-2007 funding. Can't wait for the next budget soap opera!

## Letter from Your President, Yvonne Beirne



Greetings to all,

Hard to believe it is 2007. With all the happenings in 2006 and the continued changes to the early childhood field in Massachusetts, we must stay informed of any new developments. I encourage you to log on to the NAEYC website, [www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org), along with our MassAEYC website, [www.massaeyc.com](http://www.massaeyc.com). Stay in tune with what's happening on the Department of Early Education and Care's site, [www.eec.state.us](http://www.eec.state.us). News is happening all around us and to be the best advocates for children, our most powerful tool is information.

We have continued to strive toward our goal of providing accurate and understandable information on NAEYC's new Accreditation system. Watch for a new 10-hour training covering all the important aspects of the system coming this spring from your CCR&R.

As President, I attended the NAEYC Conference in Atlanta this past November. I learned valuable information on Family Child Care, Unions, and Affiliate business. I was surprised when the SEIU's ballot question didn't pass. I learned at the conference that many states already have active unions established. They all vary within the states. SEIU continues its work to support family child care providers in Massachusetts. MassAEYC will be staying in touch with the unions and following their progress.

I still have as a goal the organization of some type of FCC Network. I learn more about the various types of FCC systems, support groups, membership groups and national groups that exist. This is a very diverse population and in order for us to succeed we must find a unified voice. My advice to all providers is to GET INVOLVED, GET INFORMED, AND NETWORK. Follow the websites mentioned above, join nationally recognized groups, and attend local support groups and informational meetings. Know what is going on with your profession to be able to provide the highest quality care to children. Seek out opportunities that will create awareness.

I wish you the best of luck in the New Year! Your president, Yvonne Beirne

## Budget Advocacy

The development of the MA state budget is a process that starts in the fall and doesn't end until July 1st, hopefully, when the new budget becomes effective. **Since so many EEC programs depend on funding, our advocacy attention needs to be focused on this process.** Governor Patrick is currently working on his budget, called House I. It should be out by February 28. Committee hearings are already underway and will last through March. These hearing help provide information to the House Ways and Means Budget recommendations that come out in late April. This is when we will need to contact our Representatives to share our reactions to their draft

budget. Changes are often made based on advocacy efforts. In early May, the House debates and votes for their final budget.

In late May, the Senate Ways and Means Committee releases their budget recommendations. While many items are similar to the House, there are often discrepancies in funding based on Senator's assessment of the Commonwealth's needs. By early June, the Senate passes their budget and the crucial advocacy efforts begin. A "conference" committee made up of members from both House and Senate meet to compromise on the on the differences.

(Continued on page 4)

## NAEYC Accreditation Information

- NAEYC continues to post new resources for your journey through accreditation. Go to [www.naeyc.org/selfstudy](http://www.naeyc.org/selfstudy) for documents that will assist your in self-study and self-assessment.
- MassAEYC and the Massachusetts Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies are collaborating to provide intensive training on the Accreditation process. Watch for a new 10-hour series covering the basics, and specific training on assessment, sources of evidence i.e program and classroom portfolios, strategic planning, writing policies and more.

## Accreditation Scholarships

NAEYC continues to offer scholarships to pay for accreditation fees. Go to [www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org) for an application. Call Cassandra Tseckares at 800-424-2460 X 8832 or [ctseckares@naeyc.org](mailto:ctseckares@naeyc.org) for more information.

## Recruiting New Board Members

MassAEYC's by-laws require election of at least 4 at-large Board members. These members are in addition to the representatives that sit on the Board from each local affiliate. Currently, there are 6 at-large members. Each year, 3 must be elected. For the 2007-2009 term, we have one member running for re-election and 2 vacancies. We look for interested professionals who will bring a perspective to the Board that will help us become a highly functioning and inclusive organization. All areas of expertise are welcomed. Please contact the office at 978-654-6063 for nomination papers.

**(Words that Cook, continued)**

MassAEYC, agencies that provide quality programs for young children will now be able to obtain more of the resources they need to effectively involve parents in accomplishing early literacy goals.”

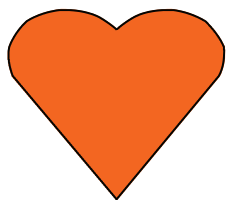
Words That Cook is offering discounts on many of their products, including books, DVD sets, pamphlets, and courses to MassAEYC members. Please go to the MassAEYC website for more details and to the Words That Cook website, [www.wordsthatcook.com](http://www.wordsthatcook.com), to view the products. MassAEYC is very excited about this opportunity. P.S. Visit their booth at the March 30-31 conference.

**Carol Lawson Memorial Art Show in  
*Young Children***

Have you seen the January edition of *Young Children*? Go to page 88 for a beautiful 4 page article about the Art Show that was such a wonderful part of the NEAEYC Conference in Worcester in 2004. Organized by a Worcester Area AEYC committee chaired by Julie Bakerlis (author of the article), this show was a tribute to Carol Lawson. Carol was a longtime WAAEYC member, officer, conference chair, and local children's advocate. Congratulations to Julie and her committee for an inspiring event then and a dynamite article that will help us always remember the emotion of the event.

**(Budget Advocacy ,continued)**

A final budget is then presented to the Governor who may approve the whole budget or veto certain line items. Vetoed funding goes back to the House who must override the veto with a 3/4 majority. Advocacy begins with:



**Early Education and School Age  
Advocacy Day  
Wednesday, February 14, 2007  
Great Hall, State House, Boston  
9-10 am — Registration  
10-11am — Program  
11am on - Meet with your Legislators**

To find out who your legislators are, call 1-800-464-VOTE or go to [www.wheredoivotema.com](http://www.wheredoivotema.com).  
Try to make appointments ahead of time.

***PLEASE BRING VALENTINES MADE BY THE CHILDREN IN YOUR PROGRAM  
TO GIVE TO YOUR LEGISLATORS!***