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Tidewater Association for Early Childhood Education

Visit Our Website

All the information about upcoming trainings, membership opportunities, board members' information, and future grant/award applications can be found at TAECE.net. Stop by for a peek!

TAECE Board Meetings

We normally meet via Zoom once a month or every 2 months on a Monday at 6:30pm. If you are a TAECE member, please join us for our next board meeting on:

- Monday, May 10th

Please send an email to lauriebell1@cox.net to receive a Zoom invite.



From The President's Desk

Dear Early Childhood Educators:

I cannot believe it's been over a year since we have been learning how to navigate the ever changing COVID protocols while providing a quality, safe, and loving education for our community's children and families. Many of us had to apply for grants to make ends meet while hiring additional staff and purchasing approved cleaning supplies and equipment. We are still wondering what the summer and fall will look like in our classrooms. Will we go back to "normal" or is this the "new normal" for another year? We hope that TAECE can be a place to help you navigate the uncertainties that abound in education today. Just go to TAECE.net and contact us with any questions or concerns you might have and how we can serve you better.

During the 2020-2021 school year we helped many educators obtain needed trainings via Zoom such as CPR/First-aid and other health-related trainings by EMTA Enterprises as well as host a "Down On the Farm" Make-it Take-it online. TAECE provided additional funds to its member centers through a Center Stimulus Grant and awarded two of our members the Alice Powell Grant to pursue an outdoor center makeover and her CDA, respectively. Take a look inside this newsletter to find out more about our

Center Stimulus Grant Award Recipients

TAECE recognizes the financial toll COVID protocols have placed on our centers. We wanted to help our member centers with a few operating expenditures so the Center Stimulus Grant was established for this year. We emailed an application to all the area centers with current TAECE members and asked them to apply. Congratulations to the 6 centers who were awarded funds to help make ends meet this year:

- A Child's Day Learning Center, Hampton, VA
- Agape Early Learning Center, Hampton, VA
- Denbigh United Presbyterian Preschool, Newport News, VA
- First United Methodist Preschool, Newport News, VA
- Kid's Morning Out, Williamsburg, VA
- Perfect Harmonies Childcare, Portsmouth, VA



winners.

We are eagerly awaiting the 2021-2022 school year with expanded center and individual membership options, training offerings, mentorship opportunities, and financial assistance awarded through grants. You will find more information in the following pages as well as on our TAECE website at TAECE.net as it comes available.

Blessings,

Laurie Bell, TAECE Board President

Alice Powell Grant Recipients

Dr. Alice Powell was the founder and former director of the Green Acres pre-school in Bethesda and a pioneer in early childhood education programs in the Washington DC area and in Virginia. Her long and significant career establishing quality early childhood education programs and instructing future educators in the Tidewater area and beyond led TAECE to establish a grant in her honor to help current early childhood educators and TAECE members excel in their field. It is our great privilege to award Tammy Castagna, Director of Denbigh United Presbyterian Preschool in Newport News, and Candice Ruvolo, preschool staff at New Town United Methodist Church in Williamsburg, the grant monies this year. Mrs. Castagna will use the funds to create an outdoor art area including a stage, chalkboard, plexiglass painting area; and prop boxes for her school. Mrs. Ruvolo will pursue her Child Development Associate (CDA) credentials to further her knowledge of and her ability to apply best practices in early childhood education. Congratulations, Ladies!

New Center and Individual Membership Opportunities for the 2021-2022 Academic Year

TAECE is excited to announce new Center and Individual Membership Opportunities beginning August 1st. An Individual Membership is paid for by a single person and is

considered a qualified member according to our By-Laws. Individuals can include early childhood staff, teachers (current or retired), directors, professors, and college students. The Individual Membership is non-transferrable and follows the member wherever he/she is employed. A Center Membership is purchased by the center's director who pays for a block of memberships that coincides with the number of staff at a discounted rate. The director receives a membership card for each staff member denoting the name of the center, the number of people paid for, and the staff member's name. The staff member is considered a qualified member according to our By-Laws. Since the center holds the membership, if an individual staff member leaves the center's employment, the membership is transferred to the new staff hire at the center's request. Take a look at TAECE.net this summer to find membership applications and our low-cost membership options. Annual membership runs from August 1, 2021 to July 31st, 2022.

CPR/First Aid and Other Health Related Trainings Coming This Fall!

Each year we partner with Al Materia of EMTA Enterprises to provide high quality childcare specific health trainings at a low cost to you. The 2021-2022 school year is no exception. We usually offer two dates for the trainings, one in August and one in September, to obtain the state required CPR/First Aid, Daily Health, OSHA, Playground Safety, and Recognizing Child Abuse and Neglect trainings. You can pick what you need and obtain the 2 year certifications for your records. Check out our website at TAECE.net for dates, locations, classes offered, and fees this summer!

TAECE Board Opportunities!

Do you enjoy serving your community and want to help local early childhood educators and their centers be the best they can be? Are you a member of the Tidewater Association for Early Childhood Education? They you are in luck! You can serve on the TAECE board!

The board usually meets once a month or every two months depending on the needs of the community and the organization. Currently we meet on a designated Monday evening at 6:30pm via Zoom. We plan and implement a fall workshop, spring mini-conference, and help educators get the safety trainings they need to serve young children. We also provide grants and awards to members through an application process. These awards have helped teachers get their CDA's, paid for classroom makeovers, and provided for many other center needs.

You can serve on the board in a variety of capacities. You can serve as a member-at-large, be a recording secretary, a corresponding secretary, historian, treasurer, or even president. You can also serve on a committee such as hospitality, technology, and programs.

Come to a board meeting and see what we are all about. We would LOVE to have you join us!

More information? Contact Laurie Bell, President at lauriebell1@cox.net.