

Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children

Summer 2007 Newsletter

A Message from the LA CEC President



As one of your representatives to the International Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Representative Assembly, I want to give you a brief overview of what happened at the 2007 meeting in Louisville, Ky. From my perspective, the most important action was the development of a priority list of issues for CEC to deal with. The entire assembly was provided a list of about 15 items, to which the Louisiana delegation of University of Louisiana at Lafayette's Dr. Donna Wadsworth and myself added five more. On the first day, we then indicated which 10 we thought were the most important. On the second day, the list was narrowed to the 10 most selected. We then voted for our top five. As of now I do not know the final result, but I will let you know once I find out. Some that were in consideration included the problems with excessive paperwork and funding difficulties, both of which received Louisiana's vote.

There was also a discussion on terms of representatives and CEC unofficially requested that they be either calendar year or July to July to facilitate continual discussions. As it turns out, over 50 percent of the states go from July 1 through June 30. You will see an amendment to our Constitution for your consideration for us to go back to that structure. In our case, the request is made to make Super Conference more manageable.

Finally, on a personal note, I am a fireworks fanatic. A real side benefit of going to Louisville was the annual Thunder Over Louisville on the Saturday of the conference. I saw over \$1 million in fireworks go up in less than 30 minutes. It is the largest fireworks display in North America and I recommend it most highly. The next one is scheduled for April 12, 2008.



Respectfully,
William A. Rieck, Ed.D.

2008 Super Conference Planning Ongoing

Included in this newsletter is the call for papers for the 27th Annual Super Conference on Special Education. Super Conference 27 will be hosted by the Lafayette Cajundome, site of the 2007 Super Conference. Dates for the event are January 29 and 30, 2008. Many information-filled sessions are scheduled over two full days. Practitioners are encouraged not only to attend the event, but to report on effective or promising practices in your schools. The deadline for presentation proposals is September 1. For more conference information, visit the Louisiana CEC website in the coming months at www.lacec.org. Educators and parents from around the state and region are encouraged to make plans early to attend. Those interested in helping plan the event are encouraged to contact LA CEC president, Dr. William Rieck.

Super Conference • January 29 & 30, 2008 • Lafayette

LA CEC Mission Statement Updated

At the Spring 2007 executive board meeting, members of the Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children (LA CEC) revised the organization's mission statement. The revision was designed to align LA CEC's formal mission statement with its current activity focus. According to the national organization, LA CEC currently has more than 400 members. The new mission statement, which also can be accessed at the organization's website (www.lacec.org), is as follows:

The Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children (LA CEC) supports the efforts of CEC in advancing the education of children with exceptional learning needs. In order to support programs for students with exceptional learning needs, LA CEC focuses on providing outstanding professional development at a reasonable cost, mini-grants for teachers to conduct student-based projects, scholarships for college students, and opportunities for parents, educational professionals, and related service providers to learn about issues in special education.

LA CEC's activities are well aligned with those of international CEC. According to its website, the international CEC "advocates for appropriate governmental policies, sets professional standards, provides continual professional development, advocates for newly and historically underserved individuals with exceptionalities, and helps professionals obtain conditions and resources necessary for effective professional practice."

Membership Chair Introduced

My name is Ashlie Abercrombie Allardyce. I am a preschool teacher for children with developmental delays at Gillis Elementary in Lake Charles. It is an honor to be appointed to the Membership Chairman position. This is my first time holding a CEC office. I also hold the state Division of Early Childhood (DEC) Treasurer position. I am looking forward to the next three years serving as your Membership Chairman. My goals are to promote membership and work towards increasing CEC awareness in the state.

I would like to congratulate Lynda Rich, an early childhood special education teacher at Walker Elementary, who won the First Annual Membership Raffle at Super Conference 2007.

If you or someone you know is interested in membership, please contact me at ashlieabercrombie@hotmail.com and/or visit our website at www.lacec.org.

Ashlie Abercrombie Allardyce
LA CEC Membership Chairman

Change In Treasurer Announced

By William Rieck

Dr. Reed Rhodes, who had been serving as LA CEC Treasurer, recently returned to Cambodia with his family. Rhodes, who grew up in Atlanta, was teaching in Cambodia when he fell in love and married. For the last two years Rhodes had been an Assistant Professor of Special Education at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. His wife longed to return home and he acceded to her request. LA CEC has lost a fine worker, and so has UL Lafayette.

Dr. Donna Wadsworth has been appointed to serve until the next election. Donna, a past-president of LA CEC, has previously served as treasurer. LA CEC members might consider entering the race for the next treasurer.

LA Student CEC Represented at International Conference

I am Sara Rabalais and I am from Arnaudville, La. I am in my senior year at LSU. I am currently getting my undergraduate degree in Elementary Education with an add-on in mild-moderate Special Education. I had the opportunity to represent Louisiana student CEC at the National Convention in Louisville, Ky. At the CEC Convention I learned a lot about professional development and how to improve my teaching skills. I also met many other students from other universities. What I found to be very interesting was meeting students from Arizona and hearing about the ELL (English Language Learners) program there. This gave me a great deal of insight into the different school systems throughout the country. I had a great time at the convention. I am looking forward to the next one. If you are a student and would like to join the Louisiana student CEC, contact me, Sara Rabalais, at srabal1@lsu.edu.



Constitutional Amendment Concerning Office Terms Needs Membership Vote

Article IV, Section 2 of the LA CEC Constitution currently indicates that the term for executive board officers reflects the calendar year (i.e., January 1 through December 31). The calendar year term was enacted to reflect the calendar year terms of international CEC officers. However, with the LA CEC Super Conference currently being held in January and conference planning taking place in the calendar year before, LA CEC members suggested at the February 2007 board meeting that the officer term be changed to reflect the academic calendar year (i.e., July 1 through June 30). In May, board members voted to ask the LA CEC membership if it agrees with the suggested change. The ballot appears below. A vote of yes or no is warranted. Ballots are to be cut off and mailed to Marcy Boudreaux-Johnson, Secretary, at 3034 Chataignier Road, Ville Platte, LA 70586. The mailing deadline is June 30, 2007.

2007 Constitutional Amendment Ballot

Proposed Amendment:

“The fiscal and the administrative year shall be July 1 through June 30.”

_____ Yes, I agree with the amended language.

_____ No, I disagree with the amended language.

Please complete by June 30, 2007, and mail to Marcy Boudreaux-Johnson, Secretary, 3034 Chataignier Road, Ville Platte, LA 70586.

La. Council for Exceptional Children

c/o P. O. Box 44904

Lafayette, LA 70504

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HAVE ANY NEWS?

If you have division, chapter, or person news you would like us all to know about, please submit it to Paul Mooney, LA CEC newsletter editor, at pmooney@lsu.edu. Please submit your news via e-mail attachment and use Times 12 point font. Thank you.

Call for Papers
27th Annual Super Conference on Special Education -Lafayette, LA January 29-30, 2008
Sponsored by the Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT

Session Title (Limit to 12 words) _____

Brief Description (Limit to 50 words. Attach.) _____

Learner Outcomes – Provide one to three outcomes for the presentation. Outcomes should concisely describe skills, knowledge and or behaviors participants will know or have after the session. For example *At the end of the session participants will know three strategies for using social stories with students with autism.*

ATTACH A 300-500 WORD DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL.

Topic Areas – *Select no more than one primary and one secondary topic area – indicate with 1 and 2.*

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assessment | <input type="checkbox"/> Compliance/Legislative Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Instructional Strategies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative Education Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural/Linguistic Diversity | <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher Training/
Professional Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assistive Technology | <input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood | <input type="checkbox"/> Transition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Autism/ Sensory/ Low incidence | <input type="checkbox"/> Families | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Behavior/Classroom Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Gifted/Talented | |

Target Audience *Select no more than one primary and one secondary audience- indicate with 1 and 2.*

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educators – All levels | <input type="checkbox"/> Educators – Secondary | <input type="checkbox"/> Families |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educators – Early Childhood | <input type="checkbox"/> Administrators/Supervisors | <input type="checkbox"/> Related Service/Please specify |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educators – Elementary | <input type="checkbox"/> Paraeducators | _____ |

Preferred length of session: 1 hour 2 hours

Format: Lecture Demonstration Poster

Session Leader _____ **Agency** _____

Mailing Address _____

Contact phone number(s) _____

Email address _____

Other presenters and their agencies:

1. _____ / _____
2. _____ / _____
3. _____ / _____

PLEASE INDICATE AUDIO VISUAL NEEDS: TV/VCR OVERHEAD PROJECTOR
NOTE ALL OTHER EQUIPMENT MUST BE SUPPLIED BY THE PRESENTER.

****Exhibitors desiring to present should contact Cynthia Owens about Vendor Showcase Times****

If your proposal is accepted, ALL PRESENTERS ARE EXPECTED TO PRE-REGISTER AND PAY THE REGISTRATION FEE FOR THE CONFERENCE. The Session Leader will be responsible for contacting the other presenters. Submit 2 copies of this form and your detailed description by SEPTEMBER 1, 2007 to:

Cynthia Owens
697 Aline Street
LaPlace, LA 70068

Phone: 985-652-7233

Email: cowens@stjohn.k12.la.us

Or submit proposal online at www.lacec.org