

MARYLAND PROVIDER

Maryland State Family Child Care Association

ISSUE 26

www.msfccca.org

Fall 2004

MSFCCA EXECUTIVE BOARD



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President- Karen Knabe

301-776-5247

k.s.knabe4255@att.net

Dear Providers,

VP of Public Policy – Donna Fowler

Thank you for your vote of confidence in me as your new President of MSFCCA. I promise to do the best job possible. I will need the help of ALL providers all over Maryland to accomplish our goals for this year. I have a goal, and that is to attend every local

VP of Education – Cathy Green
301-604-3558
assoc.604.3558@hotmail.com
Out and Touch Committee with me. Certainly each President has their own style, but overall we will still achieve the same goals we have always set for our association. We are interested in quality child care and professionalism for the providers.

Treasurer – Marlene Miller
410-730-3088
mrmiller@aol.com

Sincerely,

Rec. Secretary – Amy Dapsauaski

Karen Knabe

alanday@adelphia.net

Corr. Secretary – Linda Church

301-621-7498

lindaschildcare@comcast.net

MSFCCA Quarterly Meeting

The next Quarterly Meeting of the Maryland State Family Child Care Association will be held October 30, 2004 at 9:30 a. m. at the Howard County Resource and Referral. All members are invited and encouraged to attend, however prepared with enough information to meet with providers associations and learn together to find solutions that concern 2004.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MSFCCA Conference 2004 - October 22-24, 2004
MSFCCA Conference 2005 - October 14-16, 2005 - Mark Your Calendars!

Conference Meetings:

August 21, 2004

October 9, 2004

MSFCCA Quarterly Meeting - October 30, 2004

For more information on any of these events, check our web site at:
www.msfccca.org

PUBLIC POLICY / LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Donna Fowler

MSFCCA will hold its Third Annual Child Care Rally in Annapolis on February 7, 2005. This is an evening event and all child care providers and parents are encouraged to attend. Let's make this the biggest and best rally so far. If you are interested in earning a professional activity unit, please contact Donna Fowler at 301-352-3614 or dlfowler@starpower.net to sign up for this committee.



ADVOCACY SERIES #4

The Legislative Process by Donna Fowler

A bill must pass through many processes before it becomes law. After a legislator agrees to sponsor a bill that has been drafted by the Department of Legislative Reference or the Office of the Attorney General at the request of a legislator or his/her constituency it must pass through the following:

1. **First Reading:** The Reading Clerk reads the title and the presiding officer assigns the bill to the appropriate committee. Bills may be introduced in either the Senate or the House during the first 55 days of session or by a 2/3 vote of the membership after that.
2. **Referral to Committee:** The members of each committee meet to discuss the proposed bill. Citizens are encouraged to present support or opposition by mail or by personal appearance at the bill hearing.
3. **Second Reading:** The bill is reported to the floor by the committee with a favorable, unfavorable, without recommendation, or with or without committee amendments. A bill with a favorable report is open to amendment from the floor.
4. **Third Reading:** The bill must be printed for third reading with all amendments inserted. No amendments may be presented in the chamber of its origin, and the bill must be passed by a majority of the elected membership.
5. **Second Chamber:** The bill with a favorable with or without amendments then passes to the opposite chamber and the procedure follows the identical pattern that it did in the chamber it was first heard in.
6. **In Case of Amendment:** The vote is taken here on a motion to concur with or reject the proposed amendment(s). If concurrence is voted, no reprinting of the bill is necessary. If the rejection is voted, several things may occur
 - a. Request to other chamber for withdrawal of amendment.
 - b. Upon refusal of withdrawal of amendment, either chamber may request a conference committee to adjust the difference between the two chambers.
7. **Presentation of Bill to Governor:** If a bill is presented to the Governor more than six days before the General Assembly adjourns and is not vetoed within six days, or if a bill is presented with six days prior to the adjournment of the General Assembly and is not vetoed with 30 days after presentation, then the bill becomes law without the Governor's signature.

REACH OUT AND TOUCH

Maryanne Lazarchick

The Reach Out and Touch Committee of MSFCCA was formed to reinforce the communication with local associations and their membership. The Committee is available by telephone and email to the members of MSFCCA for any problems or issues that arise, and to visit in person when necessary. For information or to request help please contact Maryanne Lazarchick by phone at 301-871-6810 or by email at nmlazar@comcast.net. Our goal is to be here for the members.

INTERNET RESOURCES

Childcare.Gov - <http://www.childcare.gov/>
American Academy of Pediatrics - <http://www.aap.org/>
National Network for Child Care - <http://www.nncc.org>
Maryland State Department of Education -
<http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/>
Children's Defense Fund - <http://www.childrensdefense.org/>
Afterschool.gov - <http://www.afterschool.gov/>
Afterschool Alliance - <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/>
Partnership for Afterschool Education -
<http://www.pasesetter.com/>
American Library Association - <http://www.ala.org/>
Public Broadcasting System - <http://www.pbs.org/>
U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission -
<http://www.cpsc.gov/>

VICE PRESIDENT OF EDUCATION

Cathy Greer

The MSFCCA Conference will be October 22-24, 2004, at the Clarion Fontainebleau Hotel in Ocean City, MD. We are looking forward to another successful conference. Conference registrations should be sent in as soon as possible. The Early Bird registration deadline is August 15, 2004. We currently have fifty-five registrations received so far. Please send your registration ASAP.

Due to the success of the merchandise pre-sales last year, the committee has decided to do it again this year. The pre-order deadline is August 13, 2004. Any questions regarding sales contact Josie Lohman at 301-776-8309.

The next conference meeting will be August 21, 2004 at the Elkridge Library from 9-5 p.m. We will review the program, sign up for on-site help and wrap door prizes. If you are interested in helping, please feel free to contact me at steve145@verizon.net. The final conference meeting will be on October 9, 2004 at Cathy Greer's home at 1028 Ward St Laurel, MD. We will stuff folders and wrap up conference details.

Please mark your **2005** calendar for next year's MSFCCA Conference. It will be October 14-16, 2005 at the Clarion Fontainebleau Hotel. More information will be given at this year's conference.

If you have any questions regarding this year's conference, please contact Cathy Ross at 410-553-6694 or email her at cathyscare@msn.com.



MSFCCA Newsletter EXTRA

ARTICLE FOR THE EDITOR

A Child Care Journey by Mary Ellen Young

My name is Mary Ellen Young. I am the mother of seven children ages 20 to 31 and am awaiting the birth of my 6th grandchild any day. I am a licensed family child care professional in Prince George's County and I am thrilled to be in the company of so many others who share my concerns about Child Care in Maryland.

I was first licensed in the late 70's until 1982. In January 2000, I again became licensed for family child care in my Bowie home. Things had definitely changed in my time away from child care. I was impressed with the day care association memberships, the resource centers, and increased availability of classes, workshops, and conferences geared for family child care.

I joined a county association, The Professional Child Care Providers Network of Prince George's County, Inc., I began meeting monthly networking with other local providers in the Bowie area, I attended Child Care Association roundtable sessions, and I poured over training schedules carefully choosing classes to help me with every aspect of my business from contracts and record keeping to kindergarten readiness curriculums to dealing with behavior problems.

Then, one day I started hearing about something new, the Credentialing Program. I remember attending any training offered on Credentialing, I was anxious to learn more about this program. What I was hearing sounded very positive. The Maryland Child Care Credential is a voluntary program but all regulated family child care providers and child care center staffs are eligible and encouraged to participate. The Credential program is a framework of requirements that recognizes individuals working at all levels in the child care delivery system. There are 6 levels, each one acknowledges a child care providers years of experience, achievement of a specified number of training hours and professional activities, which lead to quality child care. The four main goals of the Credential Program are:

1. -To promote a well-qualified work force
2. -To advance the status of the child care profession and increase the respect and compensation for those employed in child care settings.
3. -To recognize for-credit and non-credit career preparation and development with an approved statewide framework.
4. -To build a structure for professional growth through professional competencies.

The Credential Program also offers incentives to providers participating at Level 2 and higher, which includes achievement bonuses. For me this was exciting. I looked at this as a positive step for child care, a way to "take it to the next level", to "raise the bar" and gain respect for my profession. I decided that I would participate in the Credential Program, this would be the next step in my journey to better my program and myself as a child care provider. I received my Level 4 Maryland Child Care Credential Certificate of Achievement in July 2002 and a year later, in July 2003, I received my incentive bonus.

The experience has been very beneficial for me. Once the Credential Program started, it created a growing demand for classes in the Core of Knowledge areas, making available classes in such areas as "special needs" which was once so limited has increased. The continued training this program requires forces the necessity and development of more and improved courses. As a licensed provider, I am required to obtain 12 hours of continuing education every two years. In the 2 ½ years since I decided to become credentialed, I have accumulated over 200 hours of continuing education. The wealth of knowledge I have received in these classes has directly affected my program.

My business management and marketing skills have improved. All areas of my curriculum have been enhanced and strengthened. I have broadened my options for handling discipline issues and I have developed techniques that promote better parent/provider communication. The Credential Program played a key role in prompting me to evaluate my program and move forward to improve the quality of child care for the children in my home.

The referral services inform parents seeking help locating child care about the Credential Program. The service then identifies the credential level each provider holds. This is a marketing tool that acknowledges me as a provider who exceeds the state requirements and registration regulations.

The Professional Activity Unit requirements of the Credential Program have pushed me to a higher level of involvement. I am not only a member of several associations; I am the Corresponding Secretary for the Professional Child Care Providers of Prince George County, Inc. I have volunteered hours in the Prince George's County Resource Center and acted as a facilitator at Child Care Conferences. Through these experiences I have met wonderful people in this profession and made valuable contacts. I have developed many friendships with other providers who are great resources and a strong support system for me. As a sole proprietor, whenever I need another professional's opinion or just a little encouragement on a rough day, it is a comfort to know that these people are only a phone call or email away.

Yes, the Credential Program has met my goals. I have improved the quality of care in my program and grown professionally as a provider. I have become more aware of and more involved with public policy and how it affects my profession. I believe the Credential Program has "raised the bar" for providers and earned a higher level of respect for myself and other credentialed providers as child care professionals. But most importantly, it is our future, the children that I share my days with who will benefit most by all that I have gained from the Maryland Child Care Credential Program.

**To submit an article to the editor, email the article to Linda Church at msfccanewsletter@yahoo.com
Due to space limitations, all articles may not make it into this publication.**

News...

On May 10, 2004, Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich announced the appointment of Judith L. Rozie-Battle to become Executive Director of Maryland's Child Care Administration. Ms. Battle brings an outstanding background in child care, law, and social welfare. She holds Juris Doctor's and Masters of Social Work degrees and is a former Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Social Welfare.

"Ms. Battle is a forceful and thoughtful advocate for children. She understands the importance of making sure that our children get off to a good start in life," Governor Ehrlich said. "Maryland's parents can be sure that under her leadership, our day care centers will have the highest standards of any in the country."

Information taken from CCA Press Release 5/10/04

Dear Providers

On July 17, MSFCCA's new Board of Directors was elected. It was a great feeling to see it all come together. I think the newly elected Board of Directors will be a devoted, loyal and committed Board. Please take time to welcome Karen Knabe, President; Marlene Miller, Treasurer; Amy Dapasuski, Recording Secretary, and continuing as Vice President of Education, Cathy Greer. I would also like to thank Shawn Bryce, who has done a great job as our Treasurer for the past several years.

Over the past 7 years of being a Director for MSFCCA I have met so many dedicated family child care providers. I am proud of each of you and the steps you have done to raise the standard of professionalism. We have come a long way and I know with the newly elected board it will continue.

There are so many who have made my term as President a successful experience. Thank you, I couldn't have done it with out ALL of you!

Sincerely
Julie Burch

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Linda Church

The Public Relations Committee of the MSFCCA is actively seeking volunteers. This committee produces the quarterly Newsletter, maintains the MSFCCA web site, an updated mailing list and produces media press releases and announcements to MSFCCA membership.

If you are interested in any of these areas and would be willing to help, please contact Linda Church at 301-621-7498 or email her at lindaschildcare@yahoo.com.

"Many social programs support families, but child care is the backbone of them all".

National Council of Welfare - <http://www.ncwcnbes.net>

National Child Care Conferences

Make plans to attend a National Conference. There is a lot to learn from child care advocates across the country.

MSFCCA Annual Conference - "Solid Foundations through Changing Times" - October 22 - 24, 2004. Clarion Hotel in Ocean City, MD. For more information, contact Cathy Ross at 410-553-6694, or see www.msfccca.org.

NAEYC Annual Conference and Expo - Anaheim, California, November 10-13, 2004. For more information check out their web site at:

<http://www.annualconference.naeyc.org/>

Zero to Three: 19th National Training Institute, December 3-5, 2004, Pre-Institute December 2. Sacramento Convention Center and the Sheraton Grand Sacramento, Sacramento, CA

SECA 56th Annual Conference - The 56th annual conference will be held at the Hotel Intercontinental in Addison, TX, Friday, March 04, 2005 thru Sunday, March 06, 2005

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

The Sunshine Committee sends cards to providers. If you have a provider in your association that needs a little sunshine please call Barbara Summers at 410-751-6735 or bsbs@adelphia.net and give her the information. It is very important when leaving a message or sending an email that you include the name of the provider, the reason for the card and the address so that it can be sent promptly.

We would also like the names of the providers in your association that have received their Accreditation so they can be recognized for their achievement



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