

MARYLAND PROVIDER

Maryland State Family Child Care Association

Summer 2006

www.msfccca.org

Issue 33

The Mission of the Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA) is to promote and enhance our profession by advocating for family child care providers through education and collaboration with local associations for the quality care of all children.

From the President:

Thank you for the tremendous amount of support that was shown in the past legislative session. The impact that was made was due to so many dedicated providers taking an interest in issues that concern their business to make a difference. Many thanks also go to the Maryland Committee for Children and their staff, The Maryland State Child Care Association, The Maryland State Department of Education, Head Start, and many other advocates in the Early Childhood Community in Maryland.

Although we were very pleased with the outcome of Senate Bill 809, SEIU is continuing to seek support from providers in Maryland. This means that MSFCCA must once again get a consensus of what role family child care providers in Maryland want a union to play in their profession. We are also confident that SEIU will be garnering support from legislators in the coming session with new legislation and we will not likely be invited to the table for input. MSFCCA, in support of providers, needs to know what action providers would like them to take. Options will be discussed at the next Public Policy Meeting on June 3, 2006, at 12:30 p. m. at the Bowie City Hall. **ALL** family child care providers are urged to attend and show support. Your state association is once again working on your behalf but needs input from members.

Please pass the word about the Public Policy Meeting to your colleagues, and take time to discuss the Union at your next local association meeting. Donna Fowler and I will be contacting the local association President's to make sure that they know about the June 3rd Public Policy Meeting and are asking that they poll their membership on what direction they want us to take for the Union in 2007.

The next conference committee will be meeting on the same day, June 3, 2006 starting at 10:00 a. m. This does make for a long day for our members but it is beneficial to piggyback meetings to limit the amount of Saturday commitments we must make.

Thank you again; your continued support of MSFCCA allows us to remain strong for the family child care profession in Maryland.

Karen Knabe
MSFCCA President

MARYLAND STATE FAMILY CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION

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VP OF EDUCATION REPORT

Cathy Greer

The MSFCCA Education Committee is working hard on the 2006 conference. We are very excited about the workshops that will be offered and are sure that providers will benefit from them. The Conference Registration will be available on the MSFCCA website at www.msfccca.org on June 1st. The Registration will also be included your next Partners Newsletter so be saving your money to sign up early.

If you have any questions regarding the conference you may contact Josie Lohman at JJALLI@comcast.net and if you are interested in helping with this year's conference, please contact me at education@msfccca.org

Join the Maryland Committee for Children
Your membership will help MCC continue to provide and expand its services and add your voice to those who are taking action to improve services to young children and their families. As a member of MCC you will receive:

- Quarterly newsletters and annual reports
- Public policy reports
- Reduced admission to training programs
- Reduced admission to special events
- Free use of MCC's extensive library

Family Child Care Provider Membership Cost is \$25. Call for a membership form - 410 752-7588.

PUBLIC POLICY REPORT

Donna Fowler

The Public Policy Committee will meet on June 3, 2006 at the Bowie City Hall, 2614 Kenhill Drive, Bowie, MD 20715 from 12:30 – 2:30pm (directly following conference committee meeting at same place from 10:00am – Noon). We will be discussing unions and what part they will play in this state in the future and what our role will be, so it is extremely important that all who can attend – do so.

This is an election year, so every provider and association needs to be keeping up with who is running and what their platforms are and if they have already been in office, what their voting records have been towards children and early education. Each association should consider holding a legislative night at which time they invite ALL the incumbents, let them know how important our jobs are to the early care and education field and make sure that they not only add early childhood education to their platforms, but that they recognize YOU as the expert.

Last year was wake-up call for most providers and associations. We can never allow another group or organization to come in and tell legislators what we want or what we need – We are the ones who know this best; we live and breathe it everyday.

Coming in October... the Maryland Committee for Children will be sponsoring Child Care Provider Day at the National Aquarium in Baltimore...for more information call 410-752-7588 ext. 270 or visit www.mdchildcare.org

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Maryanne Lazarchick

The annual meeting of the Maryland State Family Child Care Association will be held during the Fourteenth Annual Statewide Conference on October 15, 2006 at the Princess Royale Hotel in Ocean City, MD.

At the January 28, 2006 Special/Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors, it was voted to change the elections from the July 2006 Quarterly Meeting to October 2006 at the conference.

Annual Elections will be held at this meeting. For the following Officer positions:

President

Vice-President – Education

Recording Secretary

County Directors

Watch your mail for information on the upcoming elections. If you have questions, call Maryanne Lazarchick at 301-871-6810 or E-mail her at nmlazar@comcast.net.

Are you a Registered family child care provider in need of health insurance for yourself and/or your family? MSFCCA realizes that this is a great need among the child care community and is working in this problem. Donna Fowler, the Public Policy Coordinator for MSFCCA is currently collecting data from those that work in the early child care field to get the ball rolling in gaining access to a Group Health and Wellness Policy for those that need it. If you would like to participate in such a program, contact Donna Fowler at 301-352-3614 or email her at harvestingminds@comcast.net for more information. Updated information will also be posted to our web site as it becomes available.

Be careful what you give children, for sooner or later you are sure to get it back.

Barbara Kingsolver

The next MSFCCA quarterly meeting will be July 22, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. at the Howard County Resource and Referral. All members are invited to attend, however space is limited and a lunch count is required. Come and share the issues that concern you and your local providers, hopefully we can work together to find solutions. RSVP Karen Knabe at 301-776-5247 or email her at president@msfccca.org to RSVP for the meeting.

Thank you...

Recently all Registered family child care providers in Maryland received correspondence in the mail from MSFCCA as well as their local county association. This mailing was very costly for MSFCCA but we felt it was necessary to introduce the state family child care association to providers who were not familiar with it and also generate interest and support for the local associations. MSFCCA would like to thank the local associations for all the hard work in getting these letters mailed.

Sunshine Committee

The Sunshine Committee is chaired by Barbara Summers. Barb is a family provider in Carroll County that works hard on behalf of MSFCCA to let providers know that we are here for them if they have a need or to cheer for them when they succeed. Barb does a great job but depends on local associations for information. If you have a provider in your association that has suffered a loss or is going through a rough time, please let Barb know. We want our members to know that we are here to support them. On the other hand if you know of a provider that has had a great success in their professional life such as graduating from college, receiving their Accreditation or their CDA, please let Barb know. Providers supporting providers make the family child care community great.

Barbara can be reached at 410-848-8482
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