

South Carolina Association of Early Care & Education NEWSLETTER

Fall 2018 Edition

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Message from the President

Carolyn Watt

WELCOME! I hope you are having a great year so far working with the wonderful children of South Carolina. Congratulations on being a member of the ONLY organization that represents owners and directors of LICENSED AND REGULATED child care centers.

I have been a member of this organization almost since its inception in 1986. It started out with two upstate owners brainstorming the possibilities of a state organization (South Carolina Child Care Association). Today, we have grown to almost 50 centers and represent nearly 5,000 children from across the state. I continue to be grateful for all the **networking opportunities** I have been allowed through this organization over the years.

We traveled across the United States to participate in trainings and conferences. We visited state and national legislators in Washington, DC. (Many of us were in the air, flying to DC, on September 11th, 2001. That was a day we will never forget.) I have been lucky enough to meet and learn from owners of big child care centers from across the country and owners of *even smaller* centers than my own.



Carolyn Watt, SCAECE President

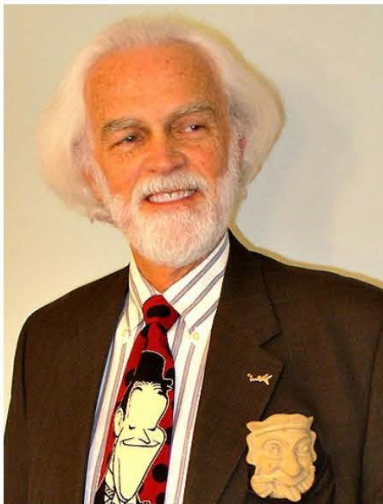
Through the years we have learned to laugh together and lean on each other for support. One of the most important things that I've learned is that we are in this business together.

It does not matter what your paycheck looks like, and it does not matter how many children are in your center! We all face the same concerns. We all want quality childcare, to have quality staff, and to create learning

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2019 Annual Conference



Keynote Speaker

Paul McGhee, PhD

Lighten Up!

*Humor is FUNdamental to
Providing Quality Education
and Care to Young Children*



Paul McGhee is currently the President of The Laughter Remedy in Wilmington, Delaware. His scientific contributions to the field of humor research make him unique among professional speakers discussing the importance of building more humor into your life. He spent 20 years conducting basic research on humor and laughter before becoming a professional speaker and is generally viewed as a pioneer in the field.

This keynote shows how humor helps cope with the stress associated with teaching or caring for young children and helps teachers to continue to provide quality education and care day after day — even on their toughest days. It is entertaining and fun and guaranteed to get you laughing, but also discusses substantive issues related to the education and care of young children.

When:

Saturday,

February 23, 2019

8:00am—4:00pm

Where:

Medallion Conference Center

7309 Garners Ferry Road

Columbia, SC 29209

**Registration
is required!**

For more information
visit www.SCAECE.com

or contact

Christine@jee.com

Speak Up! Your Voice Matters.

A Message from Rep. Shannon Erickson

Recently, I attended an ABC Quality Voucher informational meeting and was shocked that there are new ABC rules/regulation/qualifications/procedures which one DSS staff person wrote and DSS is pushing as a statewide “pilot” program. Criteria includes, but is not limited to: sharing staff salary scales, employee hiring practices/policies, child group sizes, lower ratios, higher teacher & assistant qualifications, higher ITERS and ECCERS scores and more — but allocates no extra funds to help providers reach these new requirements,

They have also added a waiver so **unlicensed** caregivers can get ABC funding — so they are loosening the reins for those who already have no red tape and piling on more red tape and bureaucracy onto those already regulated.

Adding to the frustration is that this new system is being promoted (pushed) on top of brand new DSS child Care regulations and there is very little coordination of the two. To my knowledge, these were not shared with the Governor’s Child Care Advisory Council or the SC Joint Citizens & Legislative Committee on Children.

I was told that I am the only dissension — that I’m the only one complaining. “Everyone else is great with this!” Please tell me this isn’t true. Or if it is, how and why?



Please, please — speak up — write to the Governor’s staff, DSS and your SC House & Senate member! **Let your voice be heard about over-regulation!**

Please email your SC House and Senate members, the DSS Director Joan Bryant (through her communications person Pam.Bryant@dss.sc.gov) and the Governor (through his Chief of Staff TreyWalker@gov.sc.gov) and tell them to slow this new system down!

Please ask them to get the program vetted through the Child Care Advisory Committee or SC Children’s Committee — and to do a small pilot, not a statewide one! Ask them to consider how this can 1) run up costs for working families and 2) hurt the small businesses that are child care providers!

You can also anonymously comment on the DSS at the Legislative Oversight Committee comment page: <https://www.research.net/r/ProvideInputtotheSCHouseLegislativeOversightCommittee> — choose the “Social Services Department” category, write your comment, answer demographics questions (no personal identifier) and submit.

Your voice is crucial! Speak up! We all want safety for children but let’s use common sense -- not more layers of paperwork and inspections on those already regulated and another free pass on those who are using law loopholes to skirt licensing now.

Thank you for your time and activism! Please share with other childcare/early education providers and ask them to help.



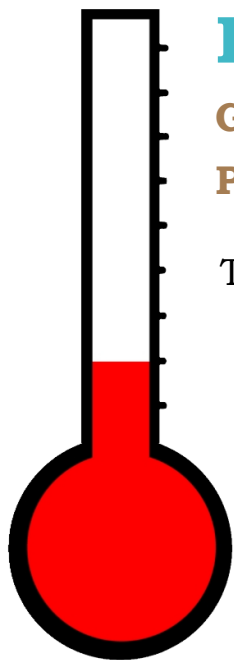
Meet Your 2018-2019 Board of Directors

Officers

President	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer	Past President
Carolyn Watt <i>Small World of Easley</i>	Tami Nix <i>Archway Academy</i>	Nancy Pryor <i>Chapin Children's Center</i>	Margaret-Anne Gaffney <i>Anne Pitts CDC</i>	Tricia Sheldon <i>La Petite Academy</i>

Board of Directors

Allison Cawley <i>Small World of Easley</i>	M. Thomas Compton <i>Miss Tammy's Little Learning Center</i>	Marsha Davis <i>Amazing Creations</i>	Shannon Erickson <i>Hobbit Hill Too</i>
Melissa Jordan <i>La Petite Academy</i>	Deborah Madden <i>Rocky Creek Christian Academy</i>	Marilyn Nelson <i>Anderson Prep Preschool</i>	John Michael Nix <i>Archway Academy</i>
Cindy Walton-McCawley <i>Adlerian Child Care Center</i>	Associate Member Ed Brashier <i>FCI Agency</i>	Lobbyist Jeff Thordahl <i>Copper Dome Strategies</i>	Executive Director Christine Driessen <i>JEE</i>



Lobbyist Fund

Goal: \$30,000

Progress: \$7,250

Thank you to the following
for your contributions!

Archway Academy

Amazing Creations

Abner Montessori

Ask The Board

Do you have a question,
concern, or suggestion that
the Board of Directors can
help you with?

We want to hear from you!

Go to www.scaece.com and
click on "Ask The Board".

Message from the President

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environments that prepare children for success in life.

Small World of Easley has been my home away from home for 33 years. It is a small center (less than 75 children), but we have big hearts and a lot of personality. I came into this business knowing “a little about a lot”. I suppose one would say I was adventurous! I am currently serving as the President of the SCAECE, but I’m scouting the state looking for new, young, fresh entrepreneurs to take the lead!

SCAECE is firm and sound in its convictions. This is the ONLY organization that represents YOU and the work you put into your center(s) every day! Keep in mind that our private childcare businesses are regulated by legislators and other governmental agencies that are not aware of the things we do each day. This is something SCAECE is trying to correct by having an experienced lobbyist. You know what your business needs to make it a successful adventure for the families you serve and for your own family. Our lobbyist represents us and has a record that

speaks for itself.

Please continue to be involved in the regulatory issues that will influence how we operate our centers. Be prepared to analyze and critique future law and regulatory actions by our state leaders. Be a part of the training efforts we offer each year that prepare the path for hundreds of preschool teachers across our state. It is amazing and powerful to see that many *advocates of quality early education* in one place!

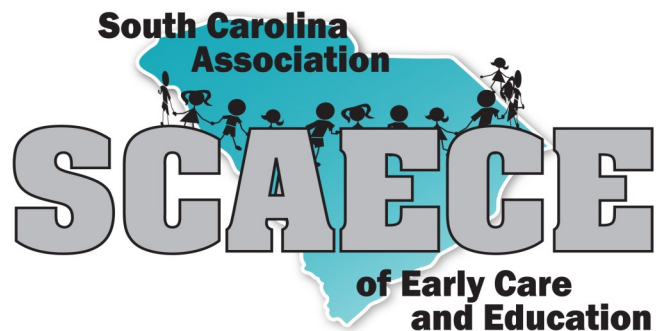
I sincerely hope that you are successful every single day in your work with the children of South Carolina! Thank you for your support of the SCAECE in the form of regular participation, making phone calls & communicating with your local politicians, teaching local and state seminars & conferences, participating in local gatherings for area centers, and of course, for your loyal support of our long-term lobbyist, Jeff Thordahl. Thank you for all you do to promote quality child care in South Carolina.

We make a great team!



Mission Statement

The South Carolina Association of Early Care and Education is a team of professionals who join together to promote *licensed*, privately-owned child care and early education opportunities for the children of our state. We have members (individuals, large and small centers, and schools) in every county. We represent our membership at all state-level legislative functions by employing a professional lobbyist and having a dedicated, hard-working Board of Directors. We have members on many committees in South Carolina which deal with early childhood issues such as the South Carolina Child Care Advisory Board, state & county *First Steps Boards*, and the *First Steps/United Way Quality Task Force*.



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www.SCAECE.com

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