



# R.A.E.Y.C.

## General Membership Newsletter

### RAEYC Mission Statement



*We value the professionals in our communities who teach and nurture our children. We profess this value through our commitment, interest, recognition and support of the contributions made by Early Childhood Educators. We seek to advance the efforts to improve and raise the standards by which acceptable child care is measured. We believe that the potential for children's success can be positively shaped by early influence.*

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### Letter from RAEYC President, Alice LeDesma

We were very patient and spring finally did arrive this year - blink and it will be summer. Ah, the joys of living in Northern Nevada! Let me introduce to you another benefit of living in Northern Nevada, she is an Assemblywoman from District Number 30 in Sparks and her name is Debbie Smith. R.A.E.Y.C. is very fortunate to have Debbie as our Chairperson of Public Policy. She has taught us a great deal about advocacy and the importance of supporting issues that affect children and families. We are proud to have her as a part of our organization and it my pleasure to have her address you in our newsletter this month in honor of Worthy Wage Day and also Provider Appreciation Day – both recognized formally in the month of May. Debbie has been an active and creative member of our affiliate and we know that you will feel the impact of her efforts as she works to help us educate the early care and education workforce on public po



### Worthy Wages, Assemblywoman Debbie Smith

Finding quality day care is a difficult undertaking faced by many of us in today's world. As parents, we all want to know our little ones are in a safe, caring, nurturing environment.

Unfortunately, the child care field faces the frequent loss of many talented professionals and teachers. According to the National Association for the Education of Young Children, a third of program staff leaves the field each year because of low compensation—low salaries, few benefits, and difficult working conditions. Worthy Wage Day, set for May 1, 2006, is a day set aside to highlight the importance of quality care for children and its relationship to worthy, appropriate wages for the work of child care. The day also honors those individuals who care for, nurture, and help educate our young children.

(continued on next page)

## Worthy Wages (continued)



Studies have shown that a child's experiences at home, in child care, and in other preschool settings help his development, learning, and health. The consistent presence of caregivers who are trained and committed to their young children increases cognitive abilities and creates positive effects on a child's long term social, emotional, and language development.

How does better pay and benefits for child care professionals and educators help us as a nation? According to Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a nonprofit, anticrime organization led by police chiefs, prosecutors, and violence victims, young people who spend their early lives in high-quality child care are half as likely to be arrested later. Other studies show these children are better readers, are more engaged in school, are more likely to graduate from high school, and they have lower pregnancy rates. The result is less tax money spent on justice issues, prisons, welfare, and other social programs. Educated child care professionals who are well paid and well trained—watching over, guiding, and teaching our

youngest citizens—are an asset to us all.

You can help the dedicated people involved in early childhood education by showing your support for appropriate compensation and benefits. We can work together to make every day a worthy wage day.



*Debbie Smith, Washoe County Assembly District No. 30, has served three special and two regular sessions. Involved with State and local education policy, she has assumed numerous leadership roles, having served as Chair of the Nevada Council to Establish Academic Standards and the Washoe County School District Parent Involvement Council, consultant to the Nevada Parent Teacher Association, Public Policy Advisor to RAEYC, as well as Vice chair of the Assembly Committee on Education and a member of the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means during the 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Nevada Legislature. Assemblywoman Smith is currently the Chair of the School Financing Adequacy Interim Study.*

## What's Happening?

### Membership Fundraiser/Meeting

June 21, 2006

Details Coming Soon!

Check [www.nevaeyc.org](http://www.nevaeyc.org) for details or contact Stephanie Wyatt at: [pete@unr.edu](mailto:pete@unr.edu)

### Director's Luncheons

Please join us for raffle prizes, great food, wonderful company, conversation and a one-hour training! As always, this event is FREE to R.A.E.Y.C. members and \$10.00 for non-members. Please check the events calendar at [www.nevaeyc.org](http://www.nevaeyc.org) or contact Cheryl Price at 626-1802 for future date, time, and location information.



## Board Meetings—You Are Invited!

All active members of the RAEYC membership are welcome to attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. Meetings are typically scheduled for 5:30 pm at St. John's Children's Center at 1070 W. Plumb Lane\*. At this time, the following meetings have been scheduled:

**June 19, 2006**

*\*Dates and locations are subject to change. Feel free to email a member of the Board to verify prior to attending.*



## Meet UNR's N.A.E.Y.C. Student Group!

An exciting new development is underway on the UNR campus – a N.A.E.Y.C. student chapter! Several students from the ECE and HDFS programs came together to form the club in November 2005 and since then have recruited 16 official and active members. The group focuses on raising the quality of early childhood education programs, building the early childhood profession, promoting public support and policies for young children, meeting other students who are passionate about working with young children, and helping give the ECE workforce the recognition it deserves.

They have had a busy and successful first year organizing fundraisers, scheduling tours of N.A.E.Y.C. accredited centers, holding membership meetings, attending

conferences, and of course attending school full-time!!

Any student at UNR can join and there are currently no dues at the UNR level. Students of all majors are encouraged to join! Visit them on the web at:

<http://www.geocities.com/unrnaeyc/index.html>

Email: unrnaeyc@yahoo.com

### Officers

*President:* Erin Baerwaldt

*Co-Vice President:* Michelle Hammond

*Co-Vice President:* Jennifer Reisig

*Secretary:* Emily Marshall

*Treasurer:* Corinne Thomson

## Want to Get Involved?

The R.A.E.Y.C. Board welcomes individuals who are interested in volunteering in various capacities. If you would like to get involved with any of our upcoming events, please feel free to contact a board member.

## R.A.E.Y.C. on the RUN!

Three of R.A.E.Y.C.'s board members participated in the half-marathon event at Reno's inaugural *Marathon de Mayo* this past May 7th. Sisters Margaret Oberg and Virginia Saiz (also featured in a Reno Gazette Journal article on May 5, 2006!) ran the half-marathon as a warm-up for their upcoming marathon in Hawaii this June. Both Margaret and Ginny were in the top four finishers in their age category - CONGRATULATIONS! Margaret and Ginny are running to raise money for stroke research and will participate in the Kona Marathon in Hawaii on June 11th. Stephanie Aguilera also participated in the half-marathon and finished 11th in her age category.

Good luck Margaret and Ginny in your upcoming marathon!



From left: Ginny Saiz poses with daughter Corrina Saiz and sister Margaret Oberg for an RGJ photo.



## 2006 Board Contact List

Feel free to contact Board members at any time for more information about the organization, with questions, comments, or to express your interest in getting involved!

*President* • **Alice LeDesma** • aledesma@washoeconomy.us

*Vice President* • **Margaret Oberg** • granmuna@yahoo.com

*Treasurer* • **Virginia Saiz** • vlsaiz@sbcglobal.net

*Secretary* • **Tiffany Jackson** • tjackson@childrenscabinet.org

*Resource Development Coordinator* • **Stephanie Wyatt** • pete@unr.edu

*Professional Development Coordinator* • **Cheryl Price** • priceclub4@charter.net

*Special Projects Coordinator* • **Sandra Connell** • slconnell@sbcglobal.net

*Membership Coordinator* • **Donna Young** • dyoung@stjohnschurch.org

*Member At Large* • **Stephanie Aguilera** • saguilera@washoe.k12.nv.us



## Renew Your Membership!

Renewing your membership is easy! You can either send in your renewal or SAVE TIME by logging on to [www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org) and complete the entire renewal process online.



Upgrade your membership to **COMPREHENSIVE** and get a free subscription to *Family Life!*

## Are you looking for training to meet your annual training requirements?

Search for all approved training by date, location and/or Core Knowledge Area on a statewide basis by visiting **The Nevada Registry's** online calendar of approved training at:

**[www.nevadaregistry.org](http://www.nevadaregistry.org)**

**R.A.E.Y.C.**

**Reno Association for the Education of Young Children**

P. O. Box 11421

Reno, NV 89510-1421

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