



VAECE Past Presidents

1957-1959 Jane Moncure

1959-1960 Alice Powell\*

1960-1961 Bonnie King\* (completing Alice Powell's term)

1961-1963 Bonnie King\*

1963-1965 Alice Powell\*

1965-1967 Margaret Browning

1967-1969 Jane Goldman

1969-1971 Florence Mason

1971-1973 Mildred Dickerson

1973-1975 Charles Caldwell\* (first time a president-elect was designated in the minutes)

1975-1977 Shirley Farrier

1977-1979 Lois Fears

1979-1981 Evelyn Bickham

1981-1983 Johnnie Humphrey

1983-1985 Helen Richardson

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1985-1987 Ruth Steinbrunner

1987-1989 Lucille Everhart

1989-1991 Janet Sawyers

1991-1993 Victoria Fu

1993-1995 Pearl L. Waxman

1995-1997 Carole B. Whitener

1997-1998 Malcom Cole\*

1998-1999 Ann Marie Leonard (completing Malcom Cole's term)

1999-2001 Ann Marie Leonard

2001-2003 Toni Cacace-Beshears

2003-2005 Mary Margaret Gardiner

2005-2007 Edyth Wheeler

2007-2009 Joyce Jones

(\*deceased)

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## Organizational History Highlights of VAECE History

- 1956 - 1960

Virginia Council of Social Work sponsored an institute for training child care personnel. Fifty people attended.

A study committee was appointed for future planning endeavors. A study Committee consisting of twelve members with Jane Moncure as chairperson, met. A constitution was prepared for an organization to be called the Virginia Association for Early Childhood Education. An annual membership fee of \$1.00 was recommended.

In 1957, two hundred participants at a Virginia Council of Social Work Institute became charter members of VAECE. The proposed constitution with four basic objectives for the organization was adopted.

A planning committee was appointed for the 1958 conference. A Virginia Association for Early Childhood Education was published.

Three groups became the first informal affiliates of VAECE: Tidewater Preschool Association, Northern Virginia Private Schools Association, and Northern Virginia Cooperative Teachers.

Two VAECE leaders contributed to the revision of the Virginia Department of Education publication, Nursery Schools & Kindergartens: A Guide to Self-Improvement. This work instated the organization's position as a professional resource within the state.

In 1958, the first VAECE Conference was held at the Roslyn Episcopal Conference Center, the only Richmond area facility which would accept a racially integrated group.

### 1958-70

VAECE members worked on behalf of a preschool registration bill. Although the bill never passed, the effort represented the first significant legislative initiative for VAECE.

Cooperative efforts were initiated between VAECE and the Virginia Department of Welfare and Institutions to provide training for child care and nursery school workers across the state.

VAECE unsuccessfully sought a revision of Nursery Schools & Kindergartens: A Guide to Self-Improvement.

The Virginia General Assembly passed legislation in 1966, supported by VAECE, providing for state funding for public school kindergartens-the organization's first major public policy success.

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Two VAECE members served on a thirteen-member committee appointed by the State Department of Education for the preparation of A Guide for Kindergarten Education, published in 1968.

VAECE Awarded scholarships to graduate students in early childhood education to help answer the state's need for prepared kindergarten teachers.

In 1969, VAECE and its chapters affiliated with NAEYC. Later that year, Piedmont AECE affiliated with VAECE.

### 1971-1979

A formal policy for local chapter affiliation was adopted. During these years, Northern Virginia AEYC, Valley AEYC, Richmond Area AECE, Williamsburg AECE and Southwestern Virginia AECE became the first chapters to be affiliated under the new procedures.

The first two-day board retreat was held. NAEYC provided assistance for a leadership workshop to plan for more comprehensive programs for child advocacy. At that time, the newsletter's name was changed to Viewpoint.

In 1972, VAECE hosted the annual SACUS Conference in Richmond. VAECE affiliated with SACUS. Thereafter, VAECE membership included SACUS/NAEYC membership.

VAECE established the office of Vice President for Affiliate Chapters.

A former VAECE member was named chairperson of the Week of the Young Child Committee for NAEYC.

VAECE members participated actively in the Governor's Conference on Day Care Needs in Virginia. VAECE endorsed the conference recommendations and provided financial assistance for publishing the conference report.

The office of Vice President for Commissions was established by appointment. Commissions were named and charged with responsibility for developing white papers on current children's issues.

The VAECE Award for Outstanding Service to Young Children in Virginia was instituted.

VAECE supported a resolution creating a VALC (Virginia Legislative Committee) study on the needs of young children in Virginia. Testimony by VAECE members contributed to the committee's work.

In 1976, House Bill 612, resulting from VALC study, was introduced to the General Assembly. VAECE supported the bill which proposed a Division for Children.

HB 612 creating a Division for Children under the Governor's office passed the General Assembly.

VAECE Kindergarten Position Paper was printed and distributed.

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In 1978, the Division for Children was established. Two VAECE members were appointed to the Division for Children's Advisory Board. One served as the first Chair.

Richmond Area AECE developed a publication and a slide-tape presentation of A Guide to Child Advocacy. A student affiliate at James Madison University was established.

In 1979, House Bill 276, established exemption for church-related child care centers from licensure, passed the General Assembly.

VAECE contributed \$1,000 to the legal fund to challenge HB 276. The International Year of the Child was celebrated. Three VAECE members received the International Year Distinguished Service Award.

### 1980 - 1989

VAECE hosted the annual SACUS Conference in Roanoke. SACUS re-organized governance with direct representation from each state. VAECE elected its first SACUS representative.

VAECE established a Week of the Young Child Subsidy and a newsletter Subsidy for affiliate groups.

VAECE published a position paper on Care and Education of Infants and Toddlers in Virginia.

VAECE published a revision of Kindergarten in Virginia.

The constitution is changed to allow for election of officers by mail ballot.

VAECE published a position paper on The Primary Years in Virginia.

A past VAECE president was elected SACUS president.

A VAECE member was elected to the NAEYC Governing Board for a 1985-89 term.

VAECE presented a resolution to the NAEYC Board emphasizing the importance of the primary years and seeking the establishment of a Primary Track at the annual NAEYC conference.

VAECE Adopted a Legislative Agenda for the 1986 General Assembly.

Attendance at the annual VAECE conference exceeded 1,000 participants.

Thirteen Virginia programs were accredited during the first year of the NAEYC's Center Accreditation Program.

VAECE unsuccessfully opposed recommended changes of the Governor's Commission on Excellence in Education related to early childhood teacher education and to programs for "at risk" four-year olds.

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A second VAECE member was elected to the NAEYC Governing Board for the 1987-91 term of office.

VAECE membership adopted a position statement on Missing Children/Child Abuse.

The Governor's Conference on Child Care: Everybody's Business was supported by VAECE's contributions to planning and participation.

VAECE membership adopted three position statements:

- Programs for Four Year Old Children in Virginia.
- Professional Development, and
- School-Age Child Care in Virginia
- Quality Child Care

VAECE hosted the Fortieth Annual SACUS Conference in Richmond. VAECE supported the Virginia Department for Children's Child Advocacy Day.

Adopted and distributed the SACUS position paper on Multi-Cultural Education.

VAECE Primary Component Committee was formed.

Liaisons from the Family Day Care Association and Council for Exceptional Children were added to the VAECE board.

In these years, Central Virginia AEYC, Prince William AEYC, New River Valley AEYC, and Radford University AEYC, a student group, were affiliated with VAECE.

### 1990 - 2000

The first history of VAECE published in 1990.

VAECE adopted and distributed two NAEYC position papers on Developmentally Appropriate Practices in Early Childhood Programs for Infants and Toddlers.

VAECE supported the Commonwealth of Virginia's Day of Recognition for Early Childhood and Day Care Providers.

Cooperated with the State Department of Home Economics by providing workshops for Occupational Child Care teachers.

Funded first grant for an original early childhood-oriented radio production.

Developed a position paper on Parents as Partners.

Cooperated with the Virginia Department of Licensing in developing and implementing "A Program to Assist Certain Parents Choose and Monitor Child Care."

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Retained services of a public policy consultant to maximize advocacy efforts.

VAECE awarded a State Training Plan block grant bringing together relevant major state organizations to examine and develop an early childhood career development plan.

First VAECE Summer Institute on Developmentally Appropriate Practices in the Primary Grades, held in Charlottesville.

VAECE Board structure re-organized.

In 1994, VAECE was awarded a grant from Virginia Council on child Day Care and Early Childhood Programs to sponsor training for child care providers in honor of Provider Recognition Day.

Liaison from Virginia School Age Child Care Network joined the VAECE Executive Board.

VAECE adopted a new organizational logo using the outline of the state including the Eastern Shore as well as two representative children.

Two new liaison members joined the Board representing the Virginia Alliance for Children and Youth and The Virginia Cooperative Extension Service.

Affiliate groups numbered twenty-two, serving VAECE more than 2,800 members.

Virginia Education Association joined VAECE as a liaison group.

Toll free VAECE Hotline was established. Viewpoint format was changed. Started to include paid advertisement.

President put together "Reflections" as year end report.

First Affiliate Presidents Newsletter went out.

Public Policy committee developed a six year plan.

Produced and distributed "Virginia Works if Child Care Works" cards to the state legislators. Each one contained a fact about early care and education.

Board voted to develop a VAECE web page.

Orientation meeting for new members began at the Summer Board Retreat.

Board voted to move VAECE files to a storage facility.

Liaison from Head Start appointed to serve on VAECE Board and Head Start was a partner in the 2000 conference.

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Policy manual revised and a new filing system for reports submitted at Board Meetings.

Conference Advisory Committee created, headed by a chair that would become a non-voting member.

Contracted out Commercial Exhibits and Registrations for the 2000 conference.

In 1999, the current President died during his second year term.

### 2000 - current

Adopted mission statement " To speak and act on behalf of all young children in Virginia."

NAEYC asks affiliates to modify their dues so the total dues end in a "5" or a "0".

Added Web page and office supplies/ storage for storage of historical records.

Purchased two computers for conference chair and conference program chair.

SECA representative will serve a 3 year term.

President, Ann Marie Leonard appointed first Affiliate Representative to the NAEYC Affiliate Council for a 3-year term.

Special presentation to Jane Goldman for all her many years of work as VAECE Historian.

Dedicated a day of training to Elisabeth Forsyth, at VAECE conference.

SECA's Presidential Award for Child Advocacy awarded to Peg Spangenthal.

Board signed agreement to work with NAEYC on restructuring.

New mission statement approved by membership vote.

New conference guidelines were distributed.

Added Virginia State Occupational Child care.

NAEYC became the VAECE dues collecting agency.

Treasurer of 2003 conference and future conference treasurers will be bonded and paid for by the affiliate conference committee.

Ballots for yearly election will be sent out by first class mail.

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Dan River Regional Association of Early Childhood Education became an affiliate chapter of VAECE.

Jessica Flowers, from NVAEYC, received a SECA DivDev award for "Strengthening Family Connections Through Positive Approaches to Discipline."

Dissolution of Northern Virginia Private Schools Association.

Amendment to by-laws: Minutes and board business can be distributed to board members through a variety of means so that all Board members have access.

In January 2004, submitted application for reaffiliation with NAEYC.

In 2009, VAECE contracts with part-time office staff on conference, web, and fund development.

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