

South Carolina Association of Early Care & Education NEWSLETTER

Fall 2017 Edition

Inside This Issue

2017 Highlights	2
Center Spotlight	3
2018 Annual Conference	4
Legislative Update	5
Meet Your Board of Directors	6

Copper Dome Strategies: The Voice of Licensed Childcare at the Statehouse

Why does SCAECE hire someone to Advocate for Licensed Childcare Centers? Along with providing training and education for its members, an advocacy voice is typically the most important function of a professional association. As state and federal laws and regulations constantly grow in number and complexity there is a critical need to be sure someone within a specific industry or area of interest is making sure the laws and regulations are fair, necessary and are relevant to the industry. In South Carolina, many child care operators are rightfully busy making sure their centers are ready for operation each and every day. Many times the owners/operators find themselves filling in for teachers, cooking lunch or driving a bus at some point in the day. While many owners/operators have a desire to be more involved in the regulation/legislative process, there simply isn't time in the day.

It is for this reason that SCAECE has relied on Copper Dome Strategies (CDS) to represent our voice with state legislators and other stakeholders. SCAECE views this as a critical piece of our success; making sure lawmakers and others affecting relevant public policy know licensed childcare exists and understand how the laws do or can affect our industry. For 12 years now Copper Dome Strategies has provided that role for the Childcare Industry in close coordination with our governing Board.



Jeff Thordahl, Lobbyist

What is it that Copper Dome Strategies and this advocacy piece really do?

First and foremost is creating an identity and understanding of the licensed childcare business with policy makers and influencers. CDS is your everyday presence and voice in and around the Statehouse. Over the last twelve years CDS has become so closely identified with your issues that legislators and others see us coming and know a child care conversation will ensue! But who all needs to know what is going on in



2017 Highlights

Right: SCAECE Board Member & Center owner/director, Representative Shannon Erickson, presents a House Resolution noting April 4, 2017 as Children's Advocacy Day at the SC General Assembly. Senator Katrina Shealy, Attorney General Alan Wilson and DSS Director Susan Alford also participated.



Below: Tami Nix and lobbyist Jeff Thordahl discuss legislative issues at the first Board of Directors meeting of the 2017-2018 term on Tuesday, September 19, 2017.

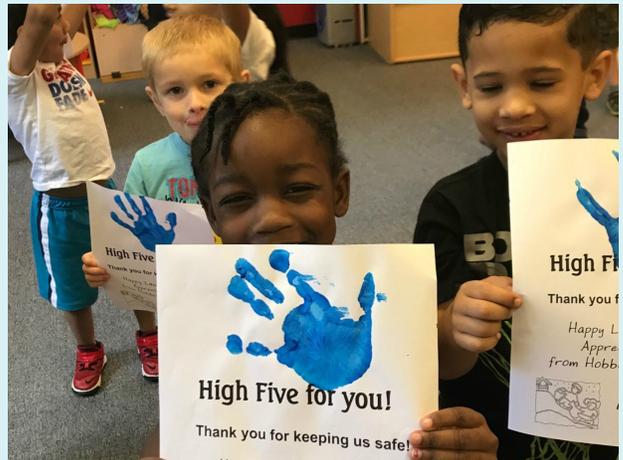


Below: Attendees of the 2017 Annual Conference participate in one of the breakout sessions. The Conference was held on Saturday, February 4 at the Medallion Conference Center in Columbia, SC.



Center Spotlight

Hobbit Hill Preschools in Beaufort (right) invited law enforcement officers for snack time during Law Enforcement Appreciation Week!



Fourth Annual Health & Fitness Basketball Game

Kourtnie Peeples and Tami Nix represent the SCAECE at the USC Women's Basketball Game vs Kentucky on February 26th. The Health & Fitness Day Game promotes children's wellness in South Carolina.



2018 Annual Conference



Keynote Speaker **Dr. Gloria Boutte**

*What Color Is Beautiful?
Beyond the Illusion
of Diversity*

Dr. Gloria Boutte holds the academic rank of Professor at the University of South Carolina. For more than three decades, her scholarship, teaching, and service have focused on equity pedagogies and teaching for social justice in Early Childhood Education. She has served as Department Chair and held a distinguished endowed chair for four years.

Dr. Boutte is the author of three books: (1) *Educating African American Students: And how are the children*; (2) *Multicultural Education: Raising Consciousness*; and (3) *Resounding Voices: School Experiences of People from Diverse Ethnic Backgrounds*. She has received nearly \$2 million in grants and has more than 90 publications.

Additionally, she has presented nationally and internationally on equity, community, curriculum, instruction, and diversity issues. She has received prestigious awards such as the Fulbright Scholar and Fulbright Specialist. Dr. Boutte is the founder of the statewide Center of Excellence for the Education and Equity of African American Students (CEEEAAS). She has presented her work internationally in Cameroon, Columbia, China, Sierra Leone, Ghana, England, Zambia, Botswana, South Africa, Australia, South America, Jamaica, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, and Canada.

Her session “What Color Is Beautiful? Beyond the Illusion of Diversity” provides Early Childhood strategies for providing young children with foundational competencies for understanding and addressing issues of equity and diversity. Capturing children’s voices and examples from classrooms and homes, Dr. Boutte will demonstrate what happens if Early Childhood educators remain silent on issues of equity and diversity.

When:

Saturday,
February 3, 2018
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

Legislative Update

By Jeff Thordahl

The General Assembly completed the first year of a two year session in May. It was also the first year of a “shorter session” Which historically and by law ended in early June. With the new law the regular session ends in May though the budget ended up finishing on its usual schedule of mid-June. One consequence of this new timeline is the heightened need to work on legislative issues in the off session time period at the local level back in legislative home and also participating in hearings held during the summer and fall on relevant issues. The big themes of state pension reform and how to fund road improvements took up a large portion of the 2017 session. With those significant laws now in place the General Assembly can move on to other pressing needs. Keep in mind that all House members are up for election next year as are all of the constitutional offices. Notably the Governor and Lt Governor will run as a ticket in 2018 for the first time ever in South Carolina.

Specifically in the child care and education arena this was a year of great satisfaction but still with a realization that we must all get even more engaged locally. After many years of toil, there is a larger group of interested parties who believe it is simply the right thing to do to protect children and inform parents by expanding licensing to the unlicensed. With so many



places in the business of child care but who are able to avoid licensing by riding unintended loopholes, it is time to pass the Licensing bill (S.569 and H.4044). These interested and supportive groups will bring and independent voice to the issue that is sure to help get traction on the bills.

As the licensed Child Care representatives we can now focus on gaining the support of your local House and Senate members. They need to see the value you provide to the community and understand that you are part of the economic development success of your community. Please know that there are local unlicensed facilities who have a different set of rules (as in no rules) who are still fighting being licensed and they are reaching out to their local legislators to ask them to not

regulate them at all. You must counter the opposition in a fashion that is not mean spirited but simply pointing out that in this day and age not being regulated is not an option. It may be useful to pose to your legislator a rhetorical question of whether they would sponsor legislation relieving you of all state regulation and also eliminate your property taxes just like non-profits – if regulation and taxes on others in the same business of business of child care does not seem to be necessary for them then it is not necessary on us. Obviously we believe in the importance of proper regulation and recognition of the disparity in tax treatment (even though most of our competitors will never pay property taxes). Now is the time to take your message to your local elected state official. If you need any assistance please contact the SC Association of Early Care and Education. 🌿

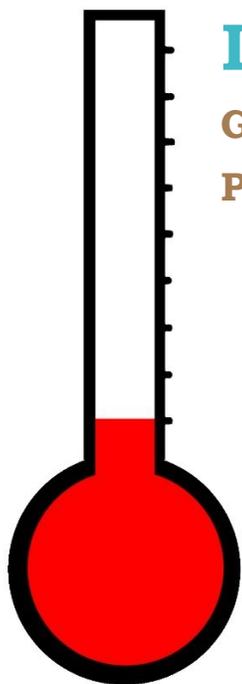
Meet Your 2017-2018 Board of Directors

Officers

President	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer	Past President
Tammy Compton <i>Miss Tammy's Little Learning Center</i>	Carolyn Watt <i>Small World of Easley</i>	Nancy Pryor <i>Chapin Children's Center</i>	Margaret-Anne Gaffney <i>Anne Pitts CDC</i>	Tami Nix <i>Archway 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>	John Michael Nix <i>Archway Academy</i>	Tricia Sheldon <i>La Petite 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 Courtney Waldrup <i>JEE</i>



Lobbyist Fund

Goal: \$30,000

Progress: \$3,700

Thank you to
Archway Academy
&
Amazing Creations
for your contributions!

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".

Copper Dome Strategies: the Voice of Licensed Childcare at the Statehouse

continued from front page

your industry and who needs to have a full and fair understanding of the value you provide and the challenges you face?

Below is a sampling of relevant persons and groups that we engage with on a consistent basis to help make positive changes for you and the children you serve.

- The Governor and staff
- The 46 senators and the staff of the relevant committees
- The 124 House members and the staff of the relevant committees
- Department of Education
- The Department of Social Services
- The State Office of First Steps to School Readiness
- United Way of South Carolina
- Boys and Girls Club of South Carolina
- Children's Trust of South Carolina
- Joint Citizens and Legislative Committee on Children
- Governor's Advisory Committee on the Regulations of Child Care Facilities
- The Institute for Children's Success

As you can see this is a large group of interested parties that have some impact on your issues. An advocacy team provides instant access and credibility with these groups and individuals. Without an advocacy voice you are tremendously disadvantaged in being heard and affecting change.

Over the past several years, with an advocacy you have been able to accomplish many things such as the following:

- The halting of an unfair rating system with no state investment to help implementation (Palmetto Stars)
- Maintaining state teacher:child ratios at current levels rather than taking final step-down outlined in regulations
- Amendment to the provisional employee law to make it workable yet safe
- Stopped proposed Regulations that would have only fined licensed centers while the unlicensed centers would continue to go unregulated
- Partnered with tragically affected parents of children in at-home settings to increase the regulation

and safety of those settings. As part of the at-home reform legislation, reduced the supervisory inspections by DSS on licensed centers to only one per year.

These are very real accomplishments generated by the advocacy component of the Association. They simply would not have happened without that effort and commitment from the association. Again almost all trade associations have an aggressive advocacy program to make sure uninformed and bad ideas aren't pushed onto their respective industry.

Our Current Mission

This last item is worth special mention. The Association has had a multiple year effort to advocate for updating and changing the loopholes in the law that have allowed the proliferation of unlicensed after school programs and summer camps. These groups have their own strong advocacy voice and effort. They also have many full-time employees who have desk jobs and time to call and visit their legislators.

For years these opponents have been able to slow down passage of a new licensing law. However though your Associations advocacy efforts over the past couple of years, we have fostered and developed positive relationships with many of these groups that originally opposed increased licensing and any type of regulation on their summer camp and after school programs. Instead of fearing and distrusting each other a very positive effort has developed to come up with a revised legislation that will greatly increase licensing thus protecting more children and providing an avenue of recourse for parents when problems arise. This alliance did not happen overnight but was born of years of getting to know the individuals in the groups named above and finding a way to work together. Your seasoned advocacy team believes the solution is closer than ever before.

Finally we know the advocacy piece can seem distant and one can wonder and forget why it is part of the association. Hopefully this will help everyone in the licensed childcare industry gain or renew their understanding and commitment to the need for a strong, united Association with a strong advocacy component.

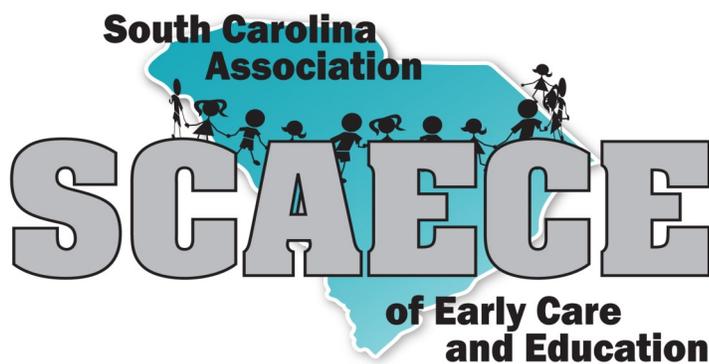


Mission Statement

*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*.*

Advertising

Advertise with SCAECE to connect your product with child care providers.



Email Christine Driessen
for more information.
christine@jee.com

CONTACT INFORMATION

One Windsor Cove Suite 305
Columbia, SC 29223

Phone: 803-252-5646
Fax: 803-765-0860
E-mail: christine@jee.com

*South Carolina Association of
Early Care and Education*

We're on the web!
www.scaece.com



facebook.com/SCAECE