

OMEP – USNC NEWSLETTER

United States National Committee of the World Organization for Early Childhood Education
Organisation Mondiale pour l'Education Prescolaire • Organización Mundial Para La Educación Prescolar

JULY 2009

A Message from the OMEP-USNC President

A Letter to My Great-granddaughter

Dear Emma Ann:

You who were born at the end of 2008 could easily live into the 22nd century. My message sent from the 21st century to you comes through the lens of an established international organization created in 1948, that serves you and millions of other young children around the world. The World Organization for Early Childhood Education, OMEP, recognizes you as a citizen of the world in ways you will appreciate when you are older. You will send emails and other communications we don't yet know about to friends in France, Singapore, Buenas Aires, Liberia, Canada and everywhere. Your list of friends on a future Facebook will span the world map posted on your flat screen TV. You will benefit from the work of many people whom you will never know. Today, the OMEP members in your country, the United States of America, and elsewhere are working everyday to improve and expand the lives of children like you.

I will tell you a story about OMEP-USA members and what they are engaged in today to make a difference in your life tomorrow.

1. OMEP-USA members are sustaining an organization by recruiting new members – friends, colleagues, strangers – and asking current members to invite and mentor at least two new members by this Labor Day. OMEP members will distribute a list of reasons why someone who advocates for young children should join OMEP-USNC. Two important reasons are 1) to empower early educators in the ways of worldwide early education through OMEP and colleague organizations like NAEYC, ACEI, and the World Forum Foundation. Another is 2) to unite with real people in over 50 countries in Africa, North America, Europe, Latin America, and Asia-Pacific. We remind people no one is separate from another; for example, you who live in California are also a part of the Pacific Rim.
2. OMEP-USA members are concentrating on the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). OMEP members recognize that many American early educators don't know enough about the CRC. Part of this limitation is the quaint language the United Nations used to name the treaty that states the rights of every child in the world – that's a lot of children, Emma Ann, and you and every OMEP member's child, grandchild and great-grandchild are all involved. We can call the CRC an international treaty to acknowledge officially the rights of

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each child and all children. We urge our members and their colleagues to visit two websites: www.unicef.org and www.childrightscampaign.org and to search for “Convention on the Rights of the Child.” Some versions are written in plain language with pictures – in a few years, you will read about your rights all by yourself.

3. OMEP-USA celebrates the birthday of the CRC in November. In October, you will be one-year-old, eat cake and ice cream, and play with the boxes your presents come in like children before you. Your grandma Christina will send digital photographs to me by e-mail. On Friday, November 20, OMEP members worldwide will celebrate “Universal Children’s Day” with parties, songs, dances, photographs, and activities that grown-ups like to do. Many early childhood educators and advocates will meet in Washington, DC, to celebrate the 20th birthday of the CRC.

On that day at 11:30am, we will sing songs and promise to work with colleagues to get national approval of the CRC for you and all our children. That is what ratification of the CRC means. OMEP-USA members will decide on activities for the coming year, sponsor a workshop, and hold an evening reception and poster session. OMEP members and colleagues are invited to submit pictures and words about projects they have worked on to celebrate Children and the Environment. We are thinking and acting on an issue we call SUSTAINABILITY. That means we want to keep the towns and cities we live in safe, clean, and healthy so children like you will grow up to learn, study, play, and work wherever you live.

4. And lastly, Emma Ann, OMEP-USA celebrates you and all the children we love, live, work and play with everyday. We invite our friends and colleagues to act to make the world a better place for every child you know. The future of children is in our hands; we owe it to ourselves and to every child to make it the best place possible. We encourage OMEP members to submit proposals to national and international conferences, to write letters to the editors and newsmakers, and to live their lives to increase the conversation about issues that affect children everywhere all the time.

Love, Great-Nana (aka Edna Ranck, President, OMEP-USA)
edna.ranck@verizon.net

Human Rights for U.S. Children: If Not Now, When? If Not Now, Why?

Child rights are human rights! U.S. children deserve to have the same international human rights as children in the 193 nations that have ratified the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Having participated in the 2006 and 2009 symposiums for the U.S. Ratifications of the 1989 U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, it is clear that the passage of the CRC would provide a framework to measure and improve conditions for many of our children as well as improve the U.S. standing in the world in human rights. Although the U.S. has some of the best laws and programs for children, the basic needs of many children are not being met. Among the industrialized nations, the U.S. has larger percentages of its children living in poverty, without health insurance, with low birth weight, and having lower eighth grade math and science scores, than in most if not all of the industrialized and having lower eighth grade math and science scores, than in most if not all of the industrialized countries. Death by firearms is 12 times higher for U.S. children than in 25



industrialized countries combined. Nearly 1.4 million children remain homeless and 4 children die everyday from abuse or neglect (*Children's Defense Fund, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2006; Sailor, 2004*).

After ratifying the CRC, many developed and developing nations have made significant improvements for their children. See UNICEF Innocenti Research (2006) and UNICEF Implementation Guide (2008). Much more implementation still needs to take place.

There has been a lack of response from citizens wanting global human rights for US children. Additionally, it is apparent that many are not aware of the CRC. Over the years, a small vocal group of individuals who dislike the UN have flooded Senators, the president, and the public with misinformation and untruths. (i.e. The CRC will usurp parents' authority or encourage children to sue their parents) The CRC supports parents and children. See other misinformation and answers on www.omep-usnc.org (Sailor and Hinitz booklet). In 1995, the Clinton administration signed the CRC but never submitted the treaty for Senate approval, yielding to opposition from some senators. We cannot afford to repeat this in 2009.

It's time for OMEP members and friends to act!

1. Educate yourself about the CRC.
2. Talk to your family, friends, and community members.
3. Circulate a petition to ratify the CRC to be sent to your Senators and one for the President. (Email dorothysailor@juno.com for both forms)
4. Write a personal brief letter to the President on why you believe it is imperative to ratify the CRC now. Include something personal such as working with children.

For additional information: www.childrightscampaign.org - or - www.cyberschoolbus.un.org/crc/

Submitted by Dodie Sailor, Advocacy Chair

5th Graders Studied the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Columbia, MO

The 5th grade class of Ms. Jonette Smith of West Boulevard Elementary School in Columbia, MO spent months using all of their cognitive skills to learn about children's rights worldwide. Math, science, history, geography, literature, social and emotional skills, etc. were learned and developed as the children studied about their rights as children and the conditions and circumstances that face children around the world. Ms. Smith wanted the children to think about ways they could make a difference in the world. Though the 5th graders executed the project, this was a school-wide effort. The children had the help and support of many faculty and staff. The Media Specialist, Literature Coach, and Art Teacher are a few who provided assistance as the children researched and developed their ideas.

The children worked on the project for several months. To start the process, they wrote biographies of persons worldwide they thought have made a difference. Many articles and books were found that overviewed issues related to children's rights. The students selected topics they wanted to research and explored these in small groups. The groups answered questions related to each topic and created text boards (factual paragraphs about the topic, interesting facts, and definitions.)



During the researching, students selected photographs that presented and outlined the information found in their research. The hallways of the West Boulevard Elementary School served as backdrops to showcase the myriad information the children found on children's rights nationally and internationally.

The hallways contained student created life-sized paper doll murals that embodied different children's rights; painted paper panels with quotes from famous people on the rights of humans, and interesting worldwide facts about children's rights. Once the exhibit was up, the Columbia community was invited to view the rights of the child presentation. The 5th graders served as tour guides for visitors. More than 350 persons from the Columbia community visited the exhibit.

The exhibit will be featured at the Winston Churchill Memorial in Fulton, Missouri from late August until the end of October, 2009 and the paper doll mural will travel around the state at the end of the exhibit period.

Submitted by Johnetta Morrison

Come Celebrate!
Universal Children's Day and 20th Anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Celebration Stage, November 20, 11:30-noon

www.childrightscampaign.org



A Report from the OMEP-USNC Treasurer

Membership Payments to OMEP-USNC

The 2009 OMEP-USNC membership campaign began in the fall of 2008 with a great start at the 2008 NAEYC Conference in Dallas. Conference attendees got to hear about OMEP-USNC at a number of events including the two film festival, the poster session and the daylong history session.

The next step of the 2009 campaign included an email to all current members reminding them to renew. People were encouraged to complete their membership application by February 15th to



ensure the delivery of their first of two 2009 OMEP journals. Extra journals were ordered so new members may still get a chance to receive the first journal. A payment of **\$2370.72** was sent for the journals the end of February.

By the end of May we have **153** members with dues totaling **\$5,915** for OMEP-USNC. The membership payments have slowed considerably in the last few months with only 12 memberships in April and May. Below is the breakdown of membership categories. Please say thank you to our two global members, Dr. Theresa Elofson and Dr. Ed Greene. Welcome to our one college student chapter and to our 38 students who are new to OMEP-USNC. Congratulations go to many of the students who have worked hard to complete and renew their CDAs. Lita Haddal sent out a membership card, a welcome letter and other information of interest to all new members. She also sent reminders to regional representatives to remind people to renew their memberships. Thank you Lita.

Member Type	Number	Dues
Global	2	\$ 200
Student Group	1	40
Regular with journal	64	3000
Emeritus with journal	16	460
Regular & Emeritus Without journal	30	890
Students	38	800
Group	1	35

Contributions to OMEP-USNC

Contributions totaling \$400 have also been given to OMEP-USNC through the membership drive. We need to thank all those listed below for their generous giving to our organization. The contributions vary from \$10 to \$150.

Dr. Helen Botnares	Dr. Ed Greene	Jean Rustici
Dr. Nancy Brown	Suzanne Miller	Norma K. Stone
Dr. Theresa Elofson	Katherine Morrell	Ruth Uhlmann

A contribution from Cito USA Inc. of **\$1077.65** was given to OMEP-USNC for the NAEYC Poster Session in November 2008 which helps to offset board costs of **\$2804.14** at the NAEYC Conference.

OMEP-USNC 2008 Election

In October 2008 **\$124.89** was spent on postage to send out election ballots. The printing was donated.

Office Supplies

Expenses of **\$246.44** were incurred with the transition of the treasurer position.

Region III Contribution

In January a contribution of **\$2160.00** was sent to Riverside School in London, England. The contribution was from Region III of OMEP-USNC.

Incorporation Annual Fees

In February the annual report payment was paid to Delaware. The total fee cost was **\$163.26**.



CPA Review

In February a CPA provided services by reviewing our financial records for the years while Millie Cowles was OMEP-USNC Treasurer. The cost was **\$840.00**.

OMEP Ribbons

In March OMEP ribbons were purchased to be worn with member nametags. The cost was **\$204.75**.

OMEP Dues

In April a payment of **\$1328.00** was made for our OMEP membership. This represents half of the full membership cost. The remaining **\$1327.00** will be paid in October 2009.

With the above numbers regarding revenue and expenses I believe we can put together a meaningful budget together for 2010. It is clear that our spending needs to be monitored as we still have expenses from this meeting time in May and then again in the fall at NAEYC. I believe from past years our membership numbers are down this year and of course that means less money for spending.

Call for Proposals - OMEP-USNC Poster Session and International Social Conversation NAEYC 2009 Annual Conference – Washington DC, Nov. 20, 2009

Proposal Deadline:
October 15, 2009

Theme: Young Children and the Environment

This poster session is designed to address the goals listed below. Please consider these goals as you prepare your proposal. All proposals undergo a blind review process. Proposals will be evaluated on overall quality as well as the degree to which they support the goals of the OMEP poster session. Priority will be given to proposals that address the theme.

Poster Session:

This event will provide opportunities for OMEP members to:

- Access a wider forum of professionals for sharing and discussing research, curriculum ideas, and teaching practices related to Early Childhood Education.
- Become more aware of current state, national and international policy issues and how they affect children, families, and communities.
- Examine replicable strategies for working on issues involving the global welfare of children.
- Inspire others to make a relevant difference in the lives of early childhood educators and the children they serve.

Poster Format:

Posters may present research, curriculum highlights, teaching strategies, policy issues, comparative studies, etc. Special attention and priority will be given to presentations focusing on young children's interactions with the environment.



The surfaces for the OMEP posters are approximately 4' high x 8' wide. The surfaces are soft fabric that will take Velcro to affix posters. We recommend Velcro but push pins and thumbtacks may be used. Use poster paper or thin cardboard to prepare posters. No poster or other materials may be affixed to meeting room walls. Do not expect that electrical outlets will be available. Posters should be simple. Limit your points due to space limitations. Be prepared to elaborate verbally the information that supports your points. All pictures, graphs, figures, charts, etc. must be large enough to be seen from a distance of 5-10 feet. Handouts are strongly suggested.

Author's Table:

If you have published a book within the last two years and would like to have it displayed at the conference, please send a complete citation of the book so that it can be listed in the program. Authors are expected to provide copies of books for display during the poster session. The author is responsible for retrieving any book on display after the session.

Submission Guidelines:

Please submit via e-mail or the postal service:

Cover page including:

- A. Title
 - B. Author(s) contact information (names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses). Authors will be contacted via email.
2. Proposal Description (1 page maximum) including:
- A. Title
 - B. Goals of the conference to be addressed in this proposed session
 - C. Abstract

Submission deadline:

Proposal must be received by October 15, 2009

Send proposals to:

Johnetta Morrison
E-mail: jwm1918@yahoo.com
Telephone: 573-268-4359

Please direct questions via e-mail to: jwm1918@yahoo.com

Regional Representative Report – Region 4

Region four has worked diligently recruiting members for OMEP! Regional representative, Ms. Ronda Hawkins, networked throughout North Carolina, spreading the word to gain four new members, with others pledging to join. She also presented information on OMEP and the CRC to 119 Early Childhood Education students and a local affiliate, Sandhills AEYC. Ms. Hawkins participated in the OMEP List Serve (UN Millennium Development Goals, Cradle to Prison Pipeline, and 3 Cups of Tea...) and agreed to facilitate the Global Children's Interest Forum (NAEYC/OMEP).

When asked about difficulties regarding recruiting, she mentioned two points: technology and strategic organization. Making a regional mailing list would be beneficial for the exchange of new information. Ms. Hawkins also suggested joining the OMEP Goggle Group. She has successfully



joined and now has access to discussion boards between members across the country! She believed that having an established recruiting process would help engage more people. (i.e. brochures, posters, portable OMEP recruiting display boards, etc...)

Thanks Ronda for your dedication and suggestions! If you have news from your district, please email litahaddalwithomep@gmail.com. We would love to hear from you!

