
PIONEERS PRESS

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May/June 2011

Pioneers Dinner: A Big Success!

Thirty-three Pioneer Division members and guests enjoyed dining together during the 2011 CEC Convention and Expo. The Moon Bay Coastal Cuisine Restaurant in the Gaylord Hotel served as a perfect venue for guests to socialize and enjoy a delicious dinner together. New this year, the annual division meeting was held as a separate event following the meeting of the division executive board. This allowed for the dinner to primarily serve as a social event. During the dinner, the 2011 Pioneer Division Romaine Mackie award winner, Dr. Linda Marsal, was also honored.

Start planning ahead for the 2012 Pioneers Division annual business meeting, dinner and social event of the year which will be held during the annual CEC Convention and Expo, April 10-14, 2012 in Denver, Colorado. Vice President Lyndal Bullock will be selecting another exciting venue for the annual Pioneers Division social and dinner. We look forward to seeing you in Denver in 2012!



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Report on the Pioneers Division Design Workgroup

On September 16, 2010, a special division workgroup was approved and commissioned by the executive board of the Pioneers Division. The design workgroup was charged with developing a division redesign proposal that would be presented to the board at the April 26, 2011, board meeting.

The design workgroup met on April 25, 2011, reviewed historical information, current financial information, and membership data, and from those reports, explored strategies for improving services to its members and to the Council for Exceptional Children.

The current mission and purpose of the Pioneers Division is to serve “as a professional educational organization which is a division of the Council for Exceptional Children. The primary purpose of CEC-PD is to provide a service to the Council for Exceptional Children and bring recognition to those who have been members of CEC for twenty (20) years or more. Specifically, the Pioneers intend to assist and provide support to CEC in all efforts on behalf of children and youth with exceptionalities by: 1) responding to and addressing emergent and critical issues in the field; 2) advocating on behalf of children and youth with exceptionalities; and 3) participating in all appropriate governance activities of CEC. CEC-PD will encourage research, promote professional development, and support those who serve children and youth with exceptionalities.”

Since 2007, a clearly articulated set of goals and objectives have supported the division’s attention to membership growth, improved communications with members, supporting and organizing the CEC archives, and piloting, expanding, and coordinating with CEC the Council’s Mentoring Program.

Several areas for attention and improvement were identified by the workgroup:

- Strengthening and building new links and bridges with and across the CEC division and with CEC Pioneers Division’s own subdivisions,
- Strengthening communications with CEC-PD members through the use of technology, membership surveys, newsletters, and convention activities,
- Expanding division programs and services such as the very successful mentoring program, and
- Building division vitality through membership and revenue growth.

Four critical priority areas were identified that will guide the work of the division over the next year. These priorities will build on the exceptional talent within the division, will build bridges with CEC and its units, and will strengthen the mission and purpose of the division as work continues in exploring a next vision for the years to come. Priority areas include:

1. Enhancing and expanding the CEC Mentoring Program in cooperation with CEC and its units,
2. Exploring ways to build on the talents, experience, and skills of Pioneers’ members to assist CEC with its emerging strategic plan,
3. Support and enhance the CEC archives and explore with CEC ways to build the rich archives through oral histories and stories of the Teachers of the Year and other CEC award recipients,
4. Support and promote the CEC Yes I Can! student awards program (in cooperation with CEC, the Honors Committee of the Council, and the Honors Committee Yes I Can! Subcommittee.

As the workgroup continues to develop strategies for enhancing the Pioneers Division programs and services, highlights and updates will be shared through the Pioneers Press and communications to members.

Call for Nominations

CEC-PD is seeking nominations for officers for the 2012 election with those elected beginning their terms on January 1, 2013. You are invited to self-nominate or nominate another CEC-PD member for the offices that are listed below. Please be sure that you have the person’s permission before submitting a nomination.

The officers to be elected are:

Vice President (2013) – a 4 year commitment moving from Vice President, to President Elect, to President, and then Immediate Past President

Secretary (2013-2014) a 2 year term

Representative Assembly Member (2013-2014) a 2 year term

Nominations should include name and contact information for the nominee and current CEC membership number. Submit nominations by October 15, 2011, to Diane Johnson at dianej99@gmail.com. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Diane at the email listed or call 850-385-5234.

PIONEERS PRESS

Editor: Suzanne Martin
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Linda Marsal, Pioneers 2011 Romaine P. Mackie Leadership Award Winner



On Wednesday evening, April 27 in the crowded, noisy and festive Moon Bay Coastal Cuisine restaurant in the Gaylord Grand Hotel in National Harbor, Maryland, Linda S. Marsal was awarded the 2011 Romaine P. Mackie Leadership Award. Mike Weinroth, Chairman of the Honors and Awards Committee made the presentation as nearly 50 Pioneer members awaited to hear the name of this year's winner. In his presentation Mike observed that in that small area were collected former and current leaders of the Council for Exceptional Children-Presidents, Governors and decision makers at every level of the organization. Selecting excerpts from support letters to the Honors and Awards Committee, Weinroth shared that "this nominee has been

dedicated to developing the leadership of those with whom he or she works. The nominee seeks out individuals who he or she believes has emerging leadership skills, connects with them, nurtures them, and supports them as they work. There is always encouragement offered. There is an insistence on excellence. Everyone is held to a high standard of performance. This recipient's legacy is a host of emerging leaders who model skills, judgment, and thoughtfulness."

Another letter stated that "the nominee as president of CEC believed that this position included not only being a representative of the general CEC membership, but also a manager of the various operations of the governance within the organization. A hallmark of this person's tenure as president was the appointment of a task force to study the conditions of teaching within Special Education. As a result, a report was generated that spoke to the conditions of teachers, both good and bad and the task force report offered ways to support positive conditions-but it also spoke to addressing the challenges."

Mike concluded by saying that should the group still be stumped as to whom the Mackie Award winner was perhaps lyrics from a song might help: *"Can't you see the sun shine? Can't you just feel the moon shinin'; A in't it just like a friend of mine to hit me from behind. There ain't no doubt in no one's mind that love's the finest thing around. Whisper something soft and kind. YES, I'm going to Carolina in my m* With that, Mike called up Linda to accept an inscribed cobalt blue vase.



CEC-PD RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

(Pamela Gillet, Chair April 26, 2011)

1. Recommended to the CEC-PD president to accept CEC's request that the Pioneers Division become responsible for the review of all resolutions submitted to the Representative Assembly.
2. Prepared the revisions to the HANDBOOK reflecting the above added responsibility and the procedures to use in the review process. Forwarded them to the CEC-PD president for action by the CEC-PD Board.
3. Collaborated with the Illinois state unit in the preparation of the honors resolution for Robert E. Abbott.
4. Accepted the invitation from the Illinois unit to present the honors resolution for Robert E. Abbott at the 2011 CEC Representative Assembly.
5. Reviewed and prepared revisions for two additional honors resolutions forwarded by CEC.

Lee Sherry Appointed as Newsletter Editor

Lee Sherry, Chairperson of the Department of Special Education at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, has agreed to serve as Newsletter Editor for the ensuing term.

This will be the last issue published by Suzanne Martin and Tracy McKinney at the University of Central Florida. We deeply appreciate Suzanne and Tracy's work with the Pioneer Press. Thanks, Suzanne and Tracy and welcome, Lee!

Budget Report

The PIONEER Division adopted a budget of \$11,245 for the 2012 fiscal year (January to December 2012). The revenue is based on membership dues and any donations that the division may receive. Along with the checking/ savings account, the division also has two (2) CDs (#7583 - \$10,000.29 and #7824 - \$15,033.31 or a total of \$25,033.60). The division also started a fund raiser by offering a drawing for a week at a beach house (in the off season, Sept., after Labor Day thru April) in the Outer Banks, NC. Donations can be made of \$10 per ticket for the drawing. If interested in the fund raiser, please contact President Eleanor Guetzloe at ccbd1@aol.com. Please support the Division!

PIONEER DIVISION 2012 Budget							
Officers	Budget	YTD	Balance	Savings Account			
President	500			date	deposits	balance	
Vice Pres	500			4/30/2011		3003.29	
Secretary	500						
Treasurer	500						
Rep Assembly (2)	1000						
Imm. Past Pres	500						
CEC HDQ							
Division Spec.	1200						
Audit	50			CDs	Balance		
PD Expenses	100			#7583	10000.29		
				#7824	15033.31		
Committees							
Gov't Relations	150						
Awards	150						
committee expense	75						
History	50						
Newsletter	4000						
Membership	100						
FEES							
Reg Agent Fee	25	Annual fee					
IDC Fee	60						
bonding Co. fee	215	Fee paid til 2011					
Division Reps							
CEC Skills and Knowledge Com	500						
CONVENTION							
Board Meeting	50						
Meal/ Mackie winner	50						
Showcase Session	200						
Officer Recognition	50						
Exhibit Table	0						
Mentoring Project	500						
Projects							

TBA	100						
Contingency	120						
Total	11245						
June Jordan Fund	Bal. 2010	Deposits	Total				
N. Gilmore	1855	10	1865				
Bch House drawing		5/4/11 980	980				
Dinner Fund	Bal. 2010	Deposits	Total				
Balance 2010	208.99	40	248.99				
Refund to Andy Berg	40		208.99				
Wash. DC dinner	-10		198.99				
		Balance					
Checking Account		3250.67					
dep. 3/14/11	1649	4899.67					

ATTENENTION - A NEWSWORTHY EVENT

SESSION 534 - Page 230 of the 2011 CEC International Convention and Expo Convention Program - National Harbor MD.
April 26, 2011 – 1:15 P.M. Potomac 1

The Council for Exceptional Children Pioneer Division was privileged this year to have as our Showcase Session Presenter and Honoree, Dr. Donald Deshler, the Williamson Family Distinguished Professor of Special Education and the Director of the Center for Research on Learning at the University of Kansas.

It was described as an honorable tribute to Dr. Deshler, fun, informative, a learning experience and one of the best sessions of the convention program. Session Leader Gerry Reynaud, new member of the PD Board of Directors was selected by President Elect Bill Bogdan to host this session. Early in this session Reynaud made it clear that the Pioneer Division was most interested in honoring Don for his decades of significant dedication to advance teaching and learning through outstanding research, educational strategies and intervention all guided by research and compassion for the human spirit to learn and achieve.

Deshler was described as a Level 5 Leader according to references from Jim Collins best seller “Good to Great.” Such leaders build enduring greatness through a paradoxical blend of personal humility and professional will. They are a study in duality, modest, willful, humble and fearless, just to mention a few characteristics of Level 5 leaders.

We also had special (surprise) guest contributors to the honor’s portion of this session. Invited and more than willing to participate were Alexa Posny, Ph.D, Assistant Secretary, United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services and Dr. Doug Fuchs, Department Chair of Special Education, Vanderbilt University and CEC Convention Program Co-Chair 2010 and 2011. Both speakers validated the significant contributions and sustaining effects that the work and leadership of Don and the Kansas University Center for Research has had on the field, professional educators, exceptional children and their families.

Following the Honors portion of this session Dr. Deshler made a presentation titled: Attempts to Move the Needle on Adolescent Literacy: A 30 + year Journey. This session was difficult to end as there was so much interest in the content, relevance and profession manner of our prestigious presenter. The CEC Pioneer Division congratulates and expresses our appreciation to Dr. Deshler for his acceptance to serve as our Show Case Session presenter for 2011.

CEC-Pioneers Subdivision Liaison Report

CEC-Pioneers Division currently has seven (7) state subdivisions: California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Ontario, and Pennsylvania. The current list of presidents/contact persons with any updated information are listed below as of April 2011.

Pioneers Subdivision State Presidents 2010-11

Pioneers Subdivision Liaison: Laura Mohr 173 Midhurst Ct., Irmo, SC 29063
(803)781-0829 (H) or (803)530-4076(C) Mohreduc@aol.com or Mohreduc@att.net

California: Fredrick Kingdon 1608 Beechwood Ave., Fullerton, CA 92835-2149
(714) 529-1050 mfk@dslextreme.com

Florida: Cathy Costello 2525 NW 19th Way, Gainesville, FL 32605-3808
(352)955-6841 costelc1@gm.sbac.edu

Georgia: Sara Snyder Jo Wells Education Center, Fulton County Schools, 554 Parkway Dr., Hapeville, GA 30354
(404)763-5600 Ext 148 snyder@fultonschools.org
Retiring May 31. Will remain contact person until elections for next year.
(770)841-8388 asbs10@comcast.net

Illinois: Nancy Riggan 108 Prairie Rd., Carterville, IL 62918-2302
(618)889-3744 sonerai@verizon.net

Kentucky: Bill Porter P.O. Box 467, Franklin, KY 42135-0467
(270)586-2008 bill.porter@simpson.kyschools.us

Ontario: Patricia S. Humphrey 10 Roanoke Rd.#901
(416) 445-8904 captchad@sympatico.ca

Pennsylvania: Janis V. Floyd 208D Retan Ctr., 55 Wilson St., Mansfield, PA 16933
(570)662-4795 jfloyd@mansfield.edu

Current Status of Subdivisions: I am working on obtaining current status of these seven subdivisions and then plan to assess what support they may need. In talking with the following two subdivisions, California and Georgia, the following status is reported. Marge Ann Kingdon in California has indicated that the California subdivision is not active currently, but Fredrick Kingdon will remain as contact person. She further sends regrets that she and Fred cannot be at CEC this year. Sara Snyder has reported that the Georgia subdivision should be holding elections for next year in the near future and will report the information about the new president after the election. She is retiring as of May 31 but has agreed to remain as contact person until an election is held. If other information concerning the status of the other subdivisions comes in, I will forward that to the Board. I have sent out e-mail soliciting information from the subdivisions about status, concerns, and ways we might better support the subdivisions. I look forward to continue serving as Liaison and hopefully can learn the role and do a better job of staying in contact with the current subdivisions for support and encouragement and look to see how I can help promote starting some new units in other states.

Important Note: Reduce your carbon footprint: New Electronic Communication Option for Pioneers Press

CEC-PD will always have the option of receiving information via the conventional postal service. However, as more electronic choices become available, this is one way to possibly save some dollars and save the earth! If you would like to receive your copy of the Pioneers Press electronically, please send your name and email address to: cecpdnews@gmail.com. This address can also be used for sending general news items for the Pioneers Press newsletter team.

President's Message: Reflection on CEC

To put it briefly, we all had a heck of a good time!

The CEC-Pioneers' parts of the CEC Convention in National Harbor all went very well. We started the week on Monday with a serious but enjoyable work group meeting, with President-elect Bill Bogdan presiding. We spent the day going over the work of several committees that had addressed where we'd been, where we are, and where we should go from here. At the end of the day, we came to several conclusions--that we have an important role to play within CEC, that we are ideally suited to do the tasks we have chosen for ourselves, and that we need more members of both our division and others to join us in carrying out our projects.

Tuesday was "Division Day" at the convention. We began our day with our Mentoring Program Breakfast, which was supported by both CEC and CEC-Pioneers. This was followed by a full day of meetings of the Pioneer Executive Board, the Annual Business Meeting, and our Annual Dinner. During the dinner, the Romaine Mackie Award was given to Linda Marsal (See Mike Weinroth's report on the award presentation elsewhere in this newsletter). Also on Tuesday, Pam Gillet led a professional session on the topic of our Mentoring Program. Two other professional sessions, selected by the Pioneer Program Committee were scheduled on Tuesday, as well: "Special Education: Past, Present, and Future," and "Research Comparing Individuals With and Without Disabilities: New Understandings of Who Benefits."

The CEC IDEA Partnership held a luncheon for CEC Division leaders on Tuesday at 11:45. Diane Johnson has included a report on this session elsewhere in this newsletter.

On Wednesday, we honored Don Deschler as our Pioneer Showcase presenter. This session was led by Bill Bogdan and Gerry Reynaud (See report on Showcase Session elsewhere in this newsletter).

Another professional session, "Pioneering Parents' Experiences in Special Education Process and Advocacy," was scheduled on Thursday. Also on Thursday was the meeting of the Interdivisional Caucus, at which CEC-Pioneers was well-represented by Eleanor Guetloe, Bill Bogdan, Lyndal Bullock, and Diane Johnson, Vice-chair of the IDC.

Throughout the convention, on an unscheduled and unplanned basis, were occurring probably the most important moments of all--the opportunities to visit with many of our friends and colleagues, whom we get to see only once a year--at CEC Convention.

To all of our members, we send a personal invitation: Begin your planning right now to join us next year in Denver, Colorado. We're doing a lot--and we need your help!

Presidential Goals for 2011

After considering all the future directions of CEC-Pioneers, as suggested by our various committees, work groups, and individuals, I have settled on the following as my "personal" goals for the year.

1. To enhance communication between and among the CEC-Pioneer Executive Board, the Pioneer membership, and the officers and staff of CEC. (Note: I spend a great deal of time on the computer.)
2. To enhance communication, cooperation, and collaboration between and among CEC-Pioneers and other divisions of the Council for Exceptional Children. (Note: An example is that we worked with Illinois Federation to develop the Resolution for Bob Abbott.)
3. To continue, and increase the number of participants in, the CEC/CEC-Pioneers Mentoring Program, coordinated by Pam Gillet. (This program continues to be very successful, receiving high evaluations from the participants.)
4. To assist CEC in developing and preserving the history of special education, as well as the preservation of the Archives of the organization and its various divisions. (We're still working on this one.)

A Wonderful Opportunity: CEC-Pioneers Drawing

Donate \$10 to the CEC-Pioneers and get an opportunity for a free week on the Outer Banks!

Hakuna Matata: It's a beautiful thought. It means, "No worries for the rest of your days." Come and enjoy our trouble-free philosophy of this great escape on the Outer Banks. * This lovely vacation home is located in Corolla, NC. It has five bedrooms and sleeps 15. All linens, kitchen appliances, laundry, flat-screen TV (etc., etc.) are furnished. It's ready to just move in! The house has its own pool (available when weather permits) and hot tub (all year), as well as access to the Monterey Shores clubhouse pool and facilities, a short walk away.

An online video about the accommodations is available at www.outerbanksblue.com/rental/house.html?ID=46+user=alpha. The specific week would be the winner's choice--from mid-September, 2011, to mid-April, 2012. There are even several holiday weeks included in the time period.

The drawing will be held during the CEC leadership activities in Arlington, Virginia (in July, 2011). The winner will be notified by email or telephone. Drawing tickets may be obtained by mailing a check for \$10 (made out to CEC-Pioneers) to Eleanor Guetzloe, 812 Woodside Avenue, Clearwater, FL 33756. Please include name, telephone number, and email address with the check. I will fill out the "ticket stub" for you. The deadline for donations is June 30 (envelope postmarked by June 30).

*This prize has been donated by Arthur Carden, Captain, U. S. Navy, Retired (Eleanor's brother).

2010-2011 CEC/CEC-PD MENTORING PROGRAM REPORT

Pamela Gillet, Coordinator

The fourth year of the CEC/CEC-PD Mentoring Program has concluded. Thirty nine new mentors were recruited for the Program this year, making a grand total of 99 mentors. Twenty mentors have been with the Program since its inception four years ago.

Five new colleges/universities joined the Program resulting in 101 mentees from 15 CEC student chapters. Mentees' interests covered all areas of disabilities classified under IDEA; preschool through transition; and specialty areas of ELL and speech and language. Fourteen mentees were graduate level students; many with an interest in administration.

The Mentoring Program joined the IDEA Partnership this year. This union provides the mentors with cutting edge materials and resources that are vetted; linkages to resources developed by other organizations and state agencies; and access to the various Dialogue Guides and the Collections developed by the Partnership. Mentors used these materials to enhance their own professional development; provide relevant information to their mentees based on the mentees' areas of interest; share with professional colleagues in their respective districts/organizations; and to form the basis of some of the mentoring sessions conducted during the year.

A Facebook page was created for the Mentoring Program and is managed by Debbie Wichmanowski, a Pioneer member and a charter mentor. This provides a place where mentors can exchange information and make queries of other mentors.

The CEC/CEC-PD Mentoring Program once again held a breakfast meeting at the recent CEC convention for all mentors, mentees, CEC staff, and faculty advisors involved in the Program. This activity provided an opportunity for some of the mentors and mentees to meet, personally, for the first time as 95% of the actual mentoring is virtual....independent of a set schedule and geography.

In addition, a CEC program session was devoted to the Mentoring Program where the organization of the Program was described; findings concerning conducting a virtual mentoring program based on the four years of this Program's operation reviewed; and the results of the annual evaluations shared. The session also included a panel comprised of three mentors with their mentees and a faculty advisor who discussed the benefits, challenges, and the impact of the Program from their personal perspectives.

It is anticipated that the CEC/CEC-PD Mentoring Program will expand next year and additional mentors will be needed. The time involved in mentoring ranges from 1-2 hours per month and results in many benefits to both mentors and mentees. If you are not a mentor now, I invite you to become involved. For additional information or to make application to become a mentor in the 2011-2012 CEC/CEC-PD Mentoring Program contact PAM GILLET, pamelagillet@aol.com.



Summary Based on March 3, 2010 CEC CAN Coordinator Conference Call

Policy and Advocacy Services

Lindsay Jones, of CEC Policy and Advocacy Services, shared current information focusing on Congressional recent actions and current plans related to special education funding issues:

The two major positive talking points to emphasize: with Congress are:

1. Polls continue to show that Americans are “strongly opposed to cuts in Education.”
2. Education spending is such a small portion of the cuts needed to reduce the deficit that cuts in education spending should be spared.

HR 1 included \$547 million in cuts to IDEA

The House, based on the number of calls and responses received, accepted amendments saving IDEA, but cutting “Teacher Quality Grants” and “State Improvement Grants.” The Javits funding for gifted was also retained.

The Senate rejected HR 1 by a 56-44 vote.

The House now has proposed to cut \$2 Billion per week, including the Striving Readers and Even Start programs. Their focus is on the 13% of the budget, which is made up of “discretionary” funding, including all of the budgets for Health & Human Services and the Department of Education. In contrast the military, Medicare, and Social Security are considered non-discretionary” funds for the military, Medicare, and Social Security. Thus, eliminating all education funding would not begin to offset the 900 billion budget deficit.

Therefore, CEC stresses that “education is not what the budget deficit requires” because it is only a small portion of the cuts needed.

Overall, CEC feels that the political climate is becoming worse, and more hostile.

No programs are safe from cuts and all are operating in “defensive mode. Examples include:

- ESEA: although there is a new class of elected officials, not all are favoring drastic cuts.
- Vouchers: are seen as expensive, especially for special education services.
- Education and Labor Committee: renamed Education and Workforce Committee.
- IDEA Part B: a \$500 Billion cut has been proposed.
- HR1: Voting on amendments every 2 minutes has led to voting errors by members.

What can CAN and CEC members do?

- Make Congressional visits during the CEC Convention, which will be nearby.
- Send CEC stories about how cuts are affecting special education services.
- Watch e-mails for times when CEC needs member support and help.
- Be ready to demonstrate effective programs to help turn the tide toward rather than against teachers.
- Keep in mind family, health, and related issues that also impact special education students.

Jean Lokerson, PD CAN Coordinator

OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) presented its Outstanding Public Service Award to Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa during the recent annual meeting of its Children and Youth Action Network (CAN), which brings together special educators from around the country for advocacy and public policy training, briefings, and congressional visits. Harkin, who has been in the U.S. Senate for more than 30 years, has “consistently worked to ensure that individuals are not defined by their disabilities and are afforded the same rights and opportunities as all Americans,” said Bruce A. Ramirez, CEC’s executive director.

Report of the Representative Assembly
Submitted by Lynn Ziraldo and Gerry Reynaud

DAY 1 a quorum was determined and the meeting began.

President Marilyn Friend thanked the reps for being here + their contributions and critical leadership. A review of the purpose of the RA and how it would shape the CEC was discussed. President Friend reported the highlights of the strategic plan; the CEC public policy plan; the annual convention and expo; the Riga Conference conducted by DISES; constitution and by-law # 3 changes; use of CEC restricted funds; and directors activities. The 2012 Local arrangements Chair in Denver, Gina Quintaine, was announced as was the 2016 Convention site will be in St Louis, MO. The CEC values, mission, vision and core values were approved by the RA.

Discussion on 2012 – 2014 Strategic Plan on goals, issue statements and objectives. Pioneers gave several comments on this discussion as it was reviewed at our Pioneer Board meeting. In addition gave input on School Vouchers and Charter Schools as the positions of CEC were being reviewed to now be a policy statement.

Bruce A Ramirez, Executive Director of CEC, gave an overview of the highlights since the last convention. He introduced the staff executive team, reviewed the yearend summary of 2010 Strategic Plan in the following areas: teaching and learning conditions; Evidence based practices; international engagement; community and membership; public policy advocacy; organizational effectiveness: and, membership. Membership has 3.1% increase new members and a 5% increase retention rate. Membership dropped by 714. Currently membership is 34,878. Dr. Ramirez highlighted the 2011 strategies for the Strategic Plan and made collective collaborative leadership his message.

Key points of the treasure by Jim Heiden indicated a healthy financial picture for the organization. Registration amount for convention will not increase next year. 5,500 + delegates in attendance for conference was strong revenue generated for the organization. The CEC 2012 Convention and Expo will be held April 11-14,2012 in Denver, Colorado. Leadership Institutes will be held July 25 – 27, 2011 with State/Provincial Leadership Institute with Division Leadership Institute July 27 – 28, 2011

Day 2 – a quorum was determined and discussion occurred around the following topics: Future Representation Assembly Meeting Schedule During the Annual Convention & Expo from a 2 day to a 1 day seem to be the consensus ; Nominations Standing Committee Nomination and Election Procedure; Identification of Representative Assembly Future Discussion Topics; Emerging Professional Issues; and Member Needs and Concerns. Emerging issues brought to the floor included: Emerging Professional Issues: Child Abuse & Neglect in special education; mentoring; alternative licensure; and lack of support for pre service education. The results of these discussions were forwarded to the Board of Directors for further action.

AWARDS

The Council for Exceptional Children offers the following **three annual award** programs. All winners are acknowledged at the CEC Annual Convention & Expo, held every April. Please nominate a deserving individual.

The CEC Professional Awards recognize special educators who have advanced the field and the quality of special education service as well as CEC members whose contributions have moved the Council forward in significant ways. They include the CEC J.E. Wallace Wallin Lifetime Achievement Award, the Clarissa Hug Teacher of the Year Award, the CEC Special Education Research Award, and the Outstanding CEC Leadership Award. Nominations are now open and due Oct. 21!

The CEC Student Awards and Scholarships recognize CEC student members and faculty advisors who have made outstanding contributions to the organization and to exceptional children. They include the Outstanding CEC Student Member of the Year Award (undergraduate and graduate), the CEC Graduation Award (undergraduate and graduate), the Kayte M. Fearn CEC Ethnic Diversity Scholarship, and the Susan Phillips Gorin Award. Nominations will open in August 2011.

The Yes I Can! Awards honor children and youth with disabilities (ages 2-21) who have excelled. CEC selects winners for their outstanding achievements in one of seven categories: Academics, Arts, Athletics, School and Community Activities, Self-Advocacy, Technology, and Transition. Nominations are now open and due Oct. 21!

Preserving CEC History and Linking to the Future Important CEC-PD Activity

The June Jordan Fund was established in 1994, by the Pioneers Division in honor of June Jordan who was a former CEC staff member. June was instrumental in providing the leadership and support for establishing the Pioneers Division. In addition, she led CEC in the collection of documents and other types of information of historical significance to CEC and the field of special education. The official title of the fund is "The June Jordan 'I have a Dream' Memorial Fund". The purpose of the fund is to support The Council for Exceptional Children in maintaining the Archives and history of the Council. The Archives are maintained by a CEC Archivist who has a non-voting position on the CEC-PD Board. The Fund is financed through direct contributions to the Fund. These funds are then allocated for expenditures to support the expansion and maintenance of the CEC Archives. In the past, the support for the CEC Archives has consisted of providing dollars from the June Jordan Fund to purchase supplies needed by the CEC Archivist, and to provide assistance to the Archivist by other members of the Pioneers Division in preparing and in placing materials in the CEC Archives from time to time. It is hoped that the plan developed by the History Initiative Work Group will provide additional opportunities to share, as well as, preserve the history of CEC and CEC-PD. Please consider donating to the June Jordan Fund using the form below to assist with this important activity.

THE JUNE JORDAN "I HAVE A DREAM" MEMORIAL FUND CONTRIBUTION FORM

Mail contributions to: Michael D. Thew, 4524 Valley Acres Road., York, PA 17406

My contribution to the June Jordan Fund is \$_____.

Name _____ Phone/email _____

Address _____

Street _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Indicate if in memory/honor of _____

Please provide name and address for acknowledgment card:

Name _____

Address _____

Street

City

State/Province

Zip/Postal

Please make checks payable to the Pioneers Division of the Council for Exceptional Children and attach to this form. Thank You!

ROBERT E. ABBOTT COURTESY RESOLUTION



At the recent CEC Representative Assembly held at the 2011 CEC Convention in National Harbor, Maryland, a resolution was presented. The resolution was co sponsored by the Pioneers Division and the Illinois State CEC Unit.

Whereas, Robert E. Abbott began his impressive career as a special education teacher in Springfield, Illinois and Bloomington, Illinois, a teacher of students with multiple handicaps in Waukegan, Illinois, later becoming a consultant for special education with the Waukegan Public Schools, and Assistant Superintendent of Waukegan Public Schools until his retirement from the field of special education; and

Whereas, Bob has been a member of the Council for Exceptional Children and the Illinois Council for Exceptional Children since 1954 and remained an active and vital member until his death on June 13, 2010; and

Whereas, he served in numerous offices of CEC, Illinois CEC, and Lake County CEC Chapter 336, serving as Past Governor of Illinois, Governor at Large-USA, CEC Historian, CEC Governance Chair, DLD President, Pioneer Division Historian and Treasurer, ICEC President, ICEC Historian and Parliamentarian, Lake County CEC President, Historian, and Treasurer, Illinois SPD President and Historian, IDLD President, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor;

Whereas, Bob has been the recipient of the LDA President's Award, LDA Pioneer Award, DLD Outstanding Contributor, CEC-PD Romaine P. Mackie Award for Outstanding Leadership, Delegate to the White House Conference on Handicapped, ISBE Outstanding Administrator Award, ICEC Meritorious Service Award, ILDA Leadership Award, ILDA Outstanding Administrator Award, Waukegan Public Schools Excellence in Administration Award; and

Whereas, Bob was honored in 1972 for his service to Illinois Council for Exceptional Children by being named "Mr. ICEC"; and

Whereas, Bob was honored for his service to children by the Waukegan Board of Education in 1992 by renaming the middle school the Robert E. Abbott Middle School; and

Whereas, there comes in a lifetime a special person who outshines others by his presence and good deeds, whose impact leaves a wonderful legacy in his wake, where the world is a better place for having had Bob in it; and

Therefore, be it resolved that The Illinois Council for Exceptional Children conveys deep appreciation and admiration for Robert E. Abbott's many contributions to CEC, the Illinois Federation, his local chapter and to all the exceptional children and youth of Illinois and the nation, and further that said Resolution be forwarded to the Council for Exceptional Children for action by its Representative Assembly in National Harbor, Maryland in April 2011.