
PIONEERS PRESS

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September/October 2014

Message from the President



**Jamie Hopkins, CEC
Pioneers President, 2014**

I hope this message finds you well and pursuing career and/or retirement objectives that are fulfilling. It has been a busy year for our division as we worked together to accomplish the goals set in January of this year. Our priorities

focused on using the skills and expertise that our members have brought to the table to help us provide services to the community of CEC. As you review this edition of the *Pioneers Press*, you will find information on our continuing work as a Division.

Summer Leadership Institute

This summer, President Elect Michael Thew and I attended the CEC Leadership Institute. We were able to participate in very informative meetings regarding CEC's continued work on the new strategic plan, membership trends, effective communications with members, and leadership strategies. We were also able to participate in the IDC meeting where co-chair, Bill Bogdan, led the group of division leaders in discussion about collaborative projects for the future.



IDC Collaborative Projects

An exciting result of this collaboration involves the Pioneers participation on a project led by DCDD (Division for Communicative Disorders and Deafness) to study issues related to the prevention of maltreatment of students with disabilities. This includes neglect, abuse and bullying. Other divisions participating in the project are DADD (Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities), CASE (Council of Administrators of Special Education) and DLD (Division for Learning Disabilities). It is our hope to develop resources and information for IEP teams who want to ensure that our students are protected and are able to advocate for themselves.

Harold Johnson and Irene van der Zande will be leading a CEC webinar on "**Protecting Children with Disabilities from Abuse**" on **October 9, 2014, at 4:00PM EDT**. You can register on the CEC website. As this edition of *Pioneers Press* is distributed you may not be able to attend the webinar but be sure and register for the recorded edition. More information about this and other collaborative projects will be forthcoming.

Annual Goals

The Pioneers Division continues to make progress on our annual goals. Mike Thew and I met with CEC Executive Director, Alex Graham, during the Leadership Institute to continue our discussion on ways in which we can work with CEC to provide training for CEC members on leadership skills and follow up on the Bright Futures project. We will be offering sessions at the annual convention in April 2015 that will cover both of these topics. Additional information can be found in this newsletter and in upcoming editions.

In order to increase membership, we are reaching out to all CEC members who are eligible to join our division. Email letters have been sent to over 4,000 individuals who have been members of CEC for 15 or more years. We have received several responses indicating folks would like to join! It is hoped that the additional

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members help the Pioneers maintain our financial stability while bringing in even more expertise and talent to carry out our mission.

Constitution and Bylaws

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee, chaired by Diane Johnson, has completed their review and have made recommendations for changes in the constitution and bylaws. It is critical that your voice is heard. Please take the time to review and vote on the recommended amendments included in this newsletter. (pp.11-14)

CEC Archives

CEC Pioneers continues work on the organization of the CEC Archives, a project that will be ongoing for several years as new material is added and the inventory is updated.

As my term as President continues until the end of this year, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of our Executive Board members, committee members, and each of you for your support in carrying out the work of the Pioneers. Our membership is unique in that we have so many individuals who have dedicated a major portion of their lives to CEC and to exceptional children and their families. You continue to inspire, encourage, mentor, lead, and support so many. It has been an honor to serve as your president.



Recycle your CEC-PD Memorabilia by Supporting the PD History Files

Now is the time to collect your photos and other items related to CEC-PD activities for 2014 and send those to be added to the CEC-PD History files. Also, as you may be purging some of the cabinets and files that contain our CEC memories of years past, please send any items that relate to the Pioneers Division along for the files as well. Items should be mailed to:

Diane Johnson, Historian,
3010 Avon Circle, Tallahassee, FL 32312.

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The CEC 2015 Convention & Expo

April 8-11, 2015
San Diego, California



Save the date for the CEC 2015 Convention & Expo in San Diego, *the* global event for special and gifted education.

Thousands of special education teachers, administrators, researchers, professors and students from around the world will discuss pressing issues share information in areas such as Common Core State Standards, administration, autism, co-teaching and collaboration, emotional and behavior disorders, instructional strategies for math, reading, and science, policy, technology and response to intervention.

CEC 2015 offers hundreds of educational sessions conducted by leading experts and endless opportunities to network with others working with children and youth with exceptionalities and their families. Attendees will also have the opportunity to learn about new and pending legislation and explore cutting-edge products and services in the exhibit hall.

Registration for CEC is Now Open

Registration for CEC 2015 is now open and our **special advanced pricing offer is available** again! Register now through **September 30**, and we'll honor our 2014 early-bird rates—guaranteed to be the lowest rate available. **CEC members can register for just \$334!** What better way to use any year-end funds and further your professional growth? Take advantage of this incredible offer and get the lowest rates possible. We look forward to seeing you next spring in San Diego!

Enjoy San Diego

California's second largest city, San Diego is renowned for its idyllic climate, 70 miles of beaches and a dazzling array of world-class family attractions. Popular attractions include the world-famous [San Diego Zoo](#), [SeaWorld San Diego](#) and [LEGOLAND California](#). It offers an expansive variety of things to see and do, appealing to guests of all ages from around the world.

The most difficult decision to make when visiting San Diego is determining what to do and see among the region's vast and diverse offerings. The city promises a truly remarkable experience for everyone. For more information on San Diego, visit www.sandiego.org.



CEC PD Events at the 2015 Convention in San Diego!

All Pioneers and all your friends are invited to attend the CEC PD sponsored events at the San Diego Convention. Below is a brief list and description of the events we are planning for April. Please come and support the Pioneers Division as we strive to provide meaningful and important information for special educators to use in their careers.

- **Annual Board of Directors Meeting** - Thursday, April 9, 2015, 9am to 4pm - Location to be announced.
- **Annual Pioneers Division Business Meeting** - Thursday, April 9, 2015, 5pm - Location to be announced.
- **Annual Pioneers Division Dinner** - Location to be announced once a restaurant is chosen. It will be close to the convention hotel.
- **CEC PD Showcase** - Friday, April 10, 2015, 9am to 11am - The Showcase will feature two hour long presentations. The first hour will be facilitated by Bill Bogdan and Jamie Hopkins and focus on **Leadership strategies for teachers/ administrators/ students** to use as they fulfill their roles as special educators. The second hour will be facilitated by Linda Marsal and Mary Ruth Coleman and will focus on the "Bright Futures for Exceptional Learners" Report of April, 1998. A historical overview of the report looking at the recommendations, where we are currently and suggestions and discussion for the future needs of special educators.

PLEASE support the PD events and get reacquainted with colleagues (both former and new). Come share your thoughts and expertise on these Showcase topics and enjoy the beauty of San Diego.

If you have any questions about the PD events at the 2015 CEC Convention and Expo, please contact:

Jamie Hopkins, President, at
jamiehopkins777@gmail.com or
Michael Thew, President-Elect at
mdthew@gmail.com

CEC PD Membership Update

Susan Fowler, Chair
Janis Floyd
Bev Johns
Susan Poston
Carol Quin
Diane Vandebossche

New Flexible Membership Options

On July 1, 2014, CEC implemented a new tiered membership structure. We now have access to flexible membership options which include choices as a premier, full or basic member. Each level offers a variety of benefits including journals, access to webinars, public policy information, publications and more. The premier membership offers an extensive collection of materials and services that also includes one free membership in a division.

New Pioneer Membership Opportunity

We are encouraging potential Pioneer members (those with membership in CEC for 15 years or more OR experience as an officer of a division or state/provincial unit or a past president of CEC) to take advantage of this option and join the Pioneers for free. Letters have been sent to all CEC members with 15 years or more membership in CEC. We have had approximately 30 folks respond that they are interested in joining the Pioneers. This is good news for our Division!

This fall, CEC will launch another membership package for schools or school districts. This membership will provide a premier membership and CASE Division membership for one administrator, basic membership for five teachers, two registrations for the CEC annual convention, and access to three recorded webinars. Check the CEC website for more information and consider this option if you are a school district or school employee.

Check out the new CEC membership brochure and application included in this edition of the Pioneers Press. Share these with your colleagues and encourage them to join CEC AND the Pioneers.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Your Member Information			
Member ID:		Chapter Name/# (if known):	
Prefix:	First Name:	Last Name:	Suffix:
Home Phone:		Work Phone:	
Email Address (required for delivery of certain member benefits):			

Preferred Mailing Address

School/University/Organization Name (if applicable):		
Street Address:		Apt./Suite/P.O. Box Number:
City:	State/Province:	Zip/Postal Code:
County:		

Your Membership Options		
Member Type	Member	Student**
Premier (please select your included division on the back)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$205	<input type="checkbox"/> \$164
Full	<input type="checkbox"/> \$115	<input type="checkbox"/> \$92
Basic	<input type="checkbox"/> \$65	<input type="checkbox"/> \$52

International Developing Countries—Individuals residing in developing countries, as identified by the World Bank Model, may join CEC at the Full Membership for \$50. Your mailing address must be in a developing country. Otherwise, you will be charged the regular Member rate of \$115. Visit www.cec.sped.org/developingcountries for a current list.

** Student members must be enrolled full or part-time in a matriculating program by an accredited college or university. Students are eligible for the discount for a maximum of 6 cumulative years. For verification, please provide the below information. If you are not eligible for the student discount, you will be charged the member rate.

University Name: _____ Expected Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

2015 Romaine P. Mackie Annual Award for Leadership

Purpose: The Romaine P. Mackie Award is to honor an outstanding professional who has demonstrated leadership in CEC and other organizations for an extensive period of time in various areas within the field: service delivery, teacher education and professional development; research; policy; assessment; publications. The individual should be nominated by someone who is familiar with the nature and quality of his/her work and who can speak to the nominee's character.

The Award is named for Romaine P. Mackie who was a U.S. Commissioner of Education, a devout supporter of special education in the early years, and an active member of CEC who promoted the mission of CEC in all of her work.

Nomination Materials Include:

- Completed Nomination Form (below)
- Letter of nomination
- Brief vitae or resume of the nominee
- At least two (2) letters of support [no more than four (4), please]

Nomination Form

Nominee's Name: _____ Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Telephone Number: _____

CEC Membership Number: _____

Nominator's Name: _____ Nominating Unit: _____

Nominator's Email: _____

The brief vitae or resume for the individual nominated should include educational background, employment history, length of service, special projects undertaken, awards received, and other information which will assist the Awards Committee in making a decision.

All nominations and materials must be received by **Friday, January 30, 2015**.

Submit your nomination packet to:

Michael Weinroth, Honors and Awards Committee Chair
335 Hunting View Ct. NW
Atlanta, GA 30328-2779
C 404-375-1188
Email: mikeweinroth@aol.com



Council for
Exceptional
Children

**CEC Pioneers
Division**

The voice and vision of special education

The June Jordan "I Have a Dream" Memorial Fund Contribution Form

Mail contributions to CEC-PD c/o Dr. Michael 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 your contribution is in memory/honor of: _____

Please provide name and address for acknowledgment card:

Name: _____

Address: _____
Street City State/Province Zip/Postal Code

Please make checks payable to CEC-PD and attach to this form. Thank You!



CEC Membership ... For You, For Your Students, For the Profession

Ask any special educator why they do what they do. The hours are long ... the paperwork unending ... the recognition often elusive. Still, there is nothing else they would rather do. If special education is your passion, CEC should be foremost among your professional tools and resources.

CEC Membership offers extraordinary value and incomparable benefits for anyone involved in special education ... regardless of training, experience, or teaching environment. Make an investment in your career today, and discover all that CEC has to offer!

Four Easy Ways to Join

MAIL / Council for Exceptional Children, Membership Department,
P.O. Box 79026, Baltimore, MD 21279-0026.
(Use the accompanying application or download an application at
www.cec.sped.org/membership.)

ONLINE / www.cec.sped.org/membership (Enter Source Code MIND0714)

PHONE / 888.232.7733 (Mention Source Code MIND0714)

FAX / 703.264.9494
(Purchase order and credit card payments only. Use the
accompanying application or download an application at
www.cec.sped.org/membership.)

Join CEC ... The Voice and Vision of Special Education



2900 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000
Arlington, VA 22202-3557
www.cec.sped.org



2013-2014 Mentoring Program Update

Linda S. Marsal, CEC/CEC-PD Coordinator

September 2014

Albert Schweitzer wrote, *“At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.”*

The CEC/CEC-PD Mentoring Program has just concluded its seventh year of operation. The Program continues to provide mentoring services by professional CEC members (mentors) to student CEC members (mentees) belonging to selected CEC student chapters. Each year the number of participants in all groups change; some continue and new ones are added. However, the groups of participants remain constant: student chapters, mentees (students), mentors, faculty advisors, and CEC. There continues to be one coordinator for the Program.

The CEC/CEC-PD Mentoring Program has always functioned as a collaborative effort between CEC and the Pioneers Division.

The 2013-2014 Program had a number of staffing challenges during the year. The CEC/CEC-PD volunteer Mentoring Coordinator of six years resigned as of June 30, 2013 and a new Mentoring Coordinator (July 1, 2013) was appointed by the CEC Pioneers in consultation with CEC staff. CEC has undergone several organizational changes including the resignation of a long term Executive Director, the employment of an Interim Executive Director (July-September), and the employment of an Executive Director (October 2013). Other changes implemented by CEC in its reorganization directly affecting the mentoring program include: Reductions in Force (RIF) eliminating three experienced staff members who provided a variety of supports for the Program in September and in December 2013, the employment of a CEC Manager in October 2013, and another RIF eliminating an Assistant Executive Director position July 2014.

As a result of an internal study conducted by the Pioneers Division in 2013, a report was delivered at the CEC Board of Directors (BOB) meeting in April, 2013 describing the operation of the Mentoring Program, evaluation results from past years, and a summary of

recommendations based on the results of the internal study regarding the future operation of the Program.

In December 2013 the Pioneers Board of Directors responded to a request from the CEC President to nominate individuals to the workgroup that the CEC BOD appointed to “review the background literature on mentoring programs, examine the current program, and design a robust mentoring program.” The workgroup (including CEC-PD Board Members, President Elect Mike Thew; 2008-2013 Mentoring Coordinator Pamela Gillet; and 2013-2014 Mentoring Coordinator Linda Marsal) was appointed in April of 2014 and will present three deliverables to the CEC BOD in October 2014:

1. A set of recommendations to improve the current Program
2. A plan to facilitate recruitment, retention, and vitality of mentors and mentees.
3. A recommended budget for sustaining a mentoring program.”

The basic structure of the Program has remained consistent with the structure and operational procedures implemented during the seven years of the operation of the Program affirming that CEC and the Pioneers Division (CEC-PD), can work together to accomplish a goal that:

- delivers a service to members of CEC (SCEC members); promotes a stronger relationship between the Council and the Program’s operation, and affirms that CEC and divisions, in this case, CEC-PD can work together to:
 - deliver a valuable service to members of CEC (e.g., SCEC members);
 - promote a stronger relationship between the Council and the Pioneers Division;
 - involve very experienced, veteran CEC members in a venture that benefits other members of the organization, while also accruing benefits themselves;
 - keep members involved in The Council without assuming an officer/chair position within CEC governance, and

- provide the opportunity for the general CEC membership to become involved with programs offered by CEC.
- Ensures that the Pioneers Division has a leadership role in CEC by its contribution to the mentoring of beginning professionals/students in the special education field.

Mission of the Mentoring Program

The mission of the Program is to create a supportive, caring, and information sharing virtual professional relationship between volunteer CEC mentors (professional members) and CEC student members (mentees). The relationship is built through sharing the resources of CEC, general state-of-the-art education information, resources from the IDEA Partnership, the individual mentor's knowledge, and actual teaching/administrative experiences of the mentor.

The Program Participants in the 2013-2014 Program

The 2013-2014 year was challenging as we recruited new mentors, reviewed mentor and mentee applications, matched mentors to identified mentee needs, followed up on expired memberships with mentors, reassigned mentees, and worked with CEC staff to post web information about the mentoring program. We had 99 volunteer mentors available to serve 96 students at 20 universities across the United States.

We are deeply appreciative of the efforts of the 20 faculty advisors to recruit their students to the mentor program and acknowledge sincere appreciation to the contributions of our 89 volunteer mentors. One thing that we noted was that three of our faculty advisors are also mentors! Our mentors have shared a variety of resources with the mentees. They received six Information Sharing "communications" this year that focused on 1-3 issues per publication. Our mentors concentrated on the building of relationships with their mentees. We had an open forum in the Information Sharing newsletters where we encouraged field participation. We received little participation from the field.

The opportunity for mentors/ mentees/faculty advisors/ coordinator and CEC staff occurred during the CEC Convention on Thursday, April 10 in Philadelphia.

There were approximately 71 attendees: thirty-two (32) mentors; twenty-one (21) faculty advisors; eighteen (18) mentees; and three (3) CEC staff members. This social was jointly funded by the Pioneers and CEC. This year was the first one that a social was scheduled on a late afternoon 5:00-6:00.

This year's activity was rated an overwhelming success by students, faculty advisors, mentors, and CEC staff. One mentor wrote, "Loved the evening social rather than breakfast at dawn!" A faculty advisor said, "This is a terrific program. The students who met their mentors in Philadelphia absolutely loved it. Well done and thank you for the opportunity."

The 2013-2014 Mentoring Program Evaluation Survey yielded the following comments about the benefits of the Mentoring Program from participants:

- *Leadership and how that affects so much of our professional lives; talked about my participation at state and local levels and how important that has been to me through the years.*
- *Promoting the value of the resources from CEC and job links, as well as professional development opportunities.*
- *Contact with someone of a different educational district and state—expanding professional experiences.*
- *Encouraged mentee to attend national, state, and local CEC conferences. Explained how much I got out of the organization by being a member.*
- *Personal connection to CEC. Visited in person at CEC Convention. Forwarded relevant e-mails; shared the benefit of my experiences.*
- *I tell my students (mentees) that if you want to be treated professionally, act professionally.*
- *Through encouragement and dialogue, my mentee was so committed that he helped others raise the money to attend the national CEC Convention.*

The communication process with the mentee was rated as occurring on a consistent basis by 38.2% of the responses; 26.5% rated it sporadic without any

specific response from the mentee expected; 20.6% rated it as interrupted for a time, but then returned to a more consistent basis; and 14% rated it as broke down and was not continued. Below is an individual mentor comment received from her mentee after she persisted in trying to maintain contact:

From mentee to mentor: I misunderstood what was supposed to happen with this mentoring, as compared to others that I have had in the past. I did not want to be bothersome, and a friend of mine recently explained the differences. Let me explain what has been happening. I had to take a semester off of school. A Master's degree is required to teach deaf education, and that has begun this summer, with three May-master classes (a semester of information crammed into a much shorter time frame). I have had many questions, but did not want to be a nuisance.

The most common requests noted by mentors from mentees were: resume help, sharing personal journey as a teacher and teacher educator, strategies on dealing with behavior issues, resources on the web, ideas for working with difficult students in classroom, IEP development, research, classroom management, and interview questions. Consistently questions on classroom management and behavior issues were raised by mentees in practicum or student teaching experiences.

Looking Ahead to 2014-2015

- Volunteer to mentor a student this year in the Mentoring Program. Online forms may be found at: CECPDmentoring@cec.sped.org
- If you are already a mentor, please recruit a colleague or a friend who is a CEC member to volunteer in the Mentoring program at CECPDmentoring@cec.sped.org
- Communication continues to be an ongoing concern within the Mentoring Program. Communication responsibilities will be emphasized to mentors, faculty advisors, and mentees.
- Matching of mentors to mentees will occur as Student Information Forms and Mentor Interest Forms are received.

- Based on the positive outcomes received by the mentors, mentees, faculty advisors, and the CEC staff; the collaborative efforts of all involved (mentors, the participating CEC student chapter faculty advisors, and the CEC staff); the services provided to the student participants; and the results of this and previous year's Program evaluations, it would be recommended that the CEC/CEC-PD Mentoring Program be:
 - viewed as an ongoing program co-sponsored by the Council and the Pioneers Division;
 - evaluated on annual basis by the stakeholders involved with the Program; and
 - highlighted on a regular basis in the CEC communications sent to the general membership.

Teachers are by far the most important in-school factor in determining whether our students succeed and our nation's schools improve. It can be discouraging to those of us who care about our chosen field to hear that many of our young, highly trained teachers are leaving the field within the first five years. Encourage the young professionals or students studying to enter the field to soar as they begin their professional careers. Thanks to each of you for making time in your life to support the future of our field.

Questions/Suggestions/ Need to Talk About Mentoring?

Contact: Linda Marsal, Mentoring Coordinator, lmarsal@embarqmail.com or 252-353-8919



2014 Proposed Revisions CEC Pioneer Division Constitution and Bylaws

Below are the proposed revisions by the PD Constitution and Bylaws Committee and recommended by the PD Board for a vote by the PD general membership. These revisions include those needed based on actions taken at the CEC Convention and Expo in Philadelphia as well as any changes in CEC policy. The wording changes appear in red and the rationale for the changes is included in blue.

Please review the changes and cast your ballot either in favor of the changes or opposed to the changes using the ballot included in the *Pioneers Press*.

ARTICLE VII EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 2. Members

The Executive Board shall consist of the President, President Elect, Immediate Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, and chairs of all standing committees as voting members. The Historian and the Coordinator of the CEC/CEC -PD Mentoring Program will also be voting members of the Board. ~~Newsletter Editor, and Other~~ appointed positions, shall ~~also~~ serve as members of the Board without voting privileges.

Rationale: Designates the position of Historian as a voting member of the Executive Board; establishes the Coordinator of the CEC/CEC-PD Mentoring Program as a board member, with voting privileges; eliminates the position of Newsletter Editor which will be filled by the newly established Chair of the Communications Committee as outlined in a later section of this document.

ARTICLE VIII MEETINGS

A minimum of one (1) Annual Membership Business Meeting shall be held. It shall be held in conjunction with the annual CEC Convention and Expo. A quorum for the Annual Business Meeting shall consist of twenty (20) members.

Once a quorum is established, if the number of members present drops below the number required (20), business may continue to be conducted if members who have left the meeting assign a proxy to another Division member still in attendance at the Annual Membership Business Meeting. If only members of the Pioneers Executive Board remain, then action items will no longer be considered.

If it is necessary to take action on matters requiring a vote by the general membership, the President may recess the Annual Membership Business Meeting and reconvene the meeting at the annual Pioneers Dinner following all requirements for conducting an Annual Membership Business Meeting. The President may also choose to conduct a general membership vote by electronic means to take the required action rather than reconvening the Annual Membership Business Meeting during the CEC Convention timeframe.

Rationale: Clarifies the quorum required to conduct business and provides the process for taking action.

The purpose of the Annual Membership Business Meeting shall be to:

- a. Serve as the Pioneers Division's general legislative body.
- b. Announce the results of the election of the Pioneers Division officers.
- c. Establish the rate for the Pioneers Division dues and special assessments.
- d. Approve the annual budget.
- e. Establish regulations relating to the general membership.
- f. Act on such other official recommendations and petitions as may be received.
- g. Refer issues to the CEC Representative Assembly through the Pioneers Division Representatives to the CEC Representative Assembly.

ARTICLE IX COMMITTEES

In keeping with the stated purposes of the Pioneers Division, the following standing committees shall be established:

- a. Professional Development
- b. Awards and Honors
- c. Constitution and Bylaws
- d. Membership
- e. Nominations and Elections
- f. Political Advocacy
- g. Resolutions
- h. Finance
- i. **Communications**

Rationale: Adds a new standing committee based on Executive Committee discussion and direction.

Section 1. Committee Chairpersons

- a. The Immediate Past President shall serve as chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee.
- b. The President Elect shall serve as chair of the Professional Development Committee.
- c. **The Newsletter Editor shall serve as the chair of the Communications Committee.**

Rationale: Designates a new role for the newsletter Editor.

- d. Chairpersons of all other standing committees shall be recommended by the President with the approval of the Executive Board.

Section 2. Standing Committee Membership

- a. Each standing committee, with the exception of the Resolutions Committee, shall have a minimum of six (6) members, in addition to the chair, representing a broad geographical base.
- b. The chair of each committee will serve a three (3) year term with the exception of the Nominations and Elections Committee, ~~and~~ the Professional Development Committee, and the Communications Committee. The chairs of ~~these committees~~ **the Nominations and Elections Committee and the Professional Development Committee**, the Immediate Past President and President Elect, will each serve a one (1) year term. **The chair of the Communications Committee, the Newsletter Editor, may serve more than two (2) terms.**

Rationale: Defines the terms of office for Chairs of the Standing Committees.

- c. Standing committee chairs, with the exception of the Nominations and Elections Committee and the Professional Development Committee, may serve a second three (3) year term.
- d. Members of the standing committees, with two (2) exceptions, shall be appointed for three (3) year terms on a revolving basis, with two (2) of the six (6) members or one third (1/3), the nearest fraction thereof, of the committee going off every year, to provide for continuity.
- e. Members of the Nominations and Elections Committee will be appointed for a one (1) year term.
- f. **Members of the Resolutions Committee are appointed for the sole purpose of preparing a particular resolution. The appointment is based on the member's knowledge of the background of the individual being honored or the event being acknowledged. Their appointment is task specific and lasts only for the time period to develop and finalize the particular resolution. Members may serve on the Committee multiple times depending on the nature of the resolution being developed.**

Rationale: Provides information on the selection, appointment and term of service for members of the Resolutions Committee.

Section 8. Constitution and Bylaws Committee

- a. Performs a periodic review of the Pioneers Division's Constitution and Bylaws.
- b. Reviews any proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws and makes recommendations to the

Executive Board for approval by the general membership.

- c. Maintains an updated version of the Constitution and Bylaws and files a current copy with CEC whenever any changes are made.
- d. Ensures that a current copy of the Constitution and Bylaws is available to the Secretary, at all meetings of the Pioneers Division, and to any Division member making such a request.
- e. Recommends revisions to the Pioneers Division's Constitution and Bylaws per changes required by the action of CEC.
- f. Develops changes to the *Pioneers Division Board Members Policies and Procedures Handbook* and forwards them to the President for review and action.

Rationale: Adds a new duty for the Constitution and Bylaws Committee that will allow the changes in the Constitution and Bylaws to be reflected in the *Handbook*.

Section 14. Communications Committee

- a. The Newsletter Editor will serve as chair of the Communications Committee.
- b. Maintains the CEC Microsite and any designated electronic communication platforms for the Division.
- c. Recommends any additional ways to better communicate with the general membership.
- d. Suggests additional publications for the Division.
- e. Assists the Newsletter Editor with assigned responsibilities when requested

Rationale: This new section identifies the roles and responsibilities of the Communications Committee, indicating that the Newsletter Editor serves as the Chair.

ARTICLE X

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

In addition to the elected and appointed officers and committee chairs, there are other appointed ~~non-voting~~ positions on the Pioneers Division Executive Board.

Rationale: Notes the change in voting status for appointed positions that are not included in Standing Committees.

Section 2. Newsletter Editor

~~The Newsletter Editor is appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Board for a period of three (3) years and is eligible for reappointment. The Newsletter Editor will ensure that the required issues(s) of the newsletter, the Pioneers Press are) sent to all Pioneers Division members in a timely manner.~~

- ~~a. Solicits information, reports, and articles from the Executive Board members for publication.~~
- ~~b. Notifies Executive Board members of the required articles/information and deadline for each issue of the newsletter.~~
- ~~c. Ensures that only factual descriptions of discussion items, reports of adopted position statements, and specific outcomes of action items by the Executive Board, the CEC Representative Assembly, the Interdivisional Caucus, and the CEC Board of Directors will be published.~~
- ~~d. Files a copy of each newsletter published with the Historian~~

The Newsletter Editor will serve as chair of the Communications Committee and will have the following additional responsibilities:

- a. Ensures that the required issues of the newsletter, the "Pioneers Press", are sent to all Pioneers Division members in a timely manner either electronically or in the format designated by the member;
- b. Solicits information, reports, and articles from the Executive Board members for publication;
- c. Notifies Executive Board members of the required articles/information and deadline for each issue of the newsletter;
- d. Ensures that only factual descriptions of discussion items, reports of adopted position statements, and specific outcomes of action items by the Executive Board, the CEC Representative Assembly, the Interdivisional

Interdivisional Caucus, and the CEC Board of Directors will be published;

f. Files a copy of each newsletter published with the Historian.

Rationale: Lists specific duties for the Newsletter Editor and redefines the position as the Chair of the Communications Committee and a voting member of the Executive Committee. The responsibilities of the Communications Committee are defined in Article IX Section 14.

Section 3. Coordinator of the CEC/CEC-PD Mentoring Program

The Coordinator of the CEC/CEC-PD Mentoring Program is appointed by the President in collaboration with CEC with the approval of the Executive Board on an annual basis. The Coordinator is eligible for an ongoing reappointment to the position with the agreement of CEC and the Executive Board. The Coordinator will oversee the daily operation of the Mentoring Program in collaboration with CEC.

The Coordinator:

- a. Recruits mentors for the Program.
- b. Develops all necessary forms and other Program information as needed.
- c. Communicates with the mentors and faculty advisors on a routine basis on various aspects of their roles and the functioning of the Program.
- d. Addresses any identified problems in a timely manner.
- e. Coordinates the operation of the Program with the designated CEC staff.
- f. Prepares and conducts the annual evaluation of the Program.
- g. Recommends changes to the Program.
- h. Makes reports to the Board and the general membership about the operation of the Program on a routine basis.

Rationale: Adds the position of Coordinator of the CEC/CEC-PD Mentoring Program as a voting member of the Executive Committee and provides duties for the position based on board discussion.

Special thanks to the members of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee (Parthenia Cogdell; Pam Gillet; Diane Johnson, Joan McDonald; Katherine Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer; Nancy Riggan; Kathlene Shank) for their concentrated effort in producing these recommendations.

Postmark by October 31, 2014

Ballot 2014 Revisions CEC-PD Constitution and Bylaws

_____ I **approve** the proposed changes

_____ I **do not** approve the proposed changes

Please provide CEC Membership Number _____

Ballots should be submitted in hard copy by mailing them to Diane Johnson, Chair Constitution and Bylaws Committee, 3010 Avon Circle, Tallahassee, FL 32312. You may print this page and send the copy to Diane. Or you may send an email directly to Diane with your CEC membership number and your vote – “approve” or “do not approve” at:

dianej99@gmail.com

Children and Youth Action Network

By Paul Zinni
September, 2014

Although CEC's Public Policy Department continues to advocate on behalf of children with exceptionalities, the policy team has always recognized that the real strength in advocacy comes from people like us, people who live and work with children with exceptionalities. That is why, this year, under the direction of Deborah Zeigler and Kimberly Hymes, CEC put out a general invitation to the membership inviting them to attend the June workshop on Policy and Advocacy. For the first time, CEC combined veteran CAN Coordinators with new CAN Coordinators and members at large. Although the audience was much more diverse than in years past, Deb and Kim, with the assistance of Rose Haller-Kaplan, were able to meet everyone's needs with the expertise I have come to know and appreciate from CEC. The workshop ran for four days and began with an overview of effective advocacy. Long time CAN Coordinator Chris Tabakin, from Pennsylvania, and I teamed up to present a session on conducting hill visits. Next CEC brought in a host of experts from Education Agencies, the Department of Education and staffers from various congressional offices. These experts spent the day educating the audience on the latest national issues impacting education. I am sorry to report that little has been accomplished over the past year in Washington and thus many of the issues we discussed this year, were the same issues we have discussed in years past, such as the lack of reauthorization for both the Elementary and Secondary Education ACT and Special Education. The four days concluded with each attendee reaching out to congress. Participants visited their congressmen and women and did what we set out to do, advocate on behalf of children with exceptionalities.

Although an important part of my role as CAN Coordinator, advocacy is only part of my responsibility to you, the Pioneers. In addition to providing a voice for the Pioneers on the hill, I also have a responsibility to keep you, the membership informed about what is happening in education both in our nation's capital and across the country. That is why in the weeks and months ahead I will begin to send you periodic email updates. These will come to you from my personal email account, paulzinni@gmail.com, and will have the subject line "Education Update." I will review a variety of education resources and will highlight article summaries that I hope you will find both interesting and informative. These summaries should provide you with information to explore each topic further should you be so inclined. It is my hope that you will be pleased with these updates. It is not my intention to clog up your account with one more email to delete. Therefore, if you are not interested in receiving these updates, simply hit reply and let me know you would like me to remove you from my distribution list. Thank you for all you continue to do to help children and youth reach their full potentials.

Questions/Suggestions/ Need to Talk About Advocacy?

Contact: Paul A. Zinni CAN Coordinator, paulzinni@gmail.com or 508-588-0230



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