

ACENA Fall Newsletter: Issue 29

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ACENA Elections

It's election time! This year's ACENA elections will be held in November. The following positions are up for election this year:

- President
- Director of Membership
- Director of Advocacy
- Director of Continuing Education
- Director of Practice, and
- Director of Program Operations

If you are interested or would like more information about any of the specific positions, please email contact.acena@gmail.com. Our secretary will direct you to the current person holding this position in order to give you a detailed description of the responsibilities of that particular board member. You can also read through the [ACENA bylaws](#), Article VI on our website to see a description of each board position and their responsibilities.

If you are interested in running for a Board position, please fill out the [nomination form](#) and return to contact.acena@gmail.com. Elections will be held electronically during the week of **November 12th - November 16th**. We hope you will consider getting involved - we would love to have a variety of programs represented within the ACENA leadership!

ACENA Subcommittees!

Looking for an easy way to get involved with ACENA? Consider joining one of our subcommittees! In order to move forward with our mission and goals, ACENA must have active voices and participation from its members. Get involved with our subcommittees to help move Conductive Education forward in North America.

Membership Subcommittee

Organized by: Director of Membership ([Liz Filkins](#))

The Membership Subcommittee is a newly formed group that is working to review and update member benefits, explore issues of membership recruitment and retention, and foster engagement of our current members. The group will be working primarily through email with occasional phone conference calls.

Marketing Subcommittee

Organized by: Director of Communication ([Brittany Jennings](#))

This subcommittee is responsible for keeping the website and facebook page up to date as well as putting together our quarterly newsletters. The subcommittee meets four times a year in order to discuss newsletter topics and updates to the website. Most other communication is done via email. We are looking for members to assist in the following areas: post relevant CE information on our facebook page, write articles for our newsletter, gather resources (articles, research, case studies, etc) for our website, and put together the ACENA 2019 calendar.

Research Subcommittee

Organized by: [Patrica Herbst](#)

The Research Subcommittee has the following objectives/projects:

- Significantly expanding publication of articles on Conductive Education: Dr. Roberta O'Shea, Ph.D., DPT has generously donated her time and talent to condense, Kim Barthel's "Review of Motor Control and Motor Learning Research Paper". It is complete... to be published soon!
- Significantly expanding and promoting research on Conductive Education: there are several ongoing research studies on Conductive Education throughout North America! Keep a look out for new studies published and included on the ACENA website!
- Creation of a universal Parent Satisfaction Survey: the research subcommittee wrapped up the project and will share the survey with all ACENA members shortly! The objective of the survey is to:
 - Give CE programs a tool to measure program quality,
 - Allow ACENA to gather data for marketing purposes,
 - Create a standardized, validated tool to measure outcomes, common to all CE programs throughout North America.

ACENA Conference Subcommittee

Organized by: Director of Continuing Education (position open)

This subcommittee is responsible for planning the ACENA Conference. The subcommittee will meet regularly once a conference has been scheduled in order to determine conference location, schedule, presenters, scholarships, post-conference evaluation and any other details. Subcommittee meetings help to coordinate ACENA with the host center.

If you would like to get involved with one of these subcommittees, please contact the applicable board member. For info on how to get involved with the Conference Subcommittee, contact [Brittany Jennings](#).

2018 ACENA Conference

Sara's Garden in Wauseon, Ohio was pleased to host the 2018 ACENA Conference at Sauder Village in Archbold, Ohio on August 27-29. Over 30 conductors, parents, teachers, therapists, and administrators participated in this year's workshops. On behalf of our members, ACENA would like to

thank Sara's Garden for all their preparation and hard work in organizing and hosting the conference.

Monday, August 27th kicked off with a tour of Sara's Garden and New Horizons Academy. Participants were on their own in the afternoon with some prepping their presentations while others walked through historic Sauder Village. The evening started out with a bus ride to Toledo to see the Toledo Mud Hens Baseball Team. Conductive Education (CE) Student Cole Hicks threw out the honorary first pitch of the game with a picnic-style dinner wrapping up the evening.



gaming software demonstration

On August 28, the conference got into full swing with CE testimonials from both clients and their parents. It was followed by short presentations on measurement tools, CE studies, and the still-developing satisfaction survey. During lunch, ACENA held a short members' meeting. After lunch, Dr. Lynne Gauthier, Assistant Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation from the Ohio State University College of Medicine, delivered the keynote address on "Neuroplasticity, Rehabilitation & Gaming," which she followed up with a rehabilitation demonstration using the gaming software she

developed. Tuesday's workshops wrapped with Beth Lynch from the March of Dimes Canada, presenting on "Camp Possible."



Congrats to Margy Nelson on receiving the

ACENA held a special awards ceremony on Tuesday evening at The Barn Restaurant. ACENA wanted to honor and thank Margy Nelson of The Movement Centre of Manitoba for all of her years of dedication and service to conductive education. Margy was presented with an Honorary Life Member Award. Thank you, Margy!

The final day of the conference kicked off with short overviews of "CE Certification Programs in North America." Then Alana Curtin from the Conductive Learning Center presented on "The Cyber-World, The Conductor-Teacher and Conductive Education." Dr. Andrea Benyovszky shared

Honorary Life Member Award!

insights on "Conductive Education and Neuroplasticity" in

the morning and then "Symptom-Specific CE Programming for Students with Athetosis" later in the day. Patricia Herbst, Allie Powaser, and Anita Keresztury presented on "Marketing Conductive Education-Make or Break a Program," "My First Year as a Conductor-Teacher," and "Vocational Training for Young Adults with Cerebral Palsy" respectively.

We had some positive feedback from conference attendees. One attendee wrote, "I would like to thank you for the opportunity to go to the ACENA conference. I learned a lot by listening to all the great presentations and I feel a lot more motivated and energized. I am reading the book we got by Karen Pape and I am enjoying every minute of it. I can't wait to apply all the new information at the center." If anyone else would like to share their feedback or experiences, be sure to let us know!



Conference Attendees at The Barn Restaurant

The participants agreed to hold the next conference next year to avoid running into conflict with the World Congress which will be held in Budapest in 2020. Chicago will host the 2019 ACENA Conference with the date yet to be determined. We hope to see you there!



**CE Center Feature: Centre for Independence
Itty Bitty Baby Program**



In April of 2018, the Center for Independence launched the "Itty-Bitty Baby" Program that is specifically directed towards premature infants or babies that serves at-risk infants or babies.

This program typically serves children between 5 months and 2 years old. The program focuses on parent education, family support, and teaching the baby skills to reach developmental milestones during a critical learning period in their lives. The Center's NICU program benefits premature infants who have trouble sleeping, eating or moving. Research shows that the earlier therapy is started, the sooner the baby/toddler will meet developmental milestones.



We work on strengthening, tone management, positioning and good alignment, so that these children can move and be more independent.

In just a few short months, this program has already been a success with 8 babies served and 100% of them already showing improvements in motor development!

Mark your Calendars!

October 17th: ACENA Board Meeting

October 29th: Membership Subcommittee Meeting
November 12th -16th: ACENA Board Elections
November 20th: ACENA Board Meeting
December 12th: Board Planning Meeting (in Chicago)

*Check out [ACENA's calendar](#) to stay up to date ! If you would like to participate in a subcommittee meeting, please get in touch with us to find out more!

www.acena.org

Check out our facebook page

