

Biographic Sketch of Nominees:

Leon Denton (President Nominee)

I am the Child and Youth Development Services Director for The Salvation Army. I received a Masters Degree in Child Development from the Erikson Institute of Chicago in 1998. Other educational achievements include having an Associate Degree in Early Childhood from Kennedy- King College and a Bachelors Degree in Biology with a minor in Chemistry from Mississippi Valley State University. I have been working in the field of early childhood for more than twenty five years. This has allowed me the opportunity to support early childhood professionals as they work to meet the needs of parents, children and other professionals. Currently, I serve as vice president on the Chicago Metropolitan Association for the Education of Young Children's Board and previously held the position of secretary. I have served on the board at Kennedy-King College, The Partnership for Quality Child Care, The Chicago Affiliate of The National Black Child Development Institute and Action for Children. My experience serving on Chicago Metro AEYC's Board of Directors and other Boards, as well as my experience working in the field of Early Childhood, will allow me to lead the board as we strive to meet the many current and new challenges that Chicago Metro AEYC will face in the near future. I want to continue my efforts to support parents, families, and other professionals as they strive to improve their lives as it relates to the field of early childhood. My desire is to carry Chicago Metro AEYC's message to those who can support our efforts. I am dedicated to the field of early childhood and my strong work ethic makes me a good candidate for the position as president.

Beth Lakier (Vice President Nominee)

My name is Beth Lakier. I joined Chicago Metro AEYC in 1996 to co- chair the commission on children and violence. I have been a board member since 2000, and am currently the treasurer of the Chicago Metro AEYC board of directors. I am also chairing the strategic planning committee as we develop a new 5 year strategic plan for Chicago Metro AEYC.

I have a Masters in Social Service Administration from the University of Chicago and a Bachelors in early childhood and adolescent development from Cornell University. Over the past 15 years I have worked as a director or manager of child development centers. I currently am the Senior Vice President of Child Development for Kids Hope United. I am very passionate about creating great environments for children to grow and learn, and believe we can only do this by providing appropriate training and support to the teachers who provide the key to quality education.

I believe my experience in the early childhood field and on the Chicago Metro AEYC Board provides me with the foundation to be a strong contributor as Chicago Metro AEYC moves closer to its vision of "pioneering new pathways to quality education and care for children birth to eight."

Andy McDill (Treasurer Nominee)

My name is Andy McDill. I received my MBA in 2002 from the Kellogg School of Management and my Masters and Bachelors of Accountancy from the University of Mississippi

in 1994 and 1992, respectively. Given my background in accounting and finance, I serve on the Finance Committee of Chicago Metro AEYC. In this role, I am working to provide a strong financial base for Chicago Metro AEYC to ensure that it can continue its mission of supporting and strengthening professionals working to promote the healthy development of children. Additionally, as a proud new father I am keenly aware of the needs of children and I hope to promote initiatives that will help all children and the people who we entrust with their development.

Marta Moya-Leang (Secretary Nominee)

Debrah Jobst (Board Member Nominee)

I am currently Chicago Public Schools, Preschool for All Program, Professional Development Manager. I started with the Chicago Public Schools, CPS, in 1984 and taught Kindergarten and preschool. I worked as a curriculum resource teacher, early childhood specialist, coach and facilitator for the CPS State Prekindergarten program. While living in Urbana Illinois in the 1970s, I taught in a day care center and a Montessori based nursery school. I am a long time member of Chicago Metro AEYC and was a presenter at several of the conferences over the years. I served as co-chair on the Chicago Metro AEYC Preschool Commission for 3 years with Kathy McGarry.

Chicago Metro AEYC is our professional organization and our link to the national organization. It is important for all of us as early childhood educators to be active participants in our profession on the job and in our community. I'd like to serve on the Chicago Metro AEYC Board as a link between our organization and the many early childhood professionals working to support the development of Chicago's diverse young learners. It is important to me to encourage these early childhood educators to join and become active in our professional organization, Chicago Metro AEYC.

Dana McDermott, Ph.D. (Board Nominee)

My name is Dana McDermott, Ph.D., CFLE. I received my doctorate in child development in 1977 from Loyola University of Chicago and my certification as a family life educator from the National Council on Family Relations in 1987. I have been working to support professionals as they work with parents, children and families for over three decades. Currently I serve on the board of the National Parenting Education Network dedicated to advancing the field of parenting education and support. This is in realization that to help children we must indeed work to support and educate their parents as to children's changing developmental needs over the lifespan. I also am the coordinator of the Masters in Applied Professional Studies in Parenting Education and Support at DePaul's School for New Learning. In that role I prepare professionals to train and support other professionals working with children, parents and families. In addition, I will be the liaison at the School for New Learning with DePaul's School of Education as we begin offering a bachelor of arts in early childhood education for adult students who bring years of experience and wisdom to the classroom. In these roles I believe I could make a contribution to CMAEYC and learn from CMAEYC in terms of how to best design our new undergraduate degree. I also believe I can contribute to CMAEYC's mission of supporting and strengthening professionals working to promote the healthy development of children birth through eight. The

interdisciplinary nature of my work and course offerings makes me a good candidate for the interdisciplinary collaborations central to the goals of CMAEYC.

Anthony Raden (Board Nominee)

My name is Tony Raden. I am currently the Deputy Commissioner for Policy at the Chicago Department of Children and Youth Services (CYS). For the last 15 years, my professional activities have focused on the development, implementation and evaluation of programs and policies for young children. After receiving a Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from Yale University, I became the Associate Director of the Institute for Child and Family Policy Columbia University in New York. While at Columbia, I authored many publications on issues related to early childhood education and served as a consultant to several local and national organizations, including the Foundation for Child Development and PBS.

In 2004, I decided to return to my hometown of Chicago to work directly on public policies affecting children and families. That year, I joined CYS, which had recently been created to manage a wide array of programs that serve Chicago's children and youth ages 0 to 21 through a citywide partnership of more than 300 community organizations and institutions. As the Deputy Commissioner for Policy, I oversee the department's policy-related activities that promote and advance key priorities for Chicago's children, families and community-based organizations. I also coordinate research and evaluations and partner with universities to develop and disseminate data and reports that track the well-being of children and families and analyze the supply and demand of early childhood and youth services. I currently represent CYS on many commissions, advisory councils, and task forces in the city and state and serve on the board or steering committee of the Illinois Childhood Trauma Coalition (ICTC), the Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago's Children (CLOCC) and the Center for Human Potential and Public Policy at the University of Chicago. I am also a co-chair of the Illinois Early Learning Council's Space Capacity Committee, which was formed last year to develop recommendations and strategies to increase and enhance facilities for early childhood programs across the state.

Since September 2007, I have served on the Board of Directors of Chicago Metro AEYC. During this brief time, I have come to appreciate the organization's instrumental role in supporting early childhood professionals in the Chicago region. Among my Chicago Metro AEYC responsibilities, I am currently participating on a special committee that has been formed to lead a strategic planning process for the organization. Professional development, I believe, is the great strength of Chicago Metro AEYC; I look forward to helping the organization continue to provide quality educational and training activities that are relevant and useful for Chicago's early childhood community. I also understand, however, that the organization is not consistently active or influential in advocating for vital public policies affecting early childhood providers and professionals. If I have the opportunity to continue to serve Chicago Metro AEYC, I will focus on helping the organization become more strategic and effective in promoting and shaping city, state and federal policies that support the education and well-being of young children.

Jennifer D. Vidis

Since November of 2007, I have worked in the Chief Executive Office of Chicago Public Schools. In my role as Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff, I work on a wide range of projects

and issues affecting the schools and school communities. Prior to joining CPS, I worked for 16 years with Cook County as executive director of the Department of Human Rights, Ethics and Women's Issues. While at the County, I led the effort to establish, and subsequently chaired the oversight body for, a child development center serving the children of Cook County and City of Chicago government employees. The Center included a fully integrated Head Start program and served as training facility for area students enrolled in early childhood education programs and child care workers furthering their education.

I have extensive experience as both a director and officer of the boards of non-profit organizations. I am currently the president-elect of the board of directors of the Center for Conflict Resolution, and a director for Housing Choice Partners and the Women's Policy Board of the Jane Adams Hull House Association. I have a J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center and a B.A. in American Government from Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts

I would welcome the opportunity to join Chicago Metro AEYC's Board and support the organization's work in advancing the profession of early childhood education. I believe my perspective in my role with the Chicago Public Schools, my legal background and my non-profit board experience will be assets to work of the Chicago Metro AEYC's Board.

Karen Wargo (Board Nominee)

My name is Karen Wargo. I am a business strategist and consultant with a track-record of helping organizations define and achieve their goals. I am currently Senior Manager of Strategy and Business Development for PepsiCo's Americas Beverages Business. In this role, I am responsible for developing and implementing long-term strategies and short-term tactics to drive business growth. Prior to joining PepsiCo, I was an Engagement Manager at McKinsey and Company, an Executive-Level management consulting firm. At McKinsey, I helped clients in a wide variety of industries (ranging from health care businesses to Fortune 100 consumer products companies, to non-profit membership organizations) overcome business challenges, with particular focus on business strategy/visioning and marketing issues. I have an MBA from Kellogg's Northwestern Graduate School of Management and a BA in Economics from Georgetown University.

My expertise in strategic planning and marketing strategy combined with a passion for young children and community service make me well-suited to help Chicago Metro AEYC move closer its vision. I have experience helping organizations define realistic yet challenging goals as well as the strategies and tactics required to achieve them.