

Potomac Association of Cooperative Teachers Inc.



September 2020

Fall Newsletter

www.PACTteachers.org

Letter from the President

Dear PACT Members,

If at the beginning of 2020, someone would have told me that I would spend the Spring teaching my preschoolers virtually through a web platform named Zoom, I would never have believed it. Yet here we are, a half a year past the initial shift in our society due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and some of us will still be teaching via Zoom or Teams or some other virtual method. Some of us are back in classrooms. Some of us are in limbo, waiting until the circumstances of our particular school allows us to return and connect with our students. One thing remains constant though, the need for teachers to connect with one another and continue their own education.

As you know, this past Spring, PACT made the unprecedented decision to cancel our Professional Development Day (PDD). And as the environmental climate in regards to large in-person gatherings remains much the same as it did in the Spring, we have decided to offer our traditional Fall PDD as a virtual 2 hour class, focused on helping children, and ourselves, deal with the effects of trauma. We will be led in this workshop by Helma Irving and Sapi Price from <https://www.sheppardpratt.org/care-services/community-family-supports>.

The 2 hour Fall PDD will be offered at two different times, Wednesday Oct 21, 2-4pm and Thursday October 22, from 7-9pm. A Zoom link will be sent to registered members prior to each session. An online presenter evaluation and content assessment will be required to receive a certificate. The certificates will meet MSDE's requirements for COK hours. The class is being offered **FREE** to past PACT members and current teachers of PACT associated schools.

The maximum number of participants for the session on October 21 from 2-4pm is 90 and the maximum for October 22 from 7-9pm is 85, so please register early to give yourself the best chance of getting your preferred session.

We are currently evaluating what format will work best for our Spring 2021 PDD and will inform you all as soon as a decision is made and a membership fee is established.

As is tradition, several members of the PACT Board changed positions at the end of the 2019-20 school year. We will need the membership to approve the new slate during the short business meeting portion of the Fall PDD. Please see below for the current PACT Board positions and members filling these positions. You will notice that we have a couple of open positions and are looking for volunteers to step in and join us. Our meetings (usually four annually) are done either by phone or web platform. I find the professionals on the Board amazing to work with and the work very gratifying.

Scott Mitchell,
President

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Join the PACT Board!

The PACT Board is run by dedicated volunteer early childhood educators. All co-op teachers have many diverse skill sets in order to be a teacher in a co-operative nursery school, and should seriously consider employing some of their many skills serving on our Board! Typically there are 4 Board meetings a year, before and after each Professional Development Day. It's not a huge time commitment, and it's a great way to get to know others in our profession beyond your school.

Four positions are currently vacant, so we need members to step forward! Please check the list below and contact Scott jessicanscott@comcast.net if you are interested in joining the Board. Information about open positions can be found in PACT's By-Laws on the website www.PACTteachers.org.

During the brief business meeting prior to the virtual course, members will be asked to confirm the PACT Board for the 2020-21 school year. The host will unmute participants for member input, and members' votes ("yes" or "no") will be recorded in the chat box.

Proposed 2020-21 Board

President - Scott Mitchell (Silver Spring Nursery School, MD)

V.P. Program Co-Chairs - Bernadine Occhiuzzo (Nursery School, MD)

. - Doreen Bunten (Cedar Lane Nursery School, MD)

V.P. Membership – Ellen Griffin (Cedar Lane Nursery School, MD)

Secretary – Melissa Jordan (Rockville Presbyterian Cooperative Nursery School, MD)

Treasurer – Janise Allyn-Smith (Silver Spring Nursery School, MD)

Logistics & Hospitality - VA - OPEN

. - MD – Rana Oriolo (Learning Center for Young Children, MD)

Professional Development Day Administration – Jessie Auten (Providence Nursery School, VA)

Exhibits/Resource Table - OPEN

Assessments and Evaluations - OPEN

Legislative Contact - MD - Bernadine Occhiuzzo (Nursery School, MD)

- **DC - OPEN**

- **VA - Nancy Renner (Fort Hunt Preschool , VA)**

Listserv – Jennifer DeBernardis (MD)

Web Master – Annette Fitzpatrick (MD)

Newsletter editor – Bernadine Occhiuzzo (Nursery School, MD)

– Ellen Griffin (Cedar Lane Nursery School, MD)

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Membership Renewal

Membership for those who paid for the 2019-20 school year in October 2019 has been extended through Fall 2020. A Spring 2021 membership renewal will be offered in March 2021. Please contact VPMembershipPACT@gmail.com if you have any questions regarding your membership status.

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Professional Development Days

The Fall PACT Professional Development Days are on – online! A two-hour virtual professional development course will be offered with two time options: **Wednesday, Oct 21, from 2-4 PM** and **Thursday, October 22, from 7-9 PM.**

Guest speaker – Helma Irving

Topic “ Trauma-Informed Care”

MSDE Approval # CWO-158745

MSDE Course # ID CKO/Hours Trauma Informed Care PA-07282020-01 CD/2

PACT’s Approval #_CKO 157568

Content Description

This training will share information about how children who have been through trauma develop differently, based on information presented in the ACE (Adverse Childhood

Experiences) study, published in 2000 by Kaiser Permanente and the CDC. The way we interact with children greatly influences them, so we will talk about 10 basic strategies to put into use every day when working with children who have been through trauma or show signs of stress. You can be a tool of comfort and affirmation in the lives of a child feeling discomfort and confusion; be the hero that child needs to feel safe in your care.

Brief biography of presenters

Helma Irving is the Assistant Division Director for Children Youth and Families and the Program Manager for Early Childhood Education and Training at Family Services, Inc., part of the Sheppard Pratt Health System, and has worked there for the last 19 years. She earned her Bachelor's and Master's degree in Family and Child Development from Virginia Tech, followed by earning a certification in Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation from the University of Maryland School of Medicine. She oversees 8 programs with County and City contracts who serve families and youth in a variety of ways.. In addition, Ms. Irving trains early childhood professionals to intentionally teach social and emotional strategies and prevent challenging behaviors in a group setting and coaches teachers to help children be successful in a group setting. She is a certified early childhood trainer for the Maryland State Department of Education, directed an Early Head Start program and taught all ages in the classroom from early childhood to college level.

Sapi Price is the Program Coordinator for the Family Services, Inc. Dare to Be You program. She has a bachelor's degree from Towson State University and is a certified MANDT trainer, MANDT is a comprehensive and integrative approach to building healthy relationships in the workplace. After many years of experience in the early childhood classroom, Sapi started training childcare professionals and parents in the community through the resource and referral centers and as part of Early Head Start as the Education Coordinator. Sapi continues to expand her knowledge in Trauma-Informed Care and is in the process of earning her certification in Substance Abuse Prevention.

Credit Hours

Members who complete the course will earn 2 Core of Knowledge credit hours. In accordance with MSDE regulations, members must attend the entire 2-hour course, and complete a content assessment and presenter evaluation before receiving their certificate.

Registration

Registration for the Fall virtual training course is online via **SignUpGenius**. Click on the link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4eafaf28a4fec07-fall> and complete the form. Please sign up individually to ensure your email is recorded. Note also that there are two time slots to choose from - **Wednesday, Oct 21, from 2-4 PM**; and **Thursday, October 22, from 7-9 PM**. Since there is a limit of 90 participants in the first session (October 21) and 85 in the second

(October 22), registration will be processed on a first-come–first–served basis. Remember to sign up early to have the best chance of getting your preferred session!

How to logon for the virtual course

A Zoom link will be sent to registered members prior to each session. Once signed in, participants' names will appear in the chat box. Registrants may be required to sign-in periodically to demonstrate their continuous participation. If a member leaves the session for a brief break, they will need to sign in again.

Assessments and Evaluations

Participants will be asked to complete a content assessment and presenter evaluation of the virtual course via **Survey Monkey**. A link to the survey will be provided on the Zoom chat room at the conclusion of the course. The link will also be e-mailed to participants following the PDD, and should be completed within 24 hours. MSDE requirements stipulate that members from Maryland must pass the assessment with a score of 70% or higher.

Certificates

Participants who attend the entire virtual course and who have completed the *survey monkey* for assessments and evaluations will be e-mailed their personalized certificate in PDF form.

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Award for Devoted Service in Early Childhood Education

The PACT Award for Devoted Service in Early Childhood Education was re-instated in 2016. Nancy Renner, Director of Fort Hunt Preschool and Co-President of PACT for 4 years (September 2012 to June 2017), was chosen to receive the Spring 2020 award. Presentation of the award to Nancy was deferred to this Fall, due to the cancellation of PACT's Spring PDD. Congratulations, and thanks Nancy!

There are many candidates deserving of recognition, and members are encouraged to consider nominating one of their mentors or co-workers for the 2020-21 school year. It's never too early to begin the process! The award committee looks forward to receiving completed forms for a potential candidate! Information about the nomination process is on our website <https://www.pacteachers.org>. Nominations are due March 1st, 2021 and the award will be presented at the Spring 2021 Professional Development Day.

Hall of Fame

The PACT Board established a *Hall of Fame* in 2016 to recognize members who have given exemplary service in the field of early childhood education. Educators who receive the Award for Devoted Service in Early Childhood Education are automatically inducted into the PACT *Hall of Fame*.

DVD Collection

PACT maintains a collection of nine educational DVDs that current PACT members may borrow free of charge. Schools that have at least one PACT member on staff may borrow DVDs for training purposes. The borrower must pay postage costs both ways, or pick up and return in person. See the loan form and instructions at <https://www.pacteachers.org/resources>

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Job Postings

Looking for a new teaching position in the Washington, DC area? PACT posts job openings on the website – so check it out at <https://pacteachers.org/resources> . Directors seeking to hire staff may e-mail details to info@PACTeachers.org.

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Listserv

PACT members' listserv: Take a moment to join the PACT members' listserv to stay up-to date on PACT information. The listserv is open to current PACT members. To join, send an e-mail to PACT-Info-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Directors' listserv: Share resources, ideas and training opportunities by joining the PACT Directors listserv. PACT membership is not required. To join, send a message to pact-directorssubscribe@yahoogroups.com

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