



Florida After School Link

Fall 2008

Get Involved with FASA in Your Region



Top Left: Regional training attendees listen attentively during a breakout session.

Bottom Right: Board Members Rhonda Rogers, Katherine Gopie, and Kevin Cataldo strike a pose at Region V's recent training. See page 3 for the full story.

See You at Disney!

We hope you've made plans to join us for this year's conference, which is being held **September 25th through the 27th** at **Disney's Coronado Springs Resort** in Orlando. Last year's conference was such a success that we've secured the same venue for this year. We have also partnered with the Florida Department of Education 21st Century Community Learning Centers office to offer special sessions to their grantees. As always, we have presenters scheduled to facilitate workshops for front line staff, program managers, and site supervisors. Our special Awards of Excellence Banquet is always a treat! You may also register for the *Disney Institute* and *Fantasmic!*. Visit www.floridaafterschool.org for more information.



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Interested in becoming a Board Member?

Visit our website for the application, or to contact a current Board Member if you have questions.



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A Message from the President

Hello FASA Members,

It is hard to believe that we are gearing up for another school year I know that everyone is very busy taking care of all those beautiful children who come through your doors everyday.

We are continuing to face funding cuts all over our state. The under funding, poor fiscal planning, and lack of statute language that mandates funding for our school age children are chronic issues that desperately need to be addressed by our elected leaders and our communities. You can be an advocate for children and speak to these very important issues that are out there. Please contact your representative and let them know that we have to keep ALL our children safe and in after school programs. NO CUTS TO AFTER SCHOOL!!

Every Child Matters has sent each of the presidential candidates a detailed questionnaire asking them to describe their plans to address six critical children's issues, from health care to child abuse. Here are the responses: <http://www.everychildmatters.org/2008/index.html> .

Children's Budget 2008

Cookab V. Hashemi, Children, Youth & Families and International Issues

This spring, First Focus, a bipartisan children's advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C., released a comprehensive guide of more than 180 different children's programs in the Federal government. The book, titled, *Children's Budget 2008*, is the first publication in many years by a children's advocacy organization to identify children's programs in the federal budget. The programs are categorized into broad topics such as child health, education, child welfare and juvenile justice.

Listed below are key findings from the *Children's Budget 2008* guide.

- For the past five years, only one penny of every new, non-defense dollar spent by the federal government has gone to children and children's programs;
- Children's spending now makes up only ten percent of the entire non-defense budget;
- The overall share of federal, non-defense spending going to children's programs has dropped by 10 percent over the past five years;
- Real discretionary spending on children has declined by more than 6 percent since 2004, while at the same time all other non-defense discretionary spending has increased by more than 8 percent.

Upcoming Afterschool Highlights:

Lights on Afterschool - October 16th

Lights On Afterschool is a nationwide event to recognize the critical importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, their families and communities. It is a project of the Afterschool Alliance - a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization supported by a group of public, private, and nonprofit entities working to ensure that all children have access to afterschool programs by the year 2010. More information on the Alliance and Lights On Afterschool is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

Children's Week:

We are very excited to launch our newly designed Children's Week website by the end of September and will be sending out the 2009 Children's Week Partnership Packet to all returning partners. If you are interested in becoming a Children's Week Partner or joining a Children's Week Committee, please contact Jason Zaborske, Children's Week Statewide Coordinator at 850-251-7274 or jz@childrensweek.org.

In closing I just wanted to remind everyone that the FASA Board and Conference Committee is working very hard to prepare for this year's conference. The dates and location have been set. We will be holding conference September 25-27, 2008, at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort at Walt Disney World. I look forward to meeting you there. Please look for more information on our web site: www.FloridaAfterschool.org .

Yours for Children,

Sharon

Sharon Carie



Region V Hosts Another Successful Training

“Essentials of Quality Afterschool Programming”

Rhonda Rogers, FASA’s Region V Professional Development Director, organized and facilitated a half day professional development opportunity for afterschool professionals in Region V. The training was held on April 18, 2008 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at Children’s Services Council of Palm Beach County.

The afterschool professionals were treated to the following workshop offerings:

Workshop Offering # 1

Topic: Family Reading Parties for School-age Families

Description: This was an interactive workshop in which participants were shown how to engage parents and children in a literacy activity. Participants had the opportunity to practice reading a story using quality literature while gaining an understanding of how to help low literacy parents enjoy a reading experience with their children.

Facilitator: Gloria Allin, Afterschool Reads Coordinator, Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition

Workshop Offering # 2

Topic: Family Engagement as a Program Enhancement

Description: This workshop was an interactive discussion on how to plan and implement family engagement activities to enhance programming. We also explored various strategies to involve families in the programs.

Facilitator: Beverly Beguesse, Contract Manager, Children’s Services Council
 Panel: Alyx Kellington, Director of Arts & Cultural Education, Palm Beach Cultural Council; Reginale Durandisse, Executive Director, For the Children; Kathy Steblea, Parent Educator, Children’s Services Council

Workshop Offering # 3

Topic: Strategies for Youth Participation

Description: This workshop was an interactive discussion on how to plan and implement youth engagement activities to enhance programming. We also explored various strategies to involve youth in the programs.

Facilitator: Edna Runner, Executive Director, West Jupiter Community Group Inc.
 Panel: Sally Scurry, Program Director Elementary, West Jupiter Community Group Inc.; Sandy Stone, Program Director Youth, West Jupiter Community Group Inc.

Workshop Offering # 4

Topic: Teambuilding – Creating a Sense of Belonging in Your Afterschool Program

Description: Creating a space in which youth feel a sense of belonging is not just important for how youth feel, it’s also essential for growth and learning! In this workshop participants practiced teambuilding games and strategies and learned how to turn a group of students with different backgrounds and experiences into a cooperative and caring team. Fun/Interaction level: High

Facilitator: Katherine Gopie, Director of Professional Development, Prime Time Palm Beach County, Inc.



FASA offers these trainings in every region as a benefit to our members as well as a draw to afterschool professionals to solicit them to become members of FASA. Please visit our website at www.floridaafterschool.org to view the list of all five regional trainings.



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STRENGTHENING THE
 PROFESSIONALS WHO SUPPORT
 OUR CHILDREN

Meet Your FASA Board Members

Region	Position	Name	EXECUTIVE BOARD	
1	Director of Training	Matt McKibbin	President	Sharon Carrie
1	Director of Membership	Jessica Wallace	Vice President	Kevin Cataldo
2	Director of Training	<i>Vacant</i>	1 st Vice President	Deb Ballinger
2	Director of Membership	<i>Vacant</i>	Secretary	Katherine Gopie
3	Director of Training	Kathi Jennings	Treasurer	Rhonda Rogers
3	Director of Membership	Greg Snow		
4	Director of Training	Sheryl Ryan		
4	Director of Membership	Deb Zenk		
5	Director of Training	<i>Vacant</i>		
5	Director of Membership	Charinus Johnson		
	Member at Large	Lani Lingo		
	Member at Large	Erick Johnson		
	Member at Large	Valerie Wilkerson		

***Need more information about FASA
 in your region?***

Visit www.floridaafterschool.org to
 contact your region's board members.