

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Association Montessori Internationale – Elementary Alumni Association (AMI-EAA)

Mission

The AMI-Elementary Alumni Association is a non-profit grassroots organization of AMI-trained elementary teachers and trainers. The members of AMI-EAA work together to strengthen each member's capacity and commitment to uphold, propagate, and further AMI pedagogical principles and practice for the full development of the elementary-age child.

Events & Activities

This past July 2015 our Annual Conference was held in Sausalito, California at the beautiful NatureBridge Retreat Center. Presentations were given by long time practitioners, trainers, and members on a wide variety of topics. For over 40 years this summer conference has been a rejuvenating and refreshing time for our members. As always, the sharing of our daily practice, both strengths and struggles, provided time for reflection and growth.

This upcoming summer 2016 we will be traveling to beautiful Brackendale, British Columbia. We are thrilled to be holding our conference in Canada and look forward to seeing our wonderful Canadian members. Trainer Alison Awes will be presenting on supporting the children with dyslexia in the Montessori classroom.

AMI-EAA sponsored the annual Refresher Course with AMI-USA. The 2016 Refresher was held in Long Beach, California. Trainer, Elise Huneke-Stone presented on the topic of "Songs in the Key of ABC: Writing in Cosmic Education". This Refresher Course drew the largest elementary group to date – nearly 300 participants! We are most grateful to our presenters and to all the volunteers who make the conference a success. The 2017 Refresher Course will be held in Austin, Texas.

Collaborations and Partnerships

In support of the Outreach arm of AMI's Strategic Plan, EAA is actively involved in AMI's Bold Goal Project. AMI launched its Bold Goal project in February 2016 to increase our social impact by tripling the number of AMI-prepared adults working in U.S. education within five years. EAA Board members will participate in the Leadership Group as well as serve on several of the Working Group teams to develop a strategy for achieving this goal. We also partner with the US affiliates and collaborate on various projects.

Publications and Media

On our newly updated website our members receive numerous benefits including an online newsletter published three times a year, a members-only section of the website where special conference materials are made available, and our entire archive of past EAA newsletters. Each past edition is now available through a searchable key-word

database. This enormous project could not have been completed without the archival work of John Hooper, Secretary and Membership Coordinator.

In addition to our website, EAA also continues to provide a strong online presence with EAA-Talk, our group discussion forum.

Membership

EAA continues to serve members in Europe, North America, South America, Australia, Africa, and Asia. Our membership has doubled in the last five years and we currently have 740 members. We strive to connect to trainees and new graduates by offering them a complimentary membership during their training and for their first year after graduation. After much consideration the Board approved a modest fee increase to meet the growing needs of our organization.

Board and Committees

Current Board

Allyson Creel, Charlotte, North Carolina – Chair

Gayle Waner, Spokane, Washington - Vice-Chair and Treasurer

John Hooper, Austin, Texas - Secretary, Archivist, Membership Coordinator

Anna Discenzo, Cleveland, Ohio - Publications and Communications Coordinator

Wendy Tye, Woodland, California - Outreach Coordinator

Rachel Eberhard, Los Angeles, California – Conference Coordinator

EAA would like to extend sincere gratitude to our pedagogical advisors, Phyllis Pottish-Lewis, Greg MacDonald, Alison Awes, and Dr Kay Baker. We would like to especially recognize Dr Baker as she completed her term of service at the Refresher Course in 2016. We are honoured to have Ann Dunne agree to join this esteemed group.

Allyson Creel

Chair