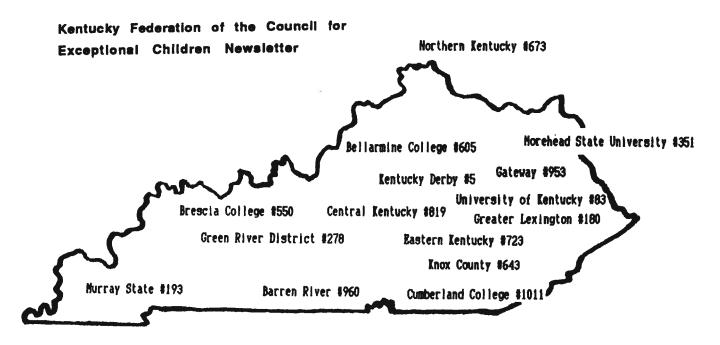
# **EXCEPTIONAL NEWS**



**VOLUME 8, NUMBER 3** 

**SPRING/CONVENTION 1990-91** 

LINDA ALFORD, EDITOR

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DR. DONALD P. CROSS

#### 1990----A YEAR OF THE TRIFECTA

During the past year there have been three important legislative mandates passed by the U.S. Congress and by the Kentucky Legislature. In Kentucky, we now have the Kentucky Educational Reform Act (KERA) which is in the initial stages of being implemented in our schools. In the last newsletter, I spoke about the need for vigilance to ensure that handicapped children's educational rights are not diminished. School districts will be receiving additional money based on the count of exceptional children in their district. At the present time, there is no regulation that states that that money must be spent for the handicapped. We must do everything in our power to ensure that such funds are appropriately spent.

Our national congress passed two important pieces of legislation. The Education of the Handicapped Act (EHA) was amended and is now called "Individuals with Disabilities Education Act" (IDEA). In this legislation are some important changes of which we need to be aware. The term "handicapped children" has been changed to now read "children with disabilities". Two new categories of children have been added to the definition of "children with disabilities" and a third is being considered. The two additions are "Autism" and "Traumatic Brain Injury". This means that schools and states will be responsible to counting these children in their child count figures and will be responsible to the provision of services to these children. Children with "Attention Deficit Disorders" are being considered for inclusion as a category of children to be included in the difinition of "children with disabilities". The federal government is requesting input on this inssue at the present time. Do you think that children labelled "Attention Deficit Disorders" should be included as one of the categories of children included in the difinition of "children with disabilities"? The arguments for inclusion center around the notion that these children need the special services offered by special education and that at the present time they are not receiving the help they need from either regular or special education. Arguments against state that such children need to display appropriate significant educational or behavioral deficits before inclusion as a handicapped child ("child with a disability").

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Cont.)

The third legislative action was the passage of PL 101-336, or the Americans with Disabilities Act. This legislation provides protection for the disabled in all aspects of daily living and ensures that all disabled persons will be treated the same as the nondisabled. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 refers to an act of Congress which gives civil rights protection to individuals with disabilities in private employment. This legislation was designed to prevent and eliminate discrimination against individuals with disabilities and to provide enforceable standards. The intent was to involve the Federal Government in this enforcement through congressional authority.

Disability is defined as a person with "(A) a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such individual; (B) a record of such impairment; or (C) being regarded as having such an impairment" (PL 101 336, 1990, Sec. 3. [2]). This legislation ensures equal protection of the disabled in areas such as employment, transportation, public accomodations services. and telecommunications. addition. In provisions are made to ensure that State or local governments do not discriminate individuals against qualified disabilities.

Employers of 15 or more persons cannot refuse to hire or promote persons with a disability because of that disability when the disabled person is qualified to perform the job. The act ensures that modifications by employers be made to accomodate persons with disabilities if such accomodations will enable the person to perform those tasks necessary for the successful completion of the job. With regards to transportation, the act requires new vehicles purchased by public transit authorities to be accessable by persons with disabilities. "Paratransit" or an alternative service is required for persons who cannot use the mainline system. Trains must provide one car per train that is accessable and all new and existing rail stations must be made accessable.

All public accommodations must be accessable. This includes such things as hotels, restaurants, dry cleaners, grocery stores, schools, and parks. New buildings must be made accessable and existing buildings must remove existing barriars if this is "readily achievable". All telephone

companies must offer appropriate services to who require telecommunication those devices (such as the deaf) or similar devices State and local governments may now discriminate against individuals with disabilities. All government facilities, services, and communications must be accessable and consistent with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 will have significant impact on the lives of the disabled as well as the non-disabled and should ensure that the disabled are afforded an equal opportunity to share in the American way of life. PL 101-336 indicates that there are some 43,000,000 Americans which have one or more physical or mental disabilities. Although few people would argue that access for the handicapped is undesirable, it has been controversial because it is so expensive. Regardless, this legislation has been passed and signed into law by the President. What impact will this have on your school district? Your community? Yourself? Keep abreast of this new legislation and help it work. I think all three legislative acts are winners. It's up to us to see that they work for the handicapped (oops-the disabled)



#### President-Elect's Report Stephen Walker

Welcome to Northern Kentucky and the 1991 KYCEC Convention! All of us on the Convention Committee are happy that you are here this weekend and want you to have a great time while visiting and attending the conference. If you need assistance finding a good restaurant or getting directions to any of the many cultural, entertainment, or shopping opportunities in the Northern Kentucky/Greater Cincinnati area - please as one of ue, we will be wearing special ribbons on our name badges so that we can be easily identified.

## CALL FOR PAPERS

# KENTUCKY FEDERATION COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN - 37th ANNUAL CONVENTION "This One's For The Children" MARCH 26, 27, 28, 1992 - FT. MITCHELL, KENTUCKY

Linda Alford, KYCEC President Elect, invites all interested persons to submit proposals for the Kentucky Federation of the Council for Exceptional Children's 1992 Convention. The theme for the '92 convention relates to the needs and concerns of the exceptional child. The reform movement is bringing about exciting changes, with the focus being on new programs, curriculum, and technology. We would like to keep our vision on why the movement is important, so "This One's For The Children." The convention will be held at the Drawbridge Inn located in Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky. Potential participants in the 1992 program include: special education teachers, regular education teachers, parents, administrators, teacher educators, psychologists, counselors, educational diagnosticians, related service personnel, social workers, teacher education students from Kentucky colleges and universities, and others with information to share on the education and training of exceptional children. The value of attending the KYCEC conference has always been the involvement of practitioners willing to share new and successful ideas with their colleagues. Please won't YOU consider participating in this years convention?

Proposal Format: Submit a Summary of Presentation (approximately 250-300 words) and a brief Abstract of the presentation (approximately 50 words). Complete the Proposal Form (back side of this page) and attach it to the Summary and Abstract. All proposals must be accompanied by TWO self addressed, stamped envelopes.

Selection Process: The Program Chairperson, together with the Program Advisory Committee, is responsible for selecting the presentations. Selections are based on relevancy to current issues in special education, audience appeal, soundness, and innovation. Interest strands will include presentations in the areas of: pre-school services for infants and toddlers, technology in special education, teacher collaboration, diagnosis and assessment, teacher education, post-secondary transition, vocational education, administration of special education programs, gifted and talented, medically fragile, and other topics of interest to professionals and parents in Kentucky.

Selection Time Frame: Proposals submitted for consideration must be postmarked by October 31, 1991. Only about 80 proposals will be accepted for presentation at the 1992 conference. Consideration will be given to each proposal as it is received. Authors will be notified of the status of the proposal by January 15, 1992.

Program Formats: Authors of presentations are advised that traditional 60 to 90 minute formats will be available along with poster sessions which will run in 90 minute time blocks. Before submitting your proposal, consider how your information can best be presented. If an informal poster session is an option, you may wish to consider using that format. Poster sessions will enable the committee to increase participation and the total number of proposals accepted.

## 1992 KYCEC CONVENTION PROPOSAL FORM

Title of Presentation: _	(as you would like it to appea	ur in the program	if accepted)
Author's Name:			
Employer/Position:		•	
Home Address:			
City, State, Zip:			
Business Address:			
City, State, Zip:			
Telephone (Home):			
Length of Presentation: 60	min 90 Min	Poster	Other (specify)
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If there are other presenters, this space. Co-presenters:			
Has this proposal been presen	ted at any other type of profe	essional meetin	g? Yes No
Signature of Proposer:		Date	e:
(	Linda Alford, Director Campbell County Boa 101 Orchard Lane Alexandria, Kentucky	rd of Educat	

## **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

#### THE COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN



Name

1920 Association Drive Reston, Virginia 22091-1589 VOICE and TTY 703/620-3660 FAX 703/264-9494

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(If chapter number is not known, please leave blank. CEC will inform you of your local chapter number.)

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# VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT LINDA ALFORD

"THIS ONE'S FOR THE CHILDREN"
1992 KYCEC Convention
March 27-29, 1992
Drawbridge Inn
Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky

Mark your calendars NOW! We would like to invite each of you back next year to participate in an "exeptional" conference. We encourage and challenge you to submit a "Call for Paper" application which will give you an opportunity to share your ideas, techniques, and curriculum with other educators and professionals within the "exceptional" field. It is an exciting time in education, not only in implementing the new reform but knowing that "This One's for the Children."



# EXCELLIONAL NEWS

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