

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP OFFICE

Laura Mason, Membership Coordinator

Most of the regular activity of the membership office involves shepherding organizational members through membership application and renewal processes. This spring, most of that activity came to a screeching halt as campuses suddenly closed down. The WECAN Membership Committee was faced with the question of how to manage membership while in the midst of a pandemic. I'm pleased to share that our meetings resulted in a clear sense that what programs need is support and flexibility at this time.

We quickly made a decision to extend all membership deadlines by a full year and to eliminate all site visits for the 2020-21 school year. While no renewals will be taking place, we are still taking applications for new Associate Members. In fact, several programs were motivated to become members as they saw how collaborating with others at this time could be very beneficial. We look forward to learning more about these programs through their Self-Studies and in remote meetings this year.

As summer progressed, we began to hear of programs that were planning to close temporarily. In the interest of supporting them to remain a part of our community at this challenging time, we have offered programs the opportunity to maintain membership for one year. The programs that have reached out to us so far are Honeybirds Playschool in Brooklyn, NY and Hazelwood Outdoor Kindergarten in Eugene, Oregon. We look forward to hearing from them about their future plans in the spring. In the meantime, both programs are still actively collaborating with us and remain Full Members in good standing. If your program is temporarily closed or you know of one that is, we'd love to hear from you so we can offer the best support possible.

As an organizational member, one of your annual membership requirements is to update us with data on your programs and any substantive changes each fall. We expect that most programs have experienced considerable change this year. Hearing from you about how you are managing your program during the pandemic will help us to better understand how it is affecting the Waldorf early childhood movement and what kind of support our programs may need. Please watch for that request this fall and respond promptly so we can track this important information.

One way we serve our members is through the support of **Regional Representatives**. Reps facilitate collaboration in each region, which is especially important now. Our circle of dedicated volunteer Regional Reps this year are: Su Rubinoff, Somer Serpe and Kate Hall-Gautier in the Northeast; Mary Maschal and Patricia Cornelius in the Mid-Atlantic, Lisa Bechmann in the Southeast; Laurie Harper-Burgess, Angela Gladstone, Martha Flores and Jane Danner-Sustar in the Great Lakes; Laurie Clark, Betty Jane Enno and Nancy Blanning in the Texas/Southwest/Rockies region; Dyanne Harshman, Rachel Turner and Astrid Lackner in the Pacific Northwest; Diane David and Dagmar Eisele in Northern California; Heike Adamsberger and Kim Raymond in Southern California and Hawaii; and Louise deForest for Mexico. Please don't hesitate to reach out to any of us if you need support.