

Annual General Meeting



MEPI Executive Coordinator

Mary Cusack, Executive Coordinator

- Responsible for day to day operations of MEPI
- Prepares legal & financial records (w/treasurer)
- Provides assistance and support to the Board of Directors and committees
- Prepares all MEPI certificates
- Keeps records of: Memberships, Interns & Certified, MEPI history, Schools, TEPs
- Disseminates MEPI e-mails and all notifications
- Handles webinar registrations and follow-up correspondence & documentation
- Updates MEPlinc.com website
- Works with MACTE to ensure current compliance is followed.

Finance Committee

Rachel Buechler, Treasurer

- ▶ We have developed a budget and used it for two years, recognizing trends and fixing issues
- ▶ Applied for PPP in second round to help sustain payroll without a conference
- ▶ Finding ways to continue with secure financial foundation despite pandemic and no conference 2021

Conference Committee

Aja DeBruyn, Committee Chair

- ▶ Next Conference (COVID dependent): February 18-20 2022
- ▶ THEME: Montessori Moving forward
- ▶ SPEAKERS: Keynote (Friday) Munir Shivji (9am)
- ▶ WORKSHOPS: 9 workshops per each session; 6 sessions overall. Workshop size will determine room placement in the new facility.
- ▶ AUDIO VISUAL: Costs will increase from \$5399 to \$16,900 due to updated technology in the new center (older projectors will no longer be compatible)

Publicity Committee

Committee Chair Aja Debruyn

Co Chair Martha Teien

- 2020 New website launch
- Facebook at 1482 (up from 1367)
- Getting ready to campaign for conference 2022

Education Committee

Current Teacher Education Programs

Mary Helen Cline, Committee Chair

- ▶ **The Canadian Montessori Teacher Education Institute**
 - ▶ Dr. Daniel Jutras – Director
 - ▶ Early Childhood, Elementary 1 (6-9), MACTE Accredited
- ▶ **Montessori Teacher Preparation of Kansas City**
 - ▶ Andrea Scott – Director
 - ▶ Early Childhood, MACTE Accredited
- ▶ **Little Heart Montessori Training**
 - ▶ Sandra Pokos – Director
 - ▶ Infant Toddler, Early Childhood
- ▶ **Montessori de Latinoamerica**
 - ▶ Patricia Pantoja – Director
 - ▶ Infant Toddler, Early Childhood, Elementary 1
- ▶ **Montessori Teacher Institute – Georgia**
 - ▶ Melody Mosby – Director
 - ▶ Adolescent, MACTE Accredited
- ▶ **Montessori Egyptian Center**
 - ▶ Marie Therese Bishay – Director
 - ▶ Early Childhood
- ▶ **Institute for Guided Studies**
 - ▶ Mary Helen Cline – CEO
 - ▶ Infant Toddler, Early Childhood, Elementary 1&2, Adolescent, Administrator
 - ▶ MACTE Accredited Courses - Infant Toddler, Early Childhood, Elementary 1&2, Adolescent
- ▶ **Montessori Teacher training at Loch Haven**
 - ▶ Carrie Allen – Director
 - ▶ Early Childhood, MACTE Accredited
- ▶ **Montessori Teacher Institute – Hanoi**
 - ▶ Elizabeth Hobbes – Director
 - ▶ Early Childhood
- ▶ **Montessori Oman**
 - ▶ Dr. Zuhoor Al Saleh - Director
 - ▶ Early Childhood, MACTE Accredited
- ▶ **DAEM Montessori Center**
 - ▶ Renie Youssef - Director
 - ▶ Early Childhood

Education Committee

Announcement of Certifications

- ▶ The MEPI Education Committee reviews applications for certification three times each year. Applicants meeting all requirements are recommended to the MEPI Board of Directors for certification.
- ▶ The Committee annually reviews portions of the MEPI Standards and Procedures pertinent to responsibilities of the Education Committee.
- ▶ Individuals certified this year (March 2020 – February 2021):
 - ▶ Infant Toddler 37
 - ▶ Early Childhood 50
 - ▶ Adolescent 1
 - ▶ Administrative 1

School Accreditation Committee

Claire Salkowski, Committee Chair

February 2021 Report

Status	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Accredited		4	4	6	6
Candidates		2	5	4	5
Candidates Actively In-Process				0	2
New Inquiries Meeting Basic Requirements				4	0
Pending On-Site		0	0	0	0

School Accreditation Committee

- ▶ Schools that inquired in the last 12 months have all been contacted several times and sent the most updated domains, standards, information and initial forms needed to apply for candidacy. Schools who had previously paid the accreditation application fee were also contacted and provided all pertinent information. These older candidate schools were given a two-year window beginning Feb 1, 2021 to complete the self-study and schedule an on-site visit since their initial applications were anywhere from 9-3 years old. As of this writing two schools have sent in the new application for candidacy and will be scheduled for a Zoom Orientation within the next few weeks.
- ▶ We have been working from the list of tasks for the SAC with a timeline for completion and have completed several forms and documents for use in the accreditation process. Recently completed work:
 - Annual Report for MEPI Accredited Schools
 - Domains and Standards Overview for Inquiring Schools
 - Application for Accreditation Candidacy
 - Faculty Educational Credentials Form
 - Self-Study Rating and Narrative Form
 - Steps and Stages in the MEPI Accreditation Process
- ▶ These documents will be located on the website and allow prospective candidate schools to determine for themselves whether they would be likely to gain accreditation.
- ▶ The process and procedure for accreditation will be detailed in an Orientation which will be developed for candidate schools and provided for schools who have recently committed to the process.

Ambassador Committee

Bobbi Brown-Flannery, Committee Chair

▶ Conference 2020

- ▶ Last International Gathering had 14 in attendance. We shared songs, stories and cultural dances, it was a great success.
- ▶ One school visit on Thursday.

▶ Conference 2022

- ▶ School visits planned for Thursday and Monday.
- ▶ Seeking Montessori families in the Charleston community to host international guests.
- ▶ Planning in process to hold an international gathering zoom meeting to check in with our attendees
- ▶ Working on webinars to help strengthen the connection with our international members and attract new international members.

Membership Committee

John Moncure, Committee Chair

Category	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Individual Members	697	579	346	256	397
Life Members	17	16	15	15	14
Former Members	not reported	71	249	127	0
TEPs	11	10	11	11	9
Schools	31	47	46	46	21
MACTE-accredited TEPs	5	4	4	3	3

Nominating Committee

Patrick McGlinchy, Committee Chair

- There are three seats open on the Board.
- The three-year term begins at the July Board meeting.
- If you're interested, email me at mcglinchy@verizon.net and I will send you an information packet

Peace & Social Justice Committee

Current Members include:

Claire Salkowski, Chair

John Moncure

Patrick McGinchy

Aja Debruyn

Meredith Hines

History and Background

Social Equity Task Force first convened in September 2020

The group has met monthly and communicated via calls and emails.

Issues Discussed

- ▶ At the November Board Retreat our committee was approved as a standing committee and renamed the MEPI Peace and Social Justice Committee. Our vision statement was accepted and will be included in the Spring Newsletter with an article defining our initiatives and goals.

“MEPI will be known as a professional society which follows the philosophy of Dr. Maria Montessori and envisions an organization in which all members are not only treated respectfully, but are aware of that respect; demonstrate and nurture respect in the children they serve; exhibit respect and understanding in their interactions with all human beings, the world over, and actively work to eradicate prejudice, oppression, and injustice wherever it is found, thus ensuring the possibility of a more peaceful and just society for all.”

Peace & Social Justice Committee

Current Accomplishments

- ▶ Survey Results from 15 respondents indicated (94%) approval of MEPI's approach and response to issues of equity and social justice while 6% indicated poor. 92% of Respondents prefer that sessions or webinars be taught by someone from the community being represented and taught by BIPOC if that is the topic discussed.
- ▶ Expert Speakers identified and approached for future conferences. Val Wise has agreed to be Keynote speaker in 2024. Dr. Wise has more than 20 years in school leadership. She has been a faculty member for five years at Johns Hopkins University where she teaches diversity, equity and inclusion in the graduate program in the school of education.
- ▶ Two additional statements crafted to respond to Jan 6th insurrection and incident in Utah around Black History.

Future Goals

- ▶ Developing requirements for membership that will help shield Montessori leaders at all levels from the influences that would subvert the honest practice of peace and justice in our classrooms.
- ▶ Montessori leaders to receive rapid assistance from the MEPI office to help resolve the thorny issues that threaten us, not only to anti-bias anti-racism issues but in all aspects where false witness threatens a clear reality.
- ▶ A thorough examination of how we design curriculum for teachers and students, for the school and for teacher professional development.
- ▶ Develop ways to encourage parents to join us in partnership as we endeavor to “speak truth to power” and to clear and committed “truth telling” as we move forward in the important work of advancing the promise of true peace and justice for all.
- ▶ Discussions with other MEPI committee chairs to look at TEPs and curriculum for issues related to Peace and Social Justice.
- ▶ Consider hosting a webinar on ABAR with a BIPOC moderator to inform members (and non) how to speak to the topic or address inner bias.

Teacher Education Committee

Sandra Pokos, Committee Chair

- ▶ *"Courses for our TEP's have faced challenging times with some courses giving virtual classes and others simply postponing their courses for the present. Just some have "face to face" training when allowed to.*
- ▶ *We are confident our TEP's will be up and running again in the very near future.*
- ▶ TEC continues to look for innovative ways to support all of our TEPs:
 - ▶ Monthly Zoom meetings with great sharing and learning.
 - ▶ Older and more experienced trainers share their experience and Montessori legacy
- ▶ Congrats to Carrie Allen - her TEP has been approved for EC programs by MACTE.

Shirley Plath Fund Committee

Sarah Galley, Committee Chair

- Current Amount: \$15,214.85
- Scholarship awards on hold while waiting for training sites to open back up to full capacity and function
- Redefining sponsorship abilities for future conferences
- Organizing and revamping silent auction practices

Ad Hoc Development Committee

Sarah Galley, Committee Chair

▶ Committee Members:

- ▶ Sarah Galley
- ▶ Claire Salkowski
- ▶ Marie Theresa Bishay
- ▶ Mary Cusack

▶ Mission Statement

The Ad Hoc Development Committee is dedicated to ensuring that the best practices in Board operations are successful, well thought out, highly focused, and strategic. With dedication to growth, acceptance of resources, and understanding of other Board Committee's needs, all for the continuous improvement of the Board and MEPI. The committee acts as a clearing house for ideas, suggestions and proposals while ensuring that future direction of MEPI remains dedicated to best methods and traditions.

▶ Current Work

- ▶ Set up meetings with Chairs to discuss goals for each committee and how the development committee can assist.