

# ELEA 2016 Annual Report



## Highlights from 2016:

- ◆ **“Love Beyond Measure”**, the 2016-2017 Devotion Guide for Educators, was published through ELEA—extra copies available at the ELEA Display Table and ALWAYS available as a download from our website. Interested in writing for the 2017-18 edition? Let Gayle Denny, ELEA Director, know!
- ◆ IGNITE 2016 found us in Chicago for an outstanding event with ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and John Roberto as highlight presenters.
- ◆ 2016 was a year of planning for the event you are attending today—IGNITE 2017 in partnership with ALDE. Mark your calendars now for IGNITE 2018, February 28-March, 2018, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, for another great event!
- ◆ ELEA held its fourth Early Childhood Director “Boot Camp”. Campers and mentors met in Las Vegas, Nevada in April of 2016 for Part 1 and most are at this event which is Part 2 of this exciting program. Plan NOW to register for the next Boot Camp—June 25—27, 2017 in Chicago, Illinois. Registration is open—visit [www.elcaschools.org](http://www.elcaschools.org)
- ◆ An Elementary & Secondary Administrator Principals’ Academy will be held in conjunction with Boot Camp—June 25-27, 2017—in Chicago, Illinois. Register NOW at [www.elcaschools.org](http://www.elcaschools.org).
- ◆ A new website is on the horizon for ELEA—much more functionality and ease of use. See a preview at Thursday’s closing session!
- ◆ New and improved partnerships were negotiated with vendors such as Kangarootime Early Childhood Software, Exchange, Spartan Promotional Products, SMART Tuition, and more. Visit the exhibitors here at IGNITE and be entered into a drawing for prizes!
- ◆ ELEA’s annual awards are being presented to Dr. Julia Sieger, recipient of the Donald A. Vetter Educational Service Award; Christopher Andrade, recipient of the Elementary Principal of the Year Award and National Distinguished Principal Award; Kim Kusilek, recipient of the Early Childhood Director of the Year Award; and Rev. David Parks, recipient of the Distinguished Pastor of the Year Award. We are now seeking candidates for the 2017 awards—nominate yourself or a deserving colleague! Forms are available on your table, at the ELEA table in the Exhibit area, and at [elcaschools.org](http://elcaschools.org)



**1443** ELCA schools and early childhood centers, of which **423** are members of ELEA



Approximately **150,000** children served by those **1443** schools and early childhood education centers



Approximately **18,000** staff are employed at those **1443** schools and early childhood education centers



**10** members of ELEA’s National Board of Directors set policy and direction for the association



Ambassadors from each of the **9** ELCA Regions support the work of ELEA and make connections

## ELEA Leadership

ELEA functions with three employees; a full time Executive Director, Gayle Denny; and two part-time staff—Membership Coordinator, Erin Savoca and Associate Director, Cory Newman with all staff working from home offices. We are being very good stewards of your membership dollars—**no high rent offices!**

ELEA’s Board of Directors and the Regional

Ambassadors are amazing leaders who fill in the gaps with much volunteer time donated to ELEA for which they are graciously thanked by the staff. Take time to thank them as well!

We encourage you to visit [www.elcaschools.org](http://www.elcaschools.org) and learn more about these amazing volunteers are! Look for the “Board Member” and “Ambassador” ribbons on their name tags at this conference!

# Letter From the President

Dear fellow ELEA administrators, pastors, and friends,

I don't need to tell you how important your job is. We are guiding and teaching children and teens that will go on to become leaders in science, literature, education, health, and perhaps even a president of the United States! Yes, it is a huge responsibility when you think about it.

But we have an additional responsibility that those in public schools do not – we get to introduce children to our Lord and Savior, and teach them about His love for them. Now THAT is a responsibility AND a gift ...to be able to share God's love every day.

**The ELEA exists to help you with that responsibility – to provide resources and support, to connect you with mentors and friends, and to guide you in developing outstanding schools and centers of quality and excellence through our accreditation program.**

Looking back over the 20 years I have been directing the early childhood program at First Lutheran Church and School in Torrance, California, I can see how the growth and quality of my program was directly influenced by the services that ELEA provides. Every year that I attend the annual ELEA conference, I come home with fresh ideas to try. I have gained invaluable information through the Yahoo group, as professionals around the country shared their expertise and knowledge. It has meant so much to be able to write about problems or frustrations associated with my center, and receive advice and support from fellow directors around the country.

This will be my last year serving as the President of the ELEA Board of Directors. Over the last 7 years, the board has focused on finding new ways to support our members.

- We have built a stronger relationship with the ELCA, including welcoming National Bishop Eaton, and others in churchwide leadership to our events, and are now recognized as the arm of the national church that works with schools and centers.
- Boot Camp – a concentrated training event for early childhood directors, has trained almost 100 administrators since its inception 4 years ago.
- The National Ambassador Program was developed to give local support to administrators around the country.
- A Principals Academy is planned for this coming June.

- A new partnership with California Lutheran University to provide continuing education for administrators is in the works.

ELEA remains a membership organization. That means that it is funded almost completely by membership dues. The more members it has, the more services it can offer. Each of you can help ELEA to maintain and grow by sharing with other ELCA schools in your area the values you see in being a member.



Shirley A. Becker  
ELEM National Board  
President

With warmest regards,

Shirley Becker  
ELEA Board of Directors President

## 2016 ELEA Annual Fund Donors—Thank You!!

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Anacortes Lutheran Preschool (Anacortes, WA)      |                                  |
| Prince of Peace Lutheran Preschool (Everett, WA)  |                                  |
| Our Savior's Lutheran Preschool (Everett, WA)     |                                  |
| Trinity Lutheran School (Marysville, OH)          |                                  |
| Immanuel Lutheran School (Philadelphia, PA)       |                                  |
| Grace Lutheran Preschool (Loves Park, IL)         |                                  |
| Harbour Pointe Christian Preschool (Mukilteo, WA) |                                  |
| St. John's Christian Preschool (Bellevue, OH)     |                                  |
| Virginia Trygstad                                 | Chris Mietlowski                 |
| Geniene Hankey                                    | Julie Sieger                     |
| Alan Feddersen                                    | Mark Wilhelm                     |
| Barbara Grabow                                    | Michael Rottmann                 |
| Karen Beasley                                     | Kristine Meyer                   |
| Kay Nickelsen                                     | Shirley Becker                   |
| Linda Staats                                      | George Pollock                   |
| Robert Knight                                     | Christine Hauge                  |
| Mike Fischer                                      | Patricia Garrett                 |
| Sandy Eckroth                                     |                                  |
| Beth Coburn                                       | Action Team Grant Monies         |
| Cherlyne Beck                                     | provided for several projects by |
| Chris Justesen                                    | Thrivent Financial               |

# ELEA National Board of Directors

President	Shirley Becker First Lutheran Early Education Center 2900 West Carson Street Torrance, CA 90503-6005	Phone: 310-320-9923 <a href="mailto:beckers@flchurch.org">beckers@flchurch.org</a>
Vice President	Christine Justesen Resurrection Child Development Center 11575 N 1st Avenue Oro Valley, AZ 85737	Phone: 520-575-1521 <a href="mailto:chrisjustesen1@gmail.com">chrisjustesen1@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Kris Meyer St. Paul's Lutheran School 301 1 <sup>st</sup> Street NW Waverly, IA 50677	Phone: 319-352-1484 <a href="mailto:kris.meyer@stpaulswaverly.org">kris.meyer@stpaulswaverly.org</a>
Secretary	Michael Rottmann 1288 Evergreen Ct. Winter Haven, FL 33881	Phone: 815-519-7873 <a href="mailto:mrottmann24@gmail.com">mrottmann24@gmail.com</a>
National Ambassador	Beth Coburn 1353 Sugar Creek Ct. Valparaiso, IN 46385	Phone: 219-241-4017 <a href="mailto:bethmarie.coburn@gmail.com">bethmarie.coburn@gmail.com</a>
Pastoral Representative	Christopher Mietlowski Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church 155 East 22 <sup>nd</sup> Street New York, NY 10010	Phone: 914-806-3949 <a href="mailto:pastorchris155@gmail.com">pastorchris155@gmail.com</a>
ELCA Liaison	Cherlyne Beck Congregational & Synodical Mission 8765 West Higgins Road Chicago, IL 60631	Phone: 773-380-2481 <a href="mailto:cherlyne.beck@elca.org">cherlyne.beck@elca.org</a>
Regional & Synodical Relations Advisor	Linda Staats 518 W. Coronado Road Phoenix, AZ 85003	Phone: 602-740-3752 <a href="mailto:linda@homegrownfaith.net">linda@homegrownfaith.net</a>
Development Advisor	Mike Fischer 3712 E. Summerhaven Drive Phoenix, AZ 85044	Phone: 480-313-5251 <a href="mailto:mikefischer2014@gmail.com">mikefischer2014@gmail.com</a>
Employee Benefits Administrator	Jennifer Bond Nancy Bond Insurance Services 201 West Lemon Avenue Monrovia, CA 91016	Phone: 800-685-4519 <a href="mailto:jennifer@nancybondinsurance.com">jennifer@nancybondinsurance.com</a>

**There will be one National Board member position open for a 3-year term beginning July 1, 2017.  
Applications are on your table, at the ELEA table in the Exhibit area and on our website -  
[elcaschools.org](http://elcaschools.org)**

# ELEA Regional Ambassadors

**Region 1 – Jackie Ochsner**, w- 360-546-0731; Cell – 360-909-8794

Email: foccp@comcast.net

Alaska, Montana, Idaho, Oregon & Washington

**Region 2 - Shelli Parajeckas**, w- 949-493-3414; cell-949-683-9833

Email: preschool@mygloriadei.org

Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico, western corner of Texas, Utah, Wyoming

**Region 3 - Heather Charmoli**, Best number- 952-934-4156, other (cell) 612-581-8602,

Email: hcharmoli@allsaintsmtka.org

Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota

**Region 4 – Debbie Tonne**, w-512-892-2777, cell – 512-626-4417

Email: dtonne@abidinglove.org,

Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas (except extreme western corner)

**Region 5 – Heidi La Bounty**, Work/cell- 515-689-8334

Email: seedsoffaith@faithlc.org

Illinois, Iowa, Michigan U.P., Wisconsin

**Region 6 –Geniene Hankey**, Cell - 330-507-0533; work 330-792-4066;

Email: g.hankey@sbcglobal.net

Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan L.P., Ohio

**Region 7 - Co-Ambassador: Ruth Ingui**, Best Number - 508-835-8868, cell 978-621-3673

Email: ringui@comcast.net

**Co-Ambassador: Kristine Whitemore**, Cell 774-696-8235

Email: ilns@yahoo.com

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Eastern Pennsylvania, Vermont

**Region 8 – Jenny James**, Work - 410-465-5977, Cell – 443-745-5866

Email: jjames@firstlutheranec.org or flcpreschool@firstlutheranec.org

D.C., Delaware, Maryland, Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia

**Region 9 – Janine Webb**, Cell – 828-337-4434, work – 828-687-8381

Email: jwebb@nativitypreschool.org

Alabama, Bahamas, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia

[www.elcaschools.org](http://www.elcaschools.org)

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