



**Carolyn Sanders Candidate Statement  
Secretary Candidate**

I came to San Diego, California, from New Jersey, twenty nine years ago with a BA Psychology. In 2011, I completed my Masters of Science degree in Leadership and Management at the University of LaVerne. I have been an Early Childhood Education professional for all of those twenty nine years, and more, if you count volunteering at hospitals and youth services organizations.

It has been my privilege to be part of church-related, Head Start, private for profit, corporate and Family Child Care, in both San Diego and Los Angeles counties. I started as a teacher for a small church-related preschool and quickly advanced to Assistant Director because of my organization, computer and business skills. Director positions were the next step, which took me into the Head Start world and as far away as Los Angeles to work for Bright Horizons. Part of my work as Administrative Director with Bright Horizons led to contributing to their GardenWorks Curriculum and being a Diversity Trainer. Circumstances brought me back home to San Diego in 2014 and I am now, a consultant, focusing my work on combining my passion for gardening and child development. My formal education has been supplemented by completing the *Outdoor Classroom Specialist Level I Training*. Growing up on the East Coast, I remember playing hide-n-seek with my neighborhood friends until the street lights came on, sitting on my front porch, and growing vegetables in a small patch of dirt in my backyard with my Portuguese grandfather. It is my intent to give children and adults these types of experiences in order for them to make a real connection to the natural world. Gardening offers teachers and parents everything they want to keep a child engaged, interested and learning! I am providing services that include working with teachers and directors in cultivating gardens and creating garden based curriculum.

I have been a member of NAEYC for about 21 years. I have served on two local Affiliate Boards, San Diego and Southern California Valley, as Week of the Young Child Chair (past & present!), Public Policy, Nominations, Treasurer and President, just to name a few. I was invited to the CAEYC Board in 2007 by then President Ginger Swigart to be Accreditation Chair, after running for Secretary and not getting elected. In 2008, I was nominated again, for Treasurer and served in that position for two years. In 2010, I worked closely with the Affiliate Groups and became Member-at-Large in 2011 – 2013. I filled the Secretary position because of a vacancy and wish to continue in this position for the 2015-2017 time period. In this Association, the Secretary position is so much more than taking notes at meetings! There are real opportunities for creativity and vision and we have begun to make some changes to our email and print publications. This is an exciting time and I would like to see this vision through the initial launching phase.

My vision for CAEYC is to grow membership by giving ECE professionals a strong and relevant organization. By starting conversations, bringing them cutting edge research and resources and opportunities to grow professionally. I want to see the Affiliates strong in every area of the State advocating for what is best for children and families.

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DEDICATED TO ADVANCING EXCELLENCE THROUGHOUT THE EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PROFESSION