MNAFEE
MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION FOR FAMILY AND EARLY EDUCATION

August 2026

2026 MNAFEE Co-Annual Report

Approved by board & shared with membership via newsletter & website (typically August meeting)

- MNAFEE Officers:
  - Announce Officers and Job Descriptions
  - Co-Chairs: Sarah Moline & Stephanie Berwald
  - Past chair: N/A
  - Chair Elect: Jennifer Johnson & Sara Line
  - Secretary: Lisa Helgestad
  - Treasurer: Sara Chovan

- Identify all committees (committee chairs and those serving on the committees)
  - Standing Committees
    - Advocacy: Jen Jaros
      - The Advocacy Committee supports the mission of MNAFEE with goals of advancing local & statewide legislation, policy, and funding that enhance opportunities for early learning programs across the State of Minnesota. The Committee works closely with the advocacy group MNAFEE has contracted with to provide support for its legislative efforts.
    - Annual Awards: Nancy Wallace
      - The Annual Awards Committee assists the Board by continuously evaluating MNAFEE's awards program by designing a nomination process and implementing award presentation procedures. Currently there are four Awards: the Lois Engstrom Leadership Award, the Emerging Leader Award, the Friend of Year Award, and the Innovative Programming Award.
    - Professional Development: TBD
      - The Professional Development Committee coordinates the development and delivery of professional development training primarily through the fall workshop and at the Annual Conference. These opportunities are sponsored for MNAFEE members as well as early childhood professionals from across the state.
        - MNAFEE Minis (Previously Fall Workshop): Lisa Helgestad & Ellen Haefner
        - Annual Conference: Sarah Holmboe

- Membership: TBD
  - The Membership Committee has the important task of working to ensure MNAFEE membership is valuable, meaningful, and inclusive for all. The Committee periodically reviews membership options and fee structure.
- Board of Directors Nomination Committee: Nancy Wallace
  - Nominating committee members work together to form the best process for recruiting and nominating candidates and develop a basic application for the positions that they're seeking to fill so they can learn more about the candidates and assess their degree of interest in a leadership position.
- Communications: Mischelle Squire
  - The Communications Committee provides marketing assistance to all MNAFEE committees and the membership, including, developing email announcements, social media coordination, signage, flyers, photography, etc.

- Task Forces (special committees or workgroups): Role – to conduct a time-limited task relevant to the mission and goals of MNAFEE. Leadership – Chaired by a Board Member, can be in partnership with non-Board MNAFEE member. Additional MNAFEE members volunteer to serve on the Task Force based on interest in the task.
  - PECCF Phase II
  - Triagency
  - Strategic Planning

- Partnerships/Liaisons: Role to connect and work together with another organization or group with goals and policies similar to those of MNAFEE that together work toward education and/or support of MN young children and their families and/or professionals who work with and/or provide services to them.

  Sources of requests for partnerships:
  - outside organization comes to MNAFEE as an organization
  - a MNAFEE member recognizes a possible partner organization or group that would be wise for us to consider connecting with
  - a MNAFEE member requests formalizing a partnership based on experience with informal interaction with the potential partner
  - Tri-Agency Group
  - MN Pre-Natal-3 Coalition

  - Home Visiting Partnership
  - The Family Partnership
  - MCEA Ralli
  - Elders for Infants
  - Doctors for Early Childhood (retired pediatricians)
  - Early Childhood Regional Data Systems
  - DEC-Special Education
  - Family, Friends, and Neighbors (FFN) leadership
  - Little Moments Count (LMC)
  - MCEA

- Goals
  - Previous:
    - Strategic Planning: By the end of June 2026, the Board of Directors will approve an updated Strategic Action Plan for MNAFEE.
  - Current:
    - Approve and operationalize the new strategic plan, establishing a quarterly review framework to track progress against core milestones and ensure it remains a dynamic, living document.

- Calendar of Important Dates