



AEFA

Summer 2005



American Education Finance Association Newsletter

CALL FOR PAPERS AND SYMPOSIA PROPOSALS



American Education Finance Association 31st Annual Conference
March 23-25, 2006
Hyatt Regency New Orleans

“Education Adequacy and Accountability: Linking Research, Policy and Practice”

[Instructions for submitting proposals](#)

-- AEFA Board Considering Big Changes --

-- Members to be Polled About Changing Name --

The Board is considering a change in the name of our organization. The proposed new name is **Association for Education Finance and Policy** (AEFP). [See President's message below.](#)

-- Presidential Nomination Process Amended --

After extensive discussion at its June meeting, the board has now amended AEFA's by-laws so that, beginning with the election of March 2006, the board will be permitted to nominate only one candidate to stand for this election as president-elect. The board made this change in order to avoid the inevitable result that, each year, the AEFA membership is asked to reject one of the most esteemed leaders of our profession and organization. Frequently, and understandably, the losing candidate's enthusiasm for playing a leadership role in the organization wanes, and AEFA loses talent it can ill-afford to lose. [See article](#) by Richard Rothstein, chair, nominations committee.

Inside This Issue (Click to find article)

- [Name Change for AEFA Proposed](#)
- [Board Changes Nomination Procedure for President](#)
- [AEFA Summer Board Meeting Highlights](#)
- [Update, *Education Finance & Policy*](#)
- [Candidates Sought for Outstanding Dissertation Award](#)
- [See You In New Orleans!](#)
- [Roe L. Johns Travel Grants and Will Meyers Memorial Scholarships](#)
- [AERA SIG: Fiscal Issues, Policy & Education Finance](#)
- [ASBO Annual Meeting, October 21-24 in Boston](#)

Attachments

[Call for Proposals, AEFA Annual Conference](#)



President's Message

Dear AEFA Members and Colleagues:

This is a report regarding decisions taken at the summer meeting of the AEFA Board of Directors. The meeting was held in Baltimore at the Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel, the site of the AEFA 2007 annual conference. The hotel and the Baltimore inner harbor setting proved to be superb, harbingers of a good meeting in two years.

Virtually all board members were present, and a number of important discussions and decisions resulted. (See, also, nearby column by Richard Rothstein regarding by-law alterations to Presidential nominating process.)

(continued on next page)

Please submit your contribution to the *AEFA Newsletter* by OCTOBER 15, 2005 to hnelson@aft.org. The newsletter is sent to members of AEFA and helps the Board of Directors conduct the business of the organization. The newsletter also provides opportunities to share information on a wide range of school finance organizations, publications and activities. Most recent info at <http://www.aefa.cc/>

(President's Message continued)

The Board of Directors continues to take a long-term view of the organization, its mission, operating procedures, publications, and prospects for growth and financial stability. Here are preliminary ideas.

AEFA seems to have a nice "feel" to it in terms of membership size. It is possible presently to know a good number of the members, and the annual meeting is a convivial affair. This said, our numbers are too small to achieve financial stability. We have too much overhead to distribute over too few memberships. Thus, our goal is to increase membership from the present 500+ to about 600+. We are not striving to reach one or two thousand members, a point at which assuredly we would lose much of the ambience we now associate with AEFA.

Consistent with this long-term view, the Board received a status report from David Figlio (co-editor with David Monk) of our new publication, [Education Finance and Policy](#). Matters there appear to be on target with the initial issue due in February of 2006.



The Board discussed a change in the name of our organization. The proposed new name is **Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP)**. There appear to be many advantages in aligning our organization's name with our premier publication, appealing to potential members outside United States boundaries, and tracking the evolution of the discipline as finance is now more integral to policy, and vice versa. After discussion, the Board authorized the Executive Committee to poll members regarding a possible change in the name.

Later this fall members will receive a confidential electronic poll listing pros and cons of a name change and enabling you to register your view regarding the issue.

The board changed the dues structure, effective July 2005. Regular memberships, now including receipt of our new Journal, [Education Finance and Policy](#), will be \$95.00. Student memberships will be \$45.00 and will also carry journal receipt with them. Membership for retirees will be \$65 including receipt of the Journal. The Board then adopted the 2006 budget reflecting these increases.

The Board received a 2006 conference planning report from President Elect Chris Roellke. This too appears to be in good order. One change in policy is a new restriction on paper presentations per member. Papers can continue to have multiple authors, but only one

paper presentation per member per annual meeting is now envisioned. There will also be the addition of "President's Reception" for graduate students.

Finally, the Board re-engaged the service of Ed Steinbrecher as Executive Director and expressed deep appreciation for all that he accomplishes for our organization.

The next newsletter will carry news of the name change survey and nominees for officers.

My best wishes for a pleasant remainder of the summer.

**James W. Guthrie,
AEFA President**

AEFA Board Changes Presidential Election Possibilities

(continued from page 1)

Like most professional organizations, AEFA each year votes for a president-elect at its annual meeting. Immediately after this meeting, the newly chosen president-elect assumes responsibility for planning the meeting program for the next year. Once the meeting for which he or she has planned the program is concluded, the president-elect assumes the presidency of the organization for a one-year term. Following this one-year term, the president serves on the AEFA board to advise his or her successor.

The office of president-elect (and then of president) is one of great responsibility. As the annual meeting is the primary activity of AEFA, its success is critical to the organization. AEFA has always gone to great efforts to select, as candidates for the president-elect position, researchers or practitioners who are acknowledged leaders in our field, whose prestige brings credit to the organization, who have been active participants in AEFA and whose organizational skills ensure successful meetings.

Each year, the AEFA board of directors has nominated two of its members or past-members to compete for election as president-elect at the annual meeting. The nominees have been chosen because, in the board's judgment, these were two of the most capable leaders of our profession who could be counted upon, if elected, to preserve and enhance the success of the organization.

After extensive discussion at its June meeting, the board has now amended AEFA's by-laws so that, beginning with the election of March 2006, the board will be required to nominate at least one candidate, not two, to stand for this election as president-elect.

We have made this change in order to avoid the inevitable result that, each year, the AEFA membership is asked to reject one of the most esteemed leaders of our profession and organization. The board has always felt that either of the candidates would make an excellent leader for the organization and it has usually seemed that the membership would have also been happy with either candidate. Frequently, and understandably, the losing candidate's enthusiasm for playing a leadership role in the organization wanes, and AEFA loses talent it can ill-afford to lose.

In deliberating upon this change, the board discussed whether going from two nominees to one for the office of president-elect would diminish democratic practice in AEFA. We concluded that it would not. As mentioned above, the previous rule required the board to nominate both candidates. With the same board members nominating both, there was little chance of significant policy differences between the two candidates. But more important, the by-laws have always required that, to be eligible for nomination as president-elect, an AEFA member must have served at least one full term as a member of the board of directors. Because board members are elected in competitive races at the annual meeting where there are at least two candidates for each position, all board members must have received the endorsement of the organization when they successfully competed for a board position. Thus, any candidate nominated by the board for the office of president-elect must have, to establish eligibility, come before the membership as a competitive board candidate at a previous meeting and succeeded in this candidacy.

We did not contemplate changing the rules for election to the board, whereby there must be competitive elections. The board will continue to nominate at least two candidates from the membership for each vacant board position. While it is true that losing any election may be felt by the losing candidate as an embarrassment, we do not believe that, in the case of board member elections, this embarrassment rises to the level of seriousness to which it does in elections for president-elect. And, indeed, past experience confirms that members who lose an election for a board slot are rarely discouraged, continue their active participation in AEFA, and often run again and are successful in a subsequent year.

As a further democratic condition, the by-laws continue to provide that additional candidates, other than those nominated by the board, may qualify for the ballot by petition, for president-elect or for board member. The by-laws also permit write-in candidacies. And the by-laws continue to permit the board to nominate more than one candidate for president-elect if circumstances make it desirable to do so, but the board will not be required to nominate more than one candidate for president-elect.

Officer Nominations in Other Professional Organizations

Our new practice of nominating only one candidate is consistent with the practice of other professional organizations which nominate only one candidate for president-elect and do so for reasons similar to those we have discussed. Among the organizations that nominate only one candidate for president-elect are the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), the American Economic Association (AEA), and the National Tax Association (NTA). In the case of AEA, only one nominee may be presented by the officers for president-elect, although other nominations are permitted by membership petition. In the case of APPAM and NTA, like AEFA, the by-laws permit the nominating committee to present more than one nominee, but in practice, only one name is presented to the membership, although, again like AEFA, other nominations are permitted by membership petition.

The board believes that there are several board members and past members who would make excellent presidents of the organization. A few of these have chosen not to run in the past because of a distaste for going through an election process against a colleague whom they held in high esteem. Looking at the membership lists of young scholars and practitioners new to the profession, we expect the availability of highly qualified candidates to persist into the future. If, as is our present intent, we nominate only one of the extremely well-qualified leaders for president-elect this year, others may make excellent presidents in subsequent years. We see no reason to possibly diminish their future effectiveness by asking them to lose an election in a previous year.

**- Richard Rothstein, Chair
Nominations Committee**

Highlights

AEFA Summer Board Meeting

The AEFA Board of Directors met in Baltimore at the Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel, site of the 2007 Conference, for two days of productive meetings. Highlights include the following.

- Discussed renaming AEFA and authorized a poll of members on the issue. ([See story](#))
- Addressed many issues regarding the Journal of Education Finance and Policy. ([See story](#))

- Approved a change in the By-Laws to enable nominations committee to nominate only one candidate for president but additional nominations could still come from the membership. ([See story](#))
- Reviewed and approved upcoming meeting sites for the Annual Conference.
- Reviewed Conference attendance and membership reports of the 2004 Conference held in Louisville. Current (through June 20) memberships are at 494. Conference attendance was at an all time high of 340.
- Reviewed the Financial Report and adopted the 2005 budget. AEFA is having a very good year financially due to the higher than expected number of Conference registrations, the high number of Workshop registrations, and financial support for the Journal from American Institutes for Research, an institutional member of AEFA. Sponsorships for the Conference were higher than in prior years and expenses at the Galt House were lower than in prior years.
- Erlbaum Publishing met with the publications committee to discuss the proposed role of AEFA in editing the *Education Finance Handbook* and the board approved the next step of securing editors for the volume.
- The regular member fee was set at \$90, student member at \$45, retired member fee at \$65, and the Conference registration fee at \$90. The new Journal will be included with membership.
- Approved a routine external financial audit for which \$1500 was budgeted.
- Extended the contract with Ed Steinbrecher providing \$20,000 in pay, a \$2000 bonus, and cell phone costs.
- Approved a continuation of the New Scholars grants but at a reduced amount.
- The Awards committee brought up the issue of offering an honorable mention category for those that are close but not selected as the final award winner.
- Reviewed the status of the Program Planning for the 2005 Conference with the chair Chris Roellke.

-- Update --

Journal of Education Finance & Policy

The first issue of the new AEFA journal, *Education Finance and Policy* (EFP), will be published by MIT Press by the end of February, 2006. The journal will feature research articles on timely topics in the field of education finance along with a series of policy briefs that are designed to illuminate contemporary policy questions.

EFP seeks to promote understanding of the means by which resources can be justly generated and productively engaged to enhance human learning at all levels

The inaugural issue of EFP will feature essays by the four most recent Presidents of AEFA (Jim Guthrie, Marge Plecki, Leanna Stiefel, and Jim Wyckoff). The Presidents have been asked to assess the evolving nature of the field of education finance and will offer their assessments of likely future developments.

More than 45 submissions have been received and the editors, David Figlio and David Monk, report that the quality of the submissions is very high and that the manuscripts are coming from a variety of theoretical perspectives.

Additional information about the journal, its call for papers, and submission information can be found on the AEFA home page at: <http://www.mitpress.mit.edu/efp>.



AERA SIG: Fiscal Issues, Policy & Education Finance (FIPEF)

I would like to invite all members of AEFA who are not already FIPEF members to join. The SIG business meeting was very well attended at the AERA 2005 meeting in Montreal. Currently, session slots are allotted by membership, so the more members we have, the more opportunities for presenting your scholarship.

While it may be too late to submit a proposal, it is important to serve as reviewers, chairs, and discussants.

Our current officers are:

Cathy Sielke, Chair: csielke@uga.edu
 Gary Ritter, Secretary: GARYR@uark.edu
 Scott Sweetland, Treasurer: sweetland.1@osu.edu
 Patrice Iatarola, Program Chair: iatarola@coe.fsu.edu

For more information, including how to join, visit the SIG website at:

<http://filebox.vt.edu/chre/aera-fiscalsig/index.htm>.

-Catty Sielke, Chair

**The American Education Finance Association
Seeks Candidates for the Twenty-Ninth Annual**

**JEAN FLANIGAN
OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION AWARD**

PURPOSE: To recognize exemplary dissertation research in the area of education finance.

AWARDS:

- One-year complimentary membership in AEFA.
- Presentation of a plaque at the opening session of the 2006 annual meeting to be held in New Orleans, Louisiana on March 23-25, 2006 and placement in a concurrent paper session.
- Complimentary conference registration at the 2006 annual meeting.
- A \$200 honorarium.

ELIGIBILITY:

Candidates must have defended their dissertation or been awarded a degree by an accredited U.S. or Canadian institution between June 1, 2004 and August 31, 2005. The deadline for submission is December 2, 2005.

PROCEDURE:

I. Submit one unbound, hard copy of the complete dissertation.

II. Submit an overview of the dissertation in disk (or CD) and hard copy format. The overview must be fewer than 1,500 words, including graphs and appendices, and include the following elements:

- The question investigated.
- A description of the conceptual or theoretical base.
- A brief review of the relevant literature.
- A description of the data and methodology.
- A review of the findings.
- A discussion of the relevance of the findings.

III. Under separate cover, the chair or a member of the dissertation committee must submit a letter of endorsement that does the following:

- Attests to the nominee's eligibility.
- Specifies the meritorious nature of the dissertation as it relates to the evaluation criteria.
- Indicates the nominee's current position, address, and telephone number.

IV. The overview, the dissertation and letter of endorsement must arrive at the following address by December 2, 2005:

Jennifer Imazeki
Department of Economics
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive, MC4485
San Diego, CA 92182-4485
Tel: 619-594-5012
Fax: 619-564-5062
Email: jimazeki@mail.sdsu.edu

**Deadline for Receipt of the Application Materials is
December 2, 2005**

**In 2006, AEFA will be in
New Orleans, Louisiana**

**March 23-25, 2006
Hyatt Regency Hotel**

<http://neworleans.hyatt.com/property/index.jhtml>



Located adjacent to the Louisiana Superdome and New Orleans Shopping Center; the Hyatt is a short walk from the French Quarter, Bourbon Street and the Mississippi Riverfront.

Future AEFA Conferences

2007 in Baltimore

March 22-24
Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel

2008 in Denver

March 27-29
Westin Tabor Center Hotel



Roe L. Johns Travel Grants and Will Meyers Memorial Scholarships

Each year AEFA makes available a limited number of awards to individuals presenting papers at AEFA's annual conference. The criteria and amounts for the 2006 Johns and Myers awards are listed below.

Roe L. Johns Travel Grants are awarded to graduate students in the area of education finance who present papers at AEFA's 2006 Conference in New Orleans, LA (March 23-25, 2006). A total amount of \$1,500 is available and will be distributed equally to those applying and eligible for the travel grants. The maximum award for an individual is \$300.

Will Myers Memorial Scholarships are awarded to presenters at the 2006 Conference in New Orleans, LA who are current or former teachers. A total of \$500 is available to share equally between two eligible recipients, or a maximum of \$300 for one recipient.

Eligibility for both awards depends on timely submission (on or before November 1, 2005) and acceptance of presentation proposals. Applicants should submit their requests for the desired award along with their paper proposal submission (electronic submissions please), and a statement detailing their eligibility to receive the award to:

Chris Roellke, AEFA President-Elect
aefa.cc@gmail.com



The Association of School Business Officials International

**91st Annual Meeting & Exhibits
October 21-24, 2005**

**Boston, Massachusetts
"America's Walking City"**

**NEW WAYS TO EARTN CPES!
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN:
www.asbointl.org/meetings**



Every member is important to the strength of the AEFA and your best way to stay involved and contribute to your Association is to maintain your current mailing address and e-mail address in order to receive regular communications. Send changes to:

Ed Steinbrecher, Executive Director
8365 S. Armadillo Trail
Evergreen, CO 80439
Ph. (303) 674-0857
Fax (303) 670-8986

E-mail EdS@aefa.cc



AEFA Officers: James W. Guthrie, President; Christopher Roellke, President-Elect; Marge Plecki, Immediate Past President; and Ed Steinbrecher, Executive Director. **Board of Directors: Terms Expire at Adjournment of the 2006 Conference:** Thomas Downes, Jennifer King Rice, Lyle Krause, William Mathis and Amy Ellen Schwartz. **Terms Expire at Adjournment of the 2007 Conference:** Dave Danning, Jane Hannaway, Helen F. Ladd and Patrick McEwan; **Terms Expire at Adjournment of the 2005 Conference:** Lawrence Getzler, Jennifer Imazeki, Kim Rueben, Anthony Rolle and Richard Rothstein. **Designees of Sustaining Members:** Edward J. Hurley, National Education Association; Jewell C. Gould, American Federation of Teachers; and Anne W. Miller, Association of School Business Officials International. **Institutional Members:** American Institutes for Research, New Jersey Department of Education, Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation, Rand Corporation, University at Albany-SUNY, Vanderbilt University. **Newsletter Editor:** F. Howard Nelson. **Education Finance and Policy, Executive Editors:** David Figlio and David Monk. **Executive Director Emeritus:** George R. Babigian. **Website:** <http://www.aefa.cc/>.

CALL FOR PAPER AND SYMPOSIA PROPOSALS

**American Education Finance Association 31st Annual Conference
March 23-25, 2006, Hyatt Regency New Orleans**

**Conference theme: "Education Adequacy and Accountability:
Linking Research, Policy and Practice"**

Submission must be received by Tuesday, November 1, 2005

AEFA members and prospective members are invited to submit proposals for papers and symposia for the 2006 annual meeting. We invite papers and group discussions that address different perspectives within the broad realm of education finance. Examples of general topics include:

- Adequacy, equity, and school accountability
- Links between education finance and policy
- Comparative issues in education finance
- Alternative approaches to school funding
- Resource re-allocation at state, district, and school levels
- School choice (e.g., charters, vouchers, public school choice)
- Compensation and labor markets for school personnel
- Relationship between school reform, outcomes, and resources
- Addressing needs of special populations
- Higher education finance and staffing issues
- Ways to improve cost-effective use of school resources

AEFA is an organization that consistently has encouraged multidisciplinary dialogue connecting research, policy and practice. We especially encourage submissions that include the perspectives and approaches of researchers, policymakers, and practitioners as we seek better ways to bridge the gap between research and application.

Proposals may include a completed research or policy related paper or a proposed paper. Submissions for an entire paper session or symposium grouped around a research or policy theme are especially appreciated.

Paper proposals should include:

- Title, author(s), institutional affiliation(s)
- Name and e-mail address of primary contact
- An abstract of approximately 200 words including the purpose, problem statement, research questions and/or hypotheses. Please note that if your paper is accepted, this abstract may be used as a means for publicizing the session to conference attendees (abstracts will be posted on the AEFA website).

NOTE: Please also indicate at the end of your paper proposal if you are available to serve as a session chair or discussant. Thank you.

Proposals for symposia should include:

- Name and e-mail address of primary contact
- Organizing topic, theme, or issue
- Sponsor (if applicable)
- Participants and their individual contributions to the session
- A proposed session chair and reactor or discussants

Proposals should be from AEFA members or individuals planning to become members in advance of the annual meeting.

The program planning committee will select up to 150 paper proposals that meet the November 1, 2005 submission deadline and AEFA standards for research validity and relevance. It is the committee's intent to respond to all submissions on or before Thursday, December 15, 2005. Acceptance carries with it an obligation to have the paper prepared sufficiently in advance of the conference to enable reactors and discussants to prepare their remarks.

Participation Limits

In addition to seeking a wide audience at the conference, the program planning committee wants all participants to have the opportunity to hear from a variety of presenters. A participant can perform multiple roles at the conference (e.g., presenting a paper and chairing a paper session or symposium), but will generally be limited to a single paper presentation. Additionally, participants may be listed as co-authors of more than one accepted paper, but will be the primary presenter in only one session.

Submission must be received by Tuesday, November 1, 2005

Submissions should be sent by E-mail to:

Chris Roellke, AEFA President-Elect
Lauren Duff, AEFA Program Coordinator
Allie Clarke, AEFA Program Coordinator
aefa.cc@gmail.com