

Cleansing the Palette / NAEA News / December 2011

What does “membership” mean to you?

Is it an identity?

A privilege?

An obligation?

An opportunity?

Or maybe it’s “All of the above.” Or something else entirely.

I think a lot about our NAEA members. It’s my work, after all. An executive director of a professional association is defined by what happens with the association’s membership—Is the membership growing? Can its strength-in-numbers be leveraged to meet association goals and provide greater value to the members? Is the association bigger, bolder, stronger, because its members are empowered?

But, of course, we are an association of **creative** professionals, and that causes me to think differently about membership. Do you remember that old American Express ad campaign—“Membership has its Privileges”? Well, that’s the inspiration for looking at the idea of membership from a few different angles. Visit the online Prezi to see where that takes us.



So, this brings us back to my original question: What does membership mean to you? One of our “emerging perspectives” is that you play a vital role in defining the value of your membership in NAEA: It’s not just about what comes out of our national office; it’s also about what comes out of your classroom... your heart... your mind.

Membership is about initiative, passion, outreach. It’s about breaking down the barriers between who is “inside” the organization and who is “outside”—rigid interpretations of membership can shut you off from valuable resources and inspiration.

So give yourself a little holiday gift this year. Call it the Gift of Discovery: What sorts of opportunities can you create simply by thinking differently about what your NAEA membership means to you and how you can use it? Let us know what you come up with—we will share your gift with others and we’ll do everything we can to grow the benefits of your NAEA membership even larger.

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View the interactive Prezi accompanying this article at www.arteducators.org

NAEA ORGANIZATIONAL AWARENESS —DECEMBER 2011

Members can expect to engage in or learn more about the following from the Board or members of the Executive staff over the coming months:

- **Exciting plans are underway for NYC—Emerging Perspectives | Connecting Teaching, Learning, and Research**—and NAEA’s 65th anniversary under the direction of the 2012 National Convention Coordinator, Deb Greh
- **Making Your Case for being in NYC** —tips on getting support for your participation on the NAEA website
- **Upcoming Election** of NAEA Regional Vice Presidents
- **The launch of Leadership Link and the many ideas being shared**—a Ning site for state leaders
- Great energy generated by the fall state association conferences
- **Encouragement to submit your exemplary Lesson/Unit Plans** for posting in the Instructional Resources Gallery
- NAEA Task Force charged with establishing governance procedures for the soon-to-be re-established **NAEA Research Commission** (projected launch date March 2012)
- **2012 NAEA Awards Program nominations**
- **2011-2014 Strategic Plan**: Year I priorities
- **NAEA formal position statements**—new ones the 2012 Delegates Assembly will address
- **NAEA Organizational Policies and Procedures Handbook**
- **New resources and member rebates for states** that participate in the NAEA dues collection agreement
- **Outcomes from the Art Education study delegation to Cuba**
- **2012 SummerVision and NAEA professional learning communities**
- Reauthorization of the **Elementary and Secondary Education Act** (NCLB)
- **First Look Report from the Fast Response survey system** issued by the National Center for Education Statistics
- **The National Coalition for Core Art Standards (NCCAS): Announcement of the NAEA Standards Writing Team, Chaired by NAEA President-Elect, Dennis Inhulsen**; Progress of collaborative working group sponsored by the arts education professional associations, State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education (SEADAE), the Arts Education Partnership, and the College Board to create the next generation of arts standards

National Art Education Association

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- **Outcome of the year-long work by NAEA Review Committees** revising two publications: *Purposes, Principles, and Standards for School Art Programs* and *Design Standards for School Art Facilities*
- **Publication of the first in a series of Advocacy White Papers** written by Distinguished Fellows and invited scholars to support the tenets of Learning in a Visual Age.
www.arteducators.org/whitepapers
- **The National Art Honor Society**—now more than 45,000 students in 1,800 chapters across the nation—do you have an NAHS Chapter?
- **Coming Soon—New NAEA Books!**

Matter Matters: Art Education and Material Culture Studies

Theoretical and practical issues, ideas, and questions related to the study of and teaching about a wide range of objects and expressions in our contemporary world.

Teaching Asian Art: Content, Context, and Pedagogy

Introduces readers to Asian artistic practices/traditions and addresses concepts and issues related to understanding and teaching Asian art. Provides teachers with lessons inspired by Asian art, allowing them to make meaningful connections in a cross-cultural curriculum.

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