

Message from the President / NAEA News / February 2012

New York City... here we come! By now you probably have made all of your plans for attending the NAEA Convention in New York City. By all measures, this convention should be one of the most outstanding in a long line of excellent conventions. This year NAEA will celebrate its 65th anniversary as an association. This is a significant milestone. Just as it is important to know the history of our field, it is equally important for members of NAEA to know and understand the history of our organization.

Previous successes and continuous growth of NAEA have been based on inclusive discussion, transparency, and thoughtful, informed, and objective decision making by our membership and leaders. We are an association of, by, and for **our members!** Because we will be celebrating a historic anniversary during this convention, it is meaningful to reflect on our accomplishments and to ask ourselves who we are and from where we have come in order to know where we will be going. With that understanding, let's test your knowledge about NAEA and who we are as you read along.

POP QUIZ (1): What four regional art education organizations merged to create NAEA in 1947? (See the answers at the end of this column.)

Members of NAEA regularly attend the National Convention. Debbie Greh, NAEA Convention Coordinator, has been working for over a year with our staff in the Reston headquarters to plan this year's convention extravaganza! The NAEA National Convention is perhaps one of the single most important benefits of NAEA membership. Listening to remarkable keynote speakers, attending many of the 1,000 sessions, making a session presentation, attending Delegates Assembly or any of the divisional or regional business meetings, networking with other art educators, visiting the exhibitors and NAEA bookstore, and renewing friendships made during conventions past are only a few of the outstanding things that make attending the convention so exciting and important.

POP QUIZ (2): During which dates and in what year and city was the first NAEA Convention held?

Members of NAEA are dedicated educators. They spend countless hours preparing instruction, teaching, conducting assessments, coordinating program development, advocating the essential value of visual arts education, learning new technology skills, managing exhibitions of their students' work, and participating in professional development. The annual convention includes numerous sessions related to each of these topics and more. As dedicated professionals, many art educators' work is worthy of special recognition by their colleagues and peers. The convention provides a national forum to recognize and acknowledge the many excellent contributions of our members and other supporters of art education through national session presentations, awards, and other recognition.

POP QUIZ (3) In 1955 who received the first National Art Educator of the Year Award?

Members of NAEA are committed to developing the profession by providing leadership in their local, state, and regional art education associations. They understand that these associations provide the means for sustaining high levels of professionalism and professional development for art educators at all instructional levels and in all instructional settings. Members and leaders from all state art education associations and NAEA Issues Groups come together during business meetings and at the Delegates Assembly during the convention to create NAEA Position Statements and to offer recommendations to the NAEA Board of Directors regarding the critical issues or questions facing the field. These leaders provide insight and experience necessary for NAEA to represent its members and to speak for the field. Participation by members in the many and varied events and sessions at the convention promotes leadership development that can produce meaningful results in state and local settings and contribute to preparing future generations of leaders of NAEA.

POP QUIZ (4): How many presidents has NAEA had since its founding?



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Advancing Art Education

Members of NAEA continuously strive to educate themselves about their field. The business of educators is learning. Just as we expect our students to learn about the visual arts and to continue to learn about them throughout their lives, we too, as art educators, must continue to learn about teaching and our profession throughout our teaching careers. As art educators, members of NAEA understand that they must be students of their profession. They are lifelong learners and see educating themselves as an ongoing activity. Attending the NAEA National Convention provides yet another “course” in which we can continue our learning with the expectation that this learning will positively affect how and what we teach in our classrooms.

POP QUIZ (5): Who will be attending the 65th anniversary NAEA National Convention in New York City from March 1 through 4?

ANSWERS:

- (1) Eastern Arts Association, Pacific Arts Association, Southeastern Arts Association, Western Arts Association, and Art Department of the National Education Association
- (2) February 21-23, 1948, Atlantic City, New Jersey
- (3) Edwin Ziegfeld
- (4) 32
- (5) YOU WILL!

See you there.

F. Robert Sabol, President

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*See NAEA Organizational Awareness highlights with the Executive Director’s column,
Cleansing the Palette.*

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