



## From the President

Debi West

### The Value of Staying Engaged: It's School Time!

Can you feel it? It's the hum of a new school year, and I don't know about you, but I'm reminded once again of the incredible value retired and soon-to-be-retired art educators bring to our profession. As I like to say, retirement isn't the end of our teaching journey, it's a transformation. We now have the time, wisdom, and flexibility to mentor, inspire, create, and continue shaping young minds in ways that fit our passions and our schedules.

**When the classroom no longer calls us every morning, the world becomes our classroom. Whether it's volunteering as a teaching artist, mentoring early-career educators, leading community workshops, or simply sharing our stories, our impact continues to ripple far beyond our own walls. The experiences, techniques, and perspectives we've gathered over decades are a treasure trove for both students and educators.**

I've found great joy in staying connected with schools and arts organizations. This fall, I'm excited to work with local schools in Hilton Head, bringing arts-integrated lessons to classroom teachers. In August, I had the privilege of working in Austin, Texas, with the Bastrop ISD teachers one day and the Manor ISD teachers the next. Together, we explored "Art with Purpose" service-learning lessons, created collaborative "This is Us – Journeys of Art Teachers' Growth and Pride" coloring books, and built "Why Art Matters" paper murals to hang proudly in their district offices. The energy in the room was contagious, and the message was clear: **togetherweARTbetter**, and our ultimate winners are always our kiddos, the future of our nation!

That's the magic of our work; art is never just about the final product. It's about connection, community, and empowering others to see the world through a creative lens. As retired art educators, we have the freedom to choose how and when we give back, but the responsibility to keep sharing our gifts remains.

**So, my challenge to you this school year is simple: stay involved.** Visit a school. Volunteer to hang student work at the local library. Offer to lead a professional learning session. Join a community mural project. Mentor that new teacher who reminds you of your younger self. Never stop learning and never stop inspiring.

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What a blessing it has been to be an art teacher, and adding “retired” in front of that title is just the icing on the cake. Let’s make sure that icing is colorful, textured, and shared generously.

Stay in touch. I want to know what you’re doing! Together, we can keep the creative spirit alive for generations to come.

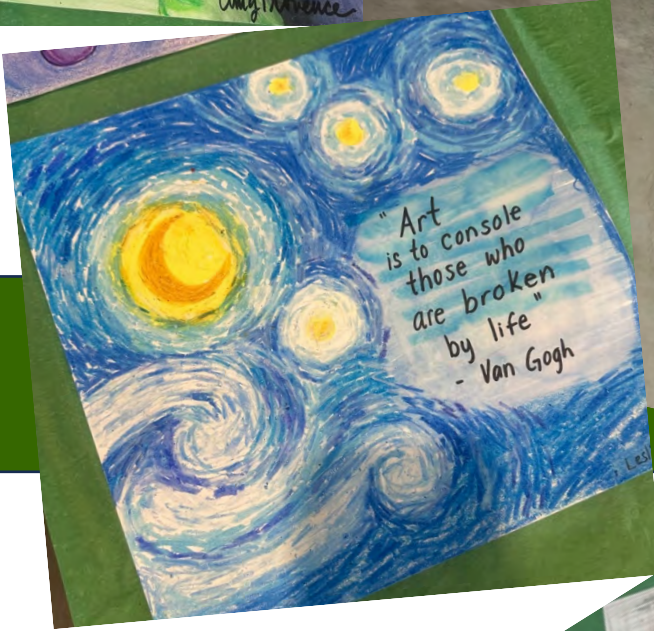
So Sincerely,  
Debi West



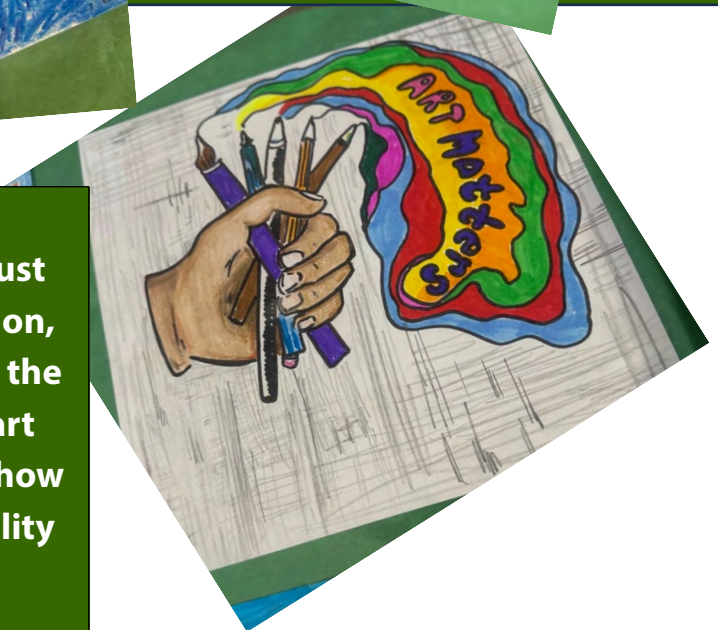
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# togetherweARTbetter!!!



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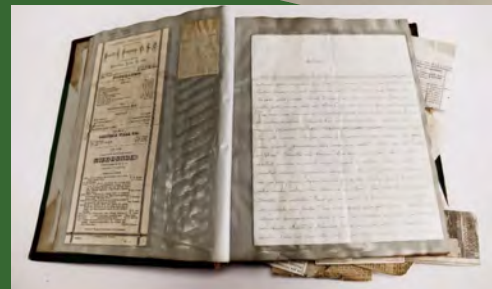
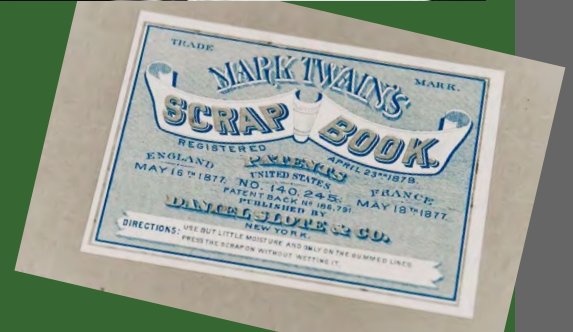
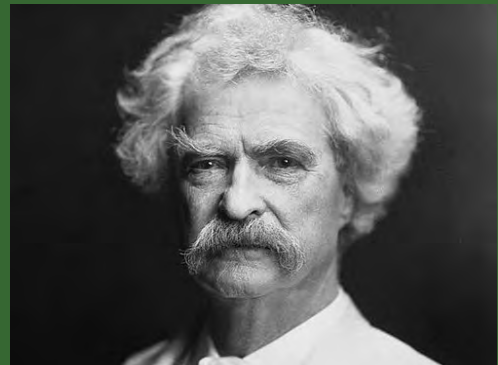
## Trivia

### July Answer:

**Question: Who created and patented a self-pasting scrapbook in 1872?**

The book contained adhesive in a grid pattern that was already on each page.

While the exact "first ever" scrapbook artist is difficult to pinpoint, several sources cite **Mark Twain** as a prominent figure in the history of scrapbooking. He was known for his extensive travels and for creating and patenting a self-pasting scrapbook in 1872, which simplified the process of assembling scrapbook pages. Other early scrapbookers include individuals who filled common place books with various items and those who created friendship albums in the Victorian era.



### November Question

*Who invented the first coloring book?*

**Send answers to Debi West, [dewestudio@gmail.com](mailto:dewestudio@gmail.com)**



## In The Spotlight

Cris Guenter, Ed.D.

Past Chair, National Art Education Foundation, 2025  
NAEA Convention Program Coordinator - San Diego  
President, CAEA, (California )  
NAEA Vice President - Pacific Region  
Outstanding Teacher at Chico State  
NAEA 2008 National Art Educator of the Year

I am **Cris Guenter**, a native of Pennsylvania and a lifelong artist and art educator. I grew up in the rural Allegheny Mountains of McKean County, where my father served as the local doctor. He often made house calls, and one of my siblings or I would go along. While waiting in the car, even as a young child, I passed the time by sketching barns, bridges, and the surrounding landscape.

After earning degrees in painting and art education from Penn State, I began teaching art to grades 7–12 in Clarion, PA—a job I considered a dream come true. I later pursued my master's and doctorate degrees at the University of Wyoming. During my time in Laramie, I also managed the University Art Gallery and taught a graduate course in gallery management. I then worked for a year as a gifted and talented teacher and coordinator in Green River, WY, before being hired by California State University, Chico to prepare future teachers. I spent 32 years at Chico State, as it's affectionately known, and retired in the fall of 2019, just before the pandemic. However, my teaching didn't stop there—I now teach art classes during the fall, winter, and spring through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Chico State.

I joined the National Art Education Association (NAEA) in 1975 as a student teacher at Penn State and have remained active ever since. After moving to Chico in 1987, I became President of the Northern Area of the California Art Education Association and chaired Chico's first Arts Commission, where I helped establish the city's public art protocols and acquisition processes. I also oversaw the 1996 updates to California's statewide K–12 visual and performing arts curriculum, including incorporating technology standards.



Old Grader by Cris Guenter

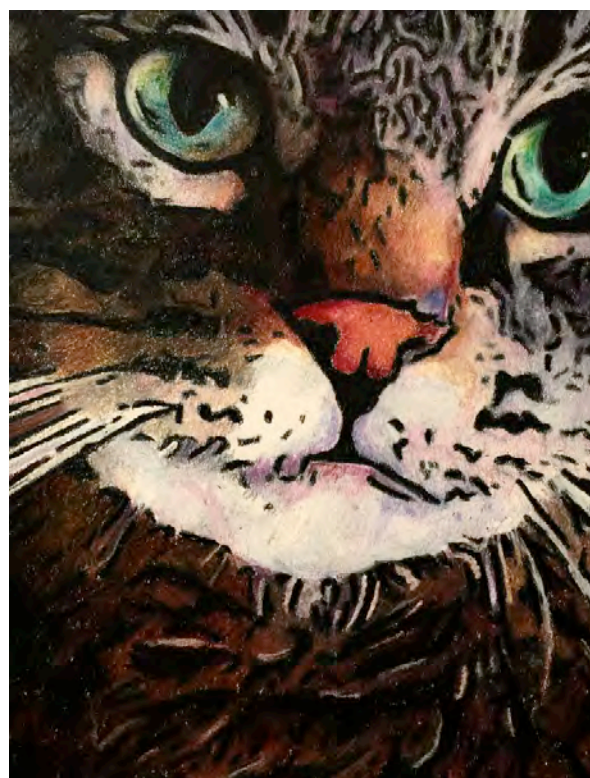
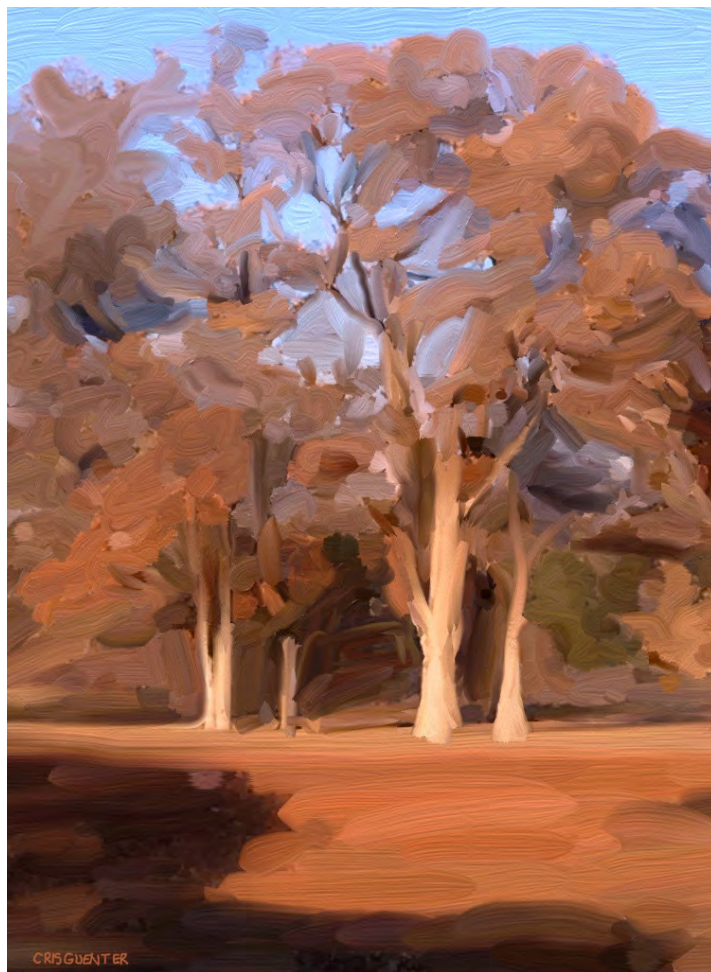
I later served as President of the California Art Education Association and as NAEA Pacific Region Vice President.

In 2014, I was the NAEA Convention Program Coordinator for the San Diego conference, which emphasized technology in art education. Since 2018, I've been a trustee of the National Art Education Foundation and currently serve as its past chair.



Throughout my teaching career, I have continued to create and exhibit my own art. My work is primarily two-dimensional—painting (in oils and watercolor), drawing, printmaking, and photography—featuring work in both traditional materials and some with digital elements. I still draw inspiration from local scenes, just as I did as a child. Currently, I have three pieces on display at the Museum of Northern California Art (monca). For 35 years, I have participated in the Chico Art Center's annual Open Studios Art Tour, a two-weekend event in October showcasing around 70 local artists and their workspaces and am looking forward to it again this year.

You can view my artwork at [cguenterart.com](http://cguenterart.com) -- Chris Guenter



And, if you are in the neighborhood:

**CHICO ART CENTER'S Annual**

**Open Studios Art Tour**

October 11 & 12 and 18 & 19, 2025

10 am to 5 pm

**Stop by to see and buy paintings, prints,  
photos, art cards, and postcards!**

**I will be doing demonstrations every day.**

# Congratulations Dr. Kim Huyler Defibaugh

## New Jersey Distinguished Fellow Class of 2025

"Grateful for my decades of membership and service to the Art Educators of NJ and its members. Looking forward to seeing my Art Family during the fall conference in Princeton! BTW, we sell those "No Whining" buttons at the registration table for a donation to the scholarship fund! Stop by and say Hi!"

### AENJ Distinguished Fellow Announcement

It is with great pleasure that we extend our heartfelt congratulations to **Dr. Kim Huyler Defibaugh** on being named *Distinguished Fellow of the Art Educators of New Jersey*.

This honor recognizes Kim's outstanding achievements in service to the profession, exceptional contributions and unwavering commitment to AENJ. Kim's dedication has earned her this well-deserved recognition.

#### **A Message from AENJ:**

Congratulations Kim! We are most grateful for the many contributions you made to the Art Educators of New Jersey over the years. We look forward to working alongside you, dear friend, colleague and mentor for many years to come!

### **Dr. Kim Huyler Defibaugh**



*Distinguished Fellow of the  
Art Educators of New Jersey*

### Note about Distinguished Fellows

By David Burton

NAEA Distinguished Fellows have been recognized for their exemplary teaching, research, leadership, and service to the Association and the profession, demonstrating a profile of accomplishments that extends across many criteria (see NAEA, 2021–2022)

# 2026 National Emeritus Art Educator Award

In the next few months NAEA will send out the call for nominations for its **entire awards program**. Included within will be the call for the **RAEA's 2026 National Emeritus Art Educator Award**. This award recognizes continuous outstanding service to art education by an individual after retirement.

**Eligibility:** NAEA retired members who are also current RAEA Interest Group members and have been **retired at least 3 years** and have **brought distinction to the field of art education by exceptional and continuous records of achievement through teaching, professional leadership, and other contributions after retirement are eligible to receive this award.**

Please give solid consideration to your fellow RAEA members (of at least 3 years) who are or have made continuous outstanding contributions to the field. Once again, the Submittable site will be used and nominees will be **judged** on the following categories: **"Teaching," "Professional Leadership," and "Other Contributions."** Please pay close attention to the NAEA notification for details on the complete process as well as **deadlines**.

*Thom Knab, RAEA Award Chair*

## NAEF 40 FOR 40 CAMPAIGN

### **Celebrating 40 Years Of Support For NAEA Members**

To celebrate its 40th Anniversary, NAEF aims to raise \$40,000 by December 2025 for grants and services. **If you can donate \$40 to help us celebrate the 40 years of support for NAEA members that would be wonderful.** If you can donate \$4 to support the work of your NAEA peers, great! If you can donate \$1000 to help us do more to help you, fantastic! Any donation amount is welcome, especially during this special time, our anniversary year. **Donations are tax-deductible and will be recognized on the NAEF website (unless you prefer anonymity) and in the 2026 NAEA National Convention Program.**



# Introducing Our New Silent Auction Co-Chairs



**Diane Scully**

Diane is currently an adjunct supervisor for Minnesota State University in Mankato. Previously she taught K-12 art for 38 years. She has a painting studio in Minneapolis and has donated items to the auction for years.



**Kathryn Hillyer**

Kathryn is a retired elementary art educator and department chair (Deerfield, Illinois) and was Assistant Clinical Professor for 8 years at Illinois State University. She now lives in Milwaukee and is a member of two state art education associations! (Illinois and Wisconsin)

**More detailed information will be coming in the next newsletter, but we want to make sure you are thinking about how you can be involved! Our group is growing and active and we are going to be asking you for donations of artwork, sponsorship of a table (which helps cut our costs), and volunteering at the convention during the auction!**

**You can mail donations at any time before the convention to:**

**Diane Scully**

**3617 Admiral Lane**

**Brooklyn Center, MN 55429**

**Happy Fall! Diane Scully and Kathryn Hillyer are the new co-chairs of the RAEA Silent Auction.** We are excited to be working on the Silent Auction, as this is an important fundraiser for RAEA, and the proceeds fund the honoraria awarded to the Emeritus Art Educator, the Student/Preservice Chapter, and the annual donation to NAEF. Because RAEA does not charge dues or receive a budget from NAEA, donations and proceeds from the Silent Auction are the only income.  
**Last year's auction raised over \$2400!**



**See you in Chicago!**

2026 NAEA NATIONAL CONVENTION | MARCH 5-7



## CONTACT INFORMATION

### RAEA BOARD 2025

President: **Debi West**, South Carolina, deweststudio@gmail.com

Past President: **Nancy Walkup**, New Mexico, nancywalkup@mac.com

President-Elect: **Melody Weintraub**, Tennessee, melodyweintraub@gmail.com

Emeritus E-Bulletin Co-Editors:

**Donna Anderson**, Tennessee, artzychick@yahoo.com

**Flowerree McDonough**, Tennessee, flowerree@mac.com

Secretary: **Becky Blaine**, Illinois, beckyblaine@gmail.com

Treasurer: **Richard Siegesmund**, Illinois, richard.siegesmund@gmail.com

Awards Chair: **Thom Knab**, New York, tkvolley15@aol.com

Silent Auction Co-Chairs:

**Kathryn Hilyer**, Wisconsin, kathioh@aol.com

**Diane Scully**, Minnesota, dscully94@gmail.com

Membership Chair: **Denise Tullier-Holly**, Louisiana, dtholly52@gmail.com

Liason/Chair RAEA/Preservice Initiative: **Linda Willis Fisher**, Illinois, lmwfis@ilstu.edu

Parliamentarian: **Lorraine Poling**, Delaware, elseapea@yahoo.com

Social Media Chair: **Betsy Logan**, Alabama, rbjlogan@bellsouth.net

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## RAEA MISSION STATEMENT

The purposes shall be to define and establish the role of the retired art educators as an interest group of NAEA; to conduct programs of professional activities for state and national events; to encourage continued personal involvement and development in art education; to inform State Associations and NAEA of concerns relevant to members of long-standing; and to encourage and support, as well as provide mentorship for student members of the NAEA.

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