



EMERITUS | MAY 2026

RAEA - Retired Art Educators Alliance Interest Group

Artwork by Malcome Potek



From the President

What an incredible way to head into spring, coming off an amazing NAEA Convention in Chicago! I don't think I will ever forget our especially full and joyful Thursday, as it was truly "all things RAEA".

From our two packed hours at Table C, sharing our "keys" with anyone who stopped by, to a standing-room-only business meeting, the energy around RAEA was undeniable. We were reminded once again that retired art educators hold the keys to the success of this profession, and we are committed to paying it forward by mentoring, supporting, and lifting the next generation.

Our RAEA Business Meeting was followed up with our annual Awards Celebration and what a highlight of the day! We were honored to celebrate **Betsy Logan, our 2026 NAEA Emeritus Art Educator of the Year, and Linda Popp, our 2026 Distinguished Service Recipient.**

Linda Willis Fisher did a phenomenal job recognizing **Towson University as our Outstanding Pre-Service Chapter** and hearing all these speeches, we felt the excitement, and sharing in that collective pride was truly special. Adding to the magic, our Distinguished Fellows Meeting, of which **Kathryn Hillyer** is a new addition, followed in the same space, making for a long but wonderful day together in the "Soldier Field" room.

We must also give a huge shout-out to **Thom Knab, our 2026 NAEA Marion Quin Dix Leadership Award** recipient, and once again to **Betsy Logan, our NAEA MacArthur Goodwin Distinguished Service Award** recipient. What an incredible village of leaders, mentors, and advocates we have within RAEA!

A quick reminder, if you are nominated for or receive an RAEA award or any award in your state, please let me know so we can celebrate you in upcoming RAEA newsletters. Recognition matters.

And we wrapped up Thursday evening with our **RAEA Annual Auction**, and it was another tremendous success, thanks to the mentorship of **Melody Weintraub and Becky Blaine**, and the incredible leadership of organizers **Diane Scully and Kathryn Hillyer**. We raised significant funds, and we are deeply grateful to our table donors, artists, and everyone who supported this event. Once again, #togetherweARTbetter.

On a personal note, I cannot begin to express how inspiring it was to present seven times this year! Did I mention that I'm tired! But through Mentoring Matters roundtables, Bridging the Gap mentoring sessions, and Distinguished Fellows forums, we indeed paid it forward! **Our interest group is strong because what we do truly matters.** Please keep sharing, mentoring, and showing up, because of you, art teachers continue to change lives every single day.

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**We are the keys and together we can open the doors
for the new generation of art educators!**

Stay in touch with me. I want to keep our connections alive!

With gratitude and pride,

Debi West, RAEA President



Trivia

March Question

Question:

What year was the very first NAEA Convention? And what city hosted it? And what was the theme!!

Answer:

- 1) 1951 (March 28-31)
- 2) New York City
- 3) *This Is Art Education*

This information is from *Our History-- Celebrating 50 Years-1947--1997*, John Michael's (ed.) seminal history of the first 50 years of NAEA's history.

Our Trivia winner is:

David Burton

Send answers to Debi West,
dwestudio@gmail.com



May Question

Which American artist, later known for his seascapes and watercolors, produced a significant body of work while living in the Florida Keys in the 1880s?

Thank you and You Are Welcome



Denise Tullier-Holly

Denise Tullier-Holly (Louisiana) will be leaving her position as RAEA Membership Chair, serving since May 2023. She has done an outstanding job keeping us up to date and working to increase our membership! Thank you Denise! You can send Thank You's to Denise at dtholly52@gmail.com.

A Warm Welcome to **Kim Defibaugh** (Virginia) who will be stepping into that position this month. Send Congrats to her. She can be reached at drkimart@gmail.com.



Kim Defibaugh



Betsy Logan

RAEA National Emeritus Art Educator Award

2026 MacArthur Goodwin Award for Distinguished Service within the Profession

With a distinguished 45-year career in art education, Betsy Logan has dedicated her professional life to teaching, leadership, and advocacy for the visual arts. After 35 years in the classroom, she retired in 2015 from Auburn Junior High School in Auburn, Alabama, where she spent most of her teaching career.

Betsy began her career at Howell Intermediate School in Victoria, Texas, teaching there from 1981 to 1989. She then taught at Opelika Middle School in Opelika, Alabama, from 1989 to 1993 before joining the staff at Auburn Junior High, where she remained until her retirement in 2015.

Retirement did not slow her commitment to education. She is currently in her tenth-year teaching ACCESS (Virtual Course) Visual Arts for the state of Alabama. The year she retired, Betsy was hired by the Alabama State Department of Education to write the ACCESS courses for Visual Art, Dance, Theatre, and Music—curricula that remain in use today. She often says she will continue teaching the course until a new one is written.

Betsy holds a Bachelor of Science in Art Education from Auburn University and a Master of Education from the University of Houston–Victoria. She made history as Alabama's first National Board–Certified art teacher and was also the first in the state to renew that certification.

An active leader in professional organizations, Betsy has been a member of the National Art Education Association (NAEA) since 1981, the Texas Art Education Association 1981-1989 and the Alabama Art Education Association (AAEA) since 1989. Her leadership roles include serving as the first Middle Level Division Director of NAEA, Southeastern Vice President of NAEA, President of the NAEA Retired Art Educators Alliance, and currently serves as its Social Media Chair. She also serves as the Parliamentarian for AAEA and has held numerous board positions, including Middle Level Chair, Technology Chair, Secretary, and President.

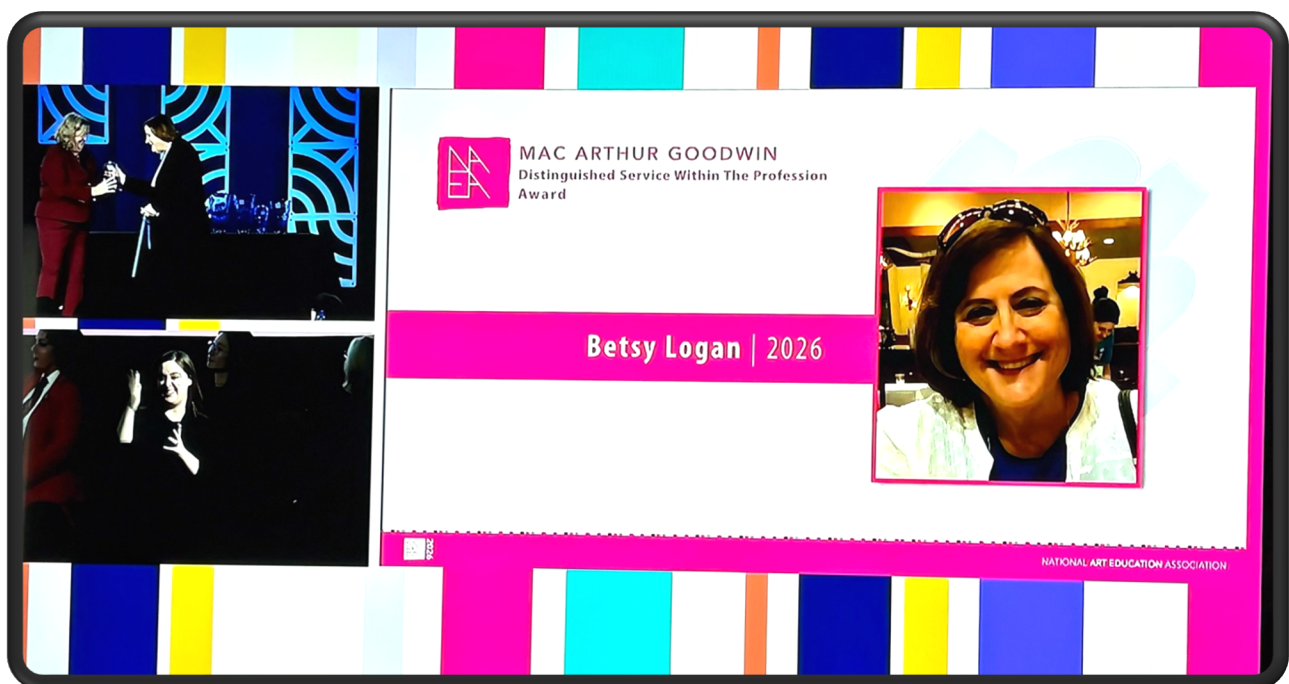


Her honors are extensive. Betsy was named the first *National Middle Level Art Educator of the Year* in 1996. She received the *NAEA Marion Quin Dix Leadership Award* in 2011 and the *NAEA Emeritus Art Educator Award and MacArthur Goodwin Award* in 2025. AAEA has recognized her as *Middle Level Art Educator of the Year* (1996), *Art Educator of the Year* (2008), *Retired Art Educator of the Year* (2017), and recipient of both the *Marion Quin Dix* (2010) and *MacArthur Goodwin* (2025) Awards.

From 2011 to 2014, Betsy served on the National Core Arts Standards (NCCAS) Visual Arts writing team and has participated on numerous NAEA and Alabama State Department of Education committees. She was recently selected to serve a four-year term on the National Art Education Foundation Board of Trustees.

In retirement, Logan continues her creative work, producing fused glass pieces, selling original artwork and prints at local shows, and completing commissioned projects.

She and her husband, Rusty, will celebrate 48 years of marriage this June. Rusty is a retired band director who currently teaches Music Theory part-time at Auburn University, directs the Auburn Community Orchestra, and serves as Executive Director of the Alabama Music Educators Association. Their son, Jeremy, recently married his wife, Judi. Jeremy is Director of Percussion at Boone High School in Orlando, Florida, and Judi is an elementary school teacher. The couple also share their busy lives with their 11-year-old dog, Zoey, who would prefer that these retirees lived a slower pace.



Linda Popp

RAEA Distinguished Service Award



Linda Popp creates narrative found object assemblage sculptures. She uses artifacts and symbolic objects to convey stories about relationships with family, place, love, faith, nature, female image/beauty, time, and other themes. During the process, she goes beyond her personal stories, and the narrative becomes universal as she feels our stories are all connected. Some objects/symbols are obvious; others may be interpreted by viewers differently as they bring their own experiences to the work. Linda enjoys the idea that something from her story may cause others to reflect on their own narrative. Reflection on personal narratives to better understand self and others is a very powerful experience that continues to draw her to the studio and her work. Linda has come to trust her collecting and allows objects to come to her during the art-making process. Many of the titles of her work come from music, books, and poetry that then guide her intention as she assembles her found objects.

Linda Popp is originally from Chicago but has lived in the Baltimore area since 1974. She retired in 2016 after a 41-year career, teaching visual arts with Baltimore County Public Schools (30 years in secondary art and 11 years as the Visual Arts Coordinator). She then taught in the Maryland Institute, College of Art MAT Program for one year. Linda supervised art education student teachers at Towson University for three years, then retired again in 2021. She was on the Maryland Art Education Association Council and even has an MAEA Leadership Award named in her honor. She is now an MAEA Distinguished Fellow. Linda has served on the National Art Education Association Council as the Secondary Division Director and Eastern Region Vice-President and was named a Distinguished Fellow in 2018. She has made numerous presentations at NAEA and MAEA Conferences about teaching strategies, leadership, and her studio practice.

Since retiring, she has been able to shift her focus full-time to her studio work. She is a member of the Hamilton Arts Collective, the Towson Arts Collective, Creative York, Creative Alliance, Maryland Art Place, Gossip Girls Collective, Maryland Federation of Art, York Art Association, and the National Association of Women Artists. Linda exhibits her work in several other galleries on the East Coast. She maintains a chronological portfolio website, www.lindapopp.com and a more descriptive website at www.bakerartist.org/portfolios/linda-popp She also presents her work on Instagram @lpoppart. She has created several videos documenting aspects of her assemblage process on her YouTube channel that have been used in the classroom and by individuals. She has had assemblage workshops and presentations at Stevenson University, Towson University, Tennessee Art Academy/Beaumont University, the National Art Education Association Conference, Pennsylvania Art Education Association, and elsewhere. She has been featured in Bmore Art Magazine, Uppercase Magazine, Studio Art Magazine, and ART SEEN Magazine. In 2025 she was the artist in residence at St. James Academy in Monkton, teaching narrative found object assemblage sculpture to preK-Grade 8 students.





Towson University

RAEA Outstanding Preservice Chapter Award

RAEA Outstanding Preservice Chapter Award (OPCA)

The RAEA Outstanding Student Chapter Award has been reinstated and renamed the Outstanding Preservice Chapter Award. The previous award description, application, and scoring rubrics were reviewed by RAEA members; Betsy Logan, Diane Scully, Nancy Walkup and Linda Willis; and Preservice Director, Reilly Powers. Paula Liz, NAEA Youth and Program Manager, and other NAEA staff reviewed the draft, gave suggestions, and uploaded the revised documents on the NAEA Preservice link.

Four Preservice Chapters submitted applications for the OPCA 2026 award by the December 5, 2025, deadline. The award selection was completed following RAEA guidelines:

The Award Selection Committee included an appointed active RAEA member as chair/coordinator, (Linda Willis Fisher) serving without vote; the current Preservice Division Director as an ex-officio member (Reilly Powers), serving without vote; two (2) active RAEA members appointed by the RAEA President (Betsy Logan and Diane Sculley); and the preservice chapter advisor of the previous year's winning chapter (Kelly Gross, Advisor for Illinois State University Chapter when it received the award in 2020, each with a vote (three voting members.)

The Towson University NAEA Preservice Chapter is the recipient of the RAEA 2026 Outstanding Preservice Chapter Award. The Chapter was recognized for its collaboration, community involvement, and professional development. Members of the Chapter presented at the RAEA Awards Ceremony at the NAEA Annual Convention in Chicago.



RAEA 2026



RAEA Award Winners -- Betsy Logan, RAEA Emeritus Art Educator Award; Tia Trawally and Madison Caparella, Co-Presidents, Towson University Preservice Chapter Award; Linda Popp, RAEA Distinguished Service Award.

Kathryn Hillyer

2026 Distinguished Fellow



Kathryn Hillyer has held numerous leadership positions with the Illinois Art Education Association, the National Art Education Association, and the National Art Education Foundation (Research Commission Liaison), and has worked with the Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Education Association. She served as an art educator in Deerfield Public Schools for 38 years, including 16 years as department chair, and held faculty appointments at Illinois State University and North Park University in Chicago. Her professional recognitions include multiple IAEA awards, the NAEA Elementary Art Educator Award, the NAEA Western Region Art Educator Award, and the RAEA Distinguished Service Award.

Thom Knab

2026 Marian Quin Dix Leadership Award



NAEA Past President Thom Knab was an Elementary Art Educator at Dodge Elementary, East Amherst, NY from 1990 until his retirement in 2024. He earned his Bachelor (1987) and Master (1992) degrees in Art Education from Buffalo State College. Thom served as a TAA Visual Arts Instructor at the elementary level in 2023. He served as the NAEA Elementary Division Director from 2015-2017. He received the Eastern Region Art Educator Award in 2024 and both the National and Eastern Region Elementary Art Educator honors in 2018. He has been a keynote speaker at state, regional, and international conferences. Thom has been published several times in *School Arts Magazine*, the *NYSATA News*, and the *NAEA News*. As a collage and assemblage artist, he has exhibited artwork in four solo shows. Thom has served as NYSATA President and Vice President. He was honored as NYS Art Educator of the Year in 2018. He is a 2020 inductee to the National Teachers Hall of Fame, is a 2023 NAEA Distinguished Fellow inductee, and the 2025 NAEA Art Educator of the Year. He is currently the RAEA Awards Chair and will become the NAEA Distinguished Fellows Chair at the close of this convention. Thom would like to thank Melody Weintraub for nominating him for 2026 Marion Quin Dix Leadership Award.

The NAEA Chicago Experience

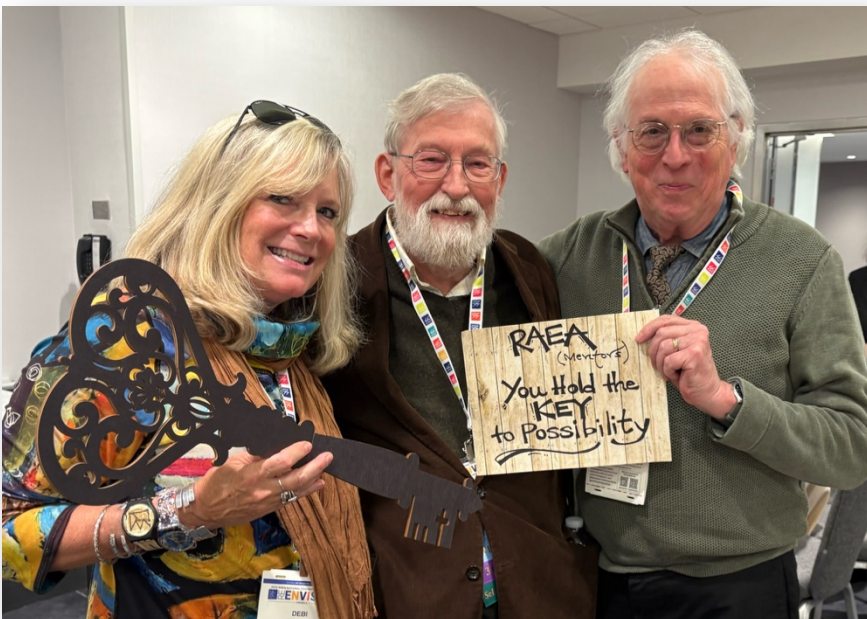


Becky Blaine and Diane Scully welcome Retired Art Educators and help them to sign up to the interest group.



Congratulations to **Lorinne Lee** for a milestone birthday this year during NAEA in Chicago.

Lee is a longtime RAEA member who continues to advocate Art Education, teach workshops to mentor teachers and create and show her award-winning artwork.



Debi West, David Burton and Richard Siegesmund discussing so many possibilities.



Nancy Walkup at Delegates.



Taking our award-winning friends to dinner – Bob and Donna Anderson; Linda Kieling, National Art Educator; Betsy Logan, National Emeritus Art Educator; Flowerree and Steve McDonough.



Melody Weintraub - Party time



It's so good to see friends from all over America when we get together for NAEA. Pictured are Lynn Felts, Melody Weintraub, Kathryn Hillyer, Debi West, Diane Scully and Linda Nelson-Bova.

Editor's Note: Special thanks to members who shared pictures for use in this edition, Lorraine Poling, Diane Scully, Nancy Walkup, Melody Weintraub and Linda Willis.

SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL TO PRESENT
at the 2027 NAEA National Convention in New York, NY!

2027 NAEA NATIONAL CONVENTION | MARCH 4-6




CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

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Don't Forget to Send your Proposal to Present in New York!!!

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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.