



EMERITUS | JULY 2026

RAEA - Retired Art Educators Alliance Interest Group

Artwork by Malcome Potek



From the President

I hope everyone is enjoying a wonderful summer filled with creativity, connection, and opportunities to create!

My summer has been a busy mix of travel, surgery, recovery, and planning even more adventures ahead. One highlight I am especially looking forward to is attending the NAEA Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., this July. I am thrilled to be presenting alongside Debi Barrett-Hayes as we explore how mentoring and leadership can play a vital role in teacher retention. Together, we'll share practical and creative strategies for supporting educators at every stage of their careers. "Pass It On"!

As I prepare for this presentation, I have been reaching out to both new and veteran teachers in Georgia and South Carolina. One message has come through loud and clear: teacher burnout is real. Many educators feel overwhelmed by increasing demands and excessive micromanagement, often leaving them with less time and energy to do what they do best, teach and inspire students.

I firmly believe that strong leadership begins with support. Administrators should be empowered to support teachers so teachers can, in turn, support students. Yet many educators report that this is not always their experience. So, what can WE do about it?

I would love to hear from our RAEA members. With the collective wisdom of more than 800 members, our highest membership ever, we have a tremendous opportunity to make a difference. I would like to create an RAEA resource guide filled with practical ideas, successful

strategies, and creative approaches for retaining, encouraging, recognizing, and supporting teachers. Think of it as a "how-to" leadership guide grounded in the real experiences of art educators.

After all, we know that **"Together We ART Better"**, and perhaps it's time to take that belief to the next level.

Please send me your ideas, success stories, and suggestions in bullet-point form (dewestudio@gmail.com). We hope to share these insights at the NAEA Leadership Conference and continue the conversation at the NAEA National Convention in New York City.

And speaking of NAEA, don't forget that proposal submissions are due at the end of the month! I encourage you to submit a presentation proposal and join us in New York City as we celebrate, learn from one another, and share the magic that years of art education experience have taught us.

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Thank you for all you do to inspire, mentor, and support our profession. Together, we can continue making a lasting impact on the future of art education.

So Sincerely,

Debi West

President, Retired Art Educators Alliance (RAEA)



Continuing to support our profession by teaching a workshop to our GAEA District 2 teachers.

Teaching a summer camp at Hilton Head Island.

Trivia

May Question

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

Answer:

Winslow Homer

Our Trivia winner is:

Melissa Kristianse

Send answers to Debi West,
dewestudio@gmail.com



Winslow Homer, Palm Tree, Nassau -1898.

July Question

Question:

What was the first state to require art instruction in its public schools?

Congratulations Betsy & Linda!



Betsy Logan, Auburn '78

Linda Kieling, Auburn '82

Auburn University graduates **Betsy Logan** and **Linda Kieling** were honored in the online publication **Auburn///Today** for their 2026 NAEA awards. **Betsy** received the NAEA Emeritus Art Educator and MacArthur Goodwin Award for Distinguished Service Within the Profession. **Linda** received the National Art Educator Award and the National Secondary Art Educator Award. There is a wonderful article about them at:

wire.auburn.edu/content/education/2026/06/1709-51-art-education-awards.php?utm_source=auburn-today&utm_medium=web



Linda Kieling

In The Spotlight

2026 NAEA National Art Educator of the Year

2026 NAEA Secondary Art Educator of the Year

Past President and Board Member Council for Art Education

NAEA Secondary Director

NAEA Middle Level Director

Hi readers, my name is Linda W. Kieling and I have just retired after 36 amazing years of teaching, 26 here in Oregon. It was a bittersweet decision after a career that has spanned teaching K-12, high ed and museum levels. After graduating from Auburn University in Alabama, I began teaching in 1983. With time off for my children, I am now 67 (IYKYK) and it is time for other experiences. There is so much that I still love about teaching that I know I will continue in other capacities.

I am pleased that over the 36 years students have had opportunities to create work that was authentic experiences. It extended beyond themselves and impacted the community and beyond. Clay with a Cause, school-based installations, in building collaborations, Big Ideas, cross county ceramic magnet exchanges, Arts in Action, Winter Blitz, Creatures (1st grade drawings to high school sculptures) Scholastic and numerous exhibits to name a few.



I am not sure what year I joined NAEA but I do know that my first convention was 1998 in Chicago. Afterwards I knew I would attend every year (the only exception now being during Covid) because it affected me so profoundly. I met many individuals that I hold as dear colleagues and friends. I learned so much as a professional that impacted my teaching and created opportunities for connection, collaboration, reflection and positive change.

My journey to leadership was through the Youth Art Month program in my state associations, both Tennessee and Oregon, and not as an officer. I absolutely believe in the power of this grassroots advocacy program to inform, influence and affect change. I have been on the board of the Council for Art Education, who administers the YAM program, for over 20 years including President. I am proud that I spearheaded the efforts for the first YAM Museum in New Orleans. This continues today in the NAEA exhibit hall during the annual conventions. Additionally, I was selected as one of 4 regional representatives for a NAEA ad hoc Advocacy Advisory Committee.



**Adrienne C. Nelson Craft Creative Magnets for National Exchange
Sophia Leontyuk, Norah Simmons, Linda Kielling and Bridgit Szczesniak**

Many know that mentorship is an important part of leadership. I have been privileged to host student teachers and teach college Art Methods classes. I am honored to have been elected to serve NAEA members as both the Middle Level and Secondary Director. During which I was on the Executive Finance Committee and NAHS/NJAHS Advisory Committee. Additionally, I served on the NAEA Professional Materials Committee for 14 years.

As a lifelong learner I continue to take workshops to further my personal growth and pursuits in art. This year my work was selected for shows in Clifton Springs, NY, the NAEA Members Virtual Show and the Maryhill Museum in Washington. I am currently participating in a cross-country sketchbook round robin and I recently joined an Art Critique group that meets monthly. We currently have a show on exhibit in Portland, Oregon.

My husband, Ron and my family of 5 kids, 4 grandchildren, 2 dogs and 3 grand dogs are the light of our lives. We look forward to more time with them and more time for travel. My retirement gift to myself is an art retreat at La Romita in Italy. When the school year starts in August, I will be off exploring my ideas through cyanotypes and printmaking. Right now, I can't imagine myself not in the classroom studio teaching but maybe by then I will.

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5 Tips to Help You Start and Stick With a Journaling Practice This Summer

By Debi West



Ahhhhh summer. A time when we get to immerse ourselves in our craft and be artists again! I have found that as much as I want to create during the school year, there just never seems to be enough time. So, instead, I make time to work in my visual journal at least four days a week during the summer months. The results are beyond beneficial! I feel better, I have time to reflect on the art of creating, and I always come up with some incredible lessons to take to my students. Plus, I push myself to work outside my comfort zone and include direct observation drawings in my journals. I require my students to do this in their weekly journals, so it brings me back into the mindset of being a student again!

Here are 5 tips to help you stick with your journaling practice this summer.

1. Use prompts or themes.

I've found that prompts and themes work well to keep me focused.

Here are a few I tend to use:

- Who Am I?
- Family
- Fun
- Adventure
- Travel
- Reflections
- Beach



Think about how you could push your own artmaking skills as you come up with a list for yourself!

2. Keep your supplies in a handy travel case.

Consider storing everything you need in a small travel case. I like to include drawing pencils, a sharpener, markers, oil pastels, crayons, drawing pens, erasers, colored pencils, watercolors, a brush, and a glue stick.

Of course, you need to bring your journal(s) too!

I always have several journals going at once in a variety of sizes. Obviously, the smaller ones travel the best.



3. Consider including collage elements.

I love to collage, so I'm always collecting images, textures, small objects, words, and more. To make it easy to incorporate my findings into my journaling practice, I simply add envelopes to the backs of my journals. This way, anytime I come across something I find interesting, I can put it right into the envelope and it's ready to be added to my art pages. I also enjoy bringing several fun stamps with me when I travel and use these to add layers to my final journal pages.

Add envelopes to the back of your journal!

4. Make a commitment to journal daily.

I realize this sounds easier than it is, but the more you open your art journal, the more consistent your practice will become. Even if you only have time for a quick, two-minute contour line drawing, do it! You won't regret it. Journaling truly is a fuel source for art teachers!

At the end of the summer, I love to go back and see the work I have completed, it becomes a sort of visual journey/documentation of my summer and one I always come back to school with to share with my students.

I also urge my students to keep a visual journal of their own over the summer and bring these back in their advanced courses to share and use for inspiration in some of their project work.



see you as a student, too – always working on your craft and documenting your learning.

5. Share your journals with your students.

I have found over the years that I am a lifelong learner. I take courses, exhibit my work, and seek out like-minded people to connect with. But my favorite thing to do is CREATE and experiment with media. Immersing myself in this thing we call art keeps it real for me. Starting a journaling practice and sharing it with your students can be the start of building profound relationships. They'll

In short, there are so many benefits to journaling.

Find media that makes you feel excited about creating and get started!

You might just be surprised by the amazing results!

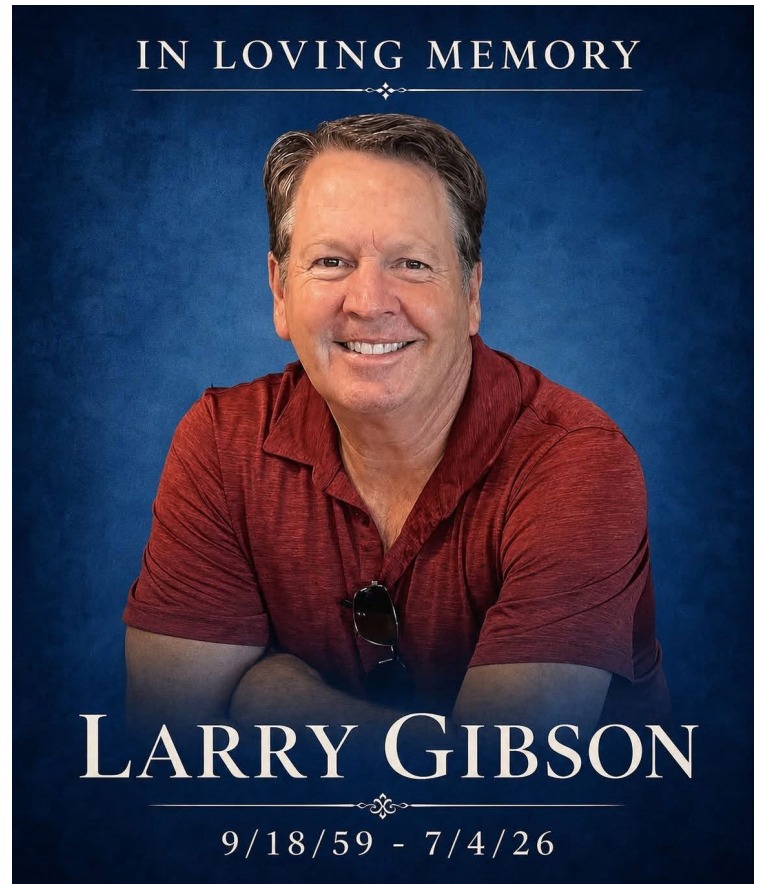
In Memoriam Larry Gibson

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of our friend and colleague Larry Gibson.

He passed away over the 4th of July weekend. Larry was extremely involved in AAEA (Alabama Art Education Association) for over 40 years. He was a 2-time recipient of AAEA Teacher of the Year Award, served on the AAEA board in numerous roles, and most recently joined the retiree club.

Larry was always making art for the families of any friends or colleagues that would pass away. We are hoping to continue his legacy by doing the same for his family. We know so many of you have funny memories with him, stories of him mentoring you, photos of him, etc. We are going to be compiling these into a book for his family.

Any NAEA members who knew Larry, if you will, please comment with a memory and/or a photo you'd like to include in the book. If you could do this by Friday, July 10th, that would be ideal. Please send to Betsy Logan, email: rbjlogan@bellsouth.net We do not have information on his Celebration of Life Service yet, but when we do, will let everyone know. Our goal is to get the book completed by the date of the service.



**He will be well-remembered and missed by all who have known him,
but his legacy will continue.**

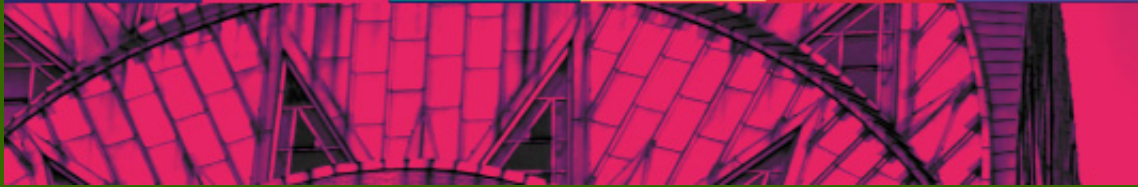
**Larry Gibson,
Thank You for all you have done
for Art Education, NAEA and AAEA.**

NATIONAL ART EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

SAVE THE DATES!

2027 NAEA NATIONAL CONVENTION | MARCH 4-6

 **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.
