EMERITUS | NOVEMBER 2026

RAEA - Retired Art Educators Alliance Interest Group

Artwork by Malcome Potek



From the President

The Gift of Time

As we head into the holiday season and the final months of 2026, I find myself thinking about one of the greatest joys we share, the privilege of calling ourselves art educators.

For so many years, the holidays arrived in the middle of lesson plans, grading, art shows, concerts, classroom celebrations, end-of-semester craziness, while trying desperately to finish one more project before winter break! We loved it (well…most of it!), but there was rarely enough time to

And now, whether you are retired, retired-ish, or somewhere wonderfully in between, perhaps the holidays feel just a little sweeter.

We have been given something incredibly precious: the gift of time.

Time to look back on our art education journeys and celebrate the students we taught, the colleagues who became lifelong friends, and the countless ways our classrooms shaped who we are. But even more importantly, we have time to ask ourselves: What comes next?

In my last President's Report, I wrote about our roles as advocates and mentors in this new chapter of our lives. Retirement doesn't mean our voices become quieter or that our influence ends. Quite the opposite! We carry decades of knowledge, stories, successes, failures, laughter, and lessons learned, and all of that has tremendous value to the next generation of art educators.

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So, as we move toward 2027, I hope you'll think about what advocacy and mentorship might look like for you. Maybe it's mentoring a young teacher, volunteering in your community, becoming more involved with RAEA, sharing your expertise, presenting at a conference, or simply being the person who reminds another art educator that the work they are doing matters.

And perhaps this new chapter also means finally making more time for your own art.

Create simply because you can! Experiment! Play! Take the class! Fill the sketchbook! Make something wonderful and enter it in a show! After spending careers encouraging others to find their creative voices, what a gift it is to have a little more time to listen to our own.

Speaking of what comes next…NYC, here we come!

The upcoming NAEA National Convention in New York City is going to be such a wonderful opportunity to INSPIRE, reconnect, recharge, and celebrate this incredible profession together. New York is always one of the most exciting cities for an art education convention; there is inspiration around every corner!

RAEA has lots of exciting things planned, including our Awards Ceremony and Annual Business Meeting, opportunities to reconnect with old friends and make new ones, and an RAEA table that is going to be an interactive blast! I can't wait to see so many of you there and celebrate everything our RAEA interest group community continues to bring to the NAEA.

As this year winds down, I hope you give yourself permission to slow down a little. Make some art. Spend time with the people you love. Reflect on the incredible journey that brought you here, and dream about what you might do with the next chapter.

Most of all, please know how very thankful I am for all of you, for your friendship, your wisdom, your continued commitment to art education, and for the beautiful community we continue to create together! I truly mean it when I say #togetherweARTbetter

Here's to a joyful holiday season, and all the creative possibilities waiting for us in 2027.

Merry Holidays, my friends!

With gratitude and So Sincerely,

Debi West

RAEA President





Trivia

September Question

Question:

Whose 2006 TED Talk, titled "Do schools kill creativity?", became the most-watched TED Talk of all time and served as a global advocacy catalyst for elevating arts education to the same status as math and science?

Answer:

Sir Ken Robinson

Our Trivia winner is:

Michele Chmielewski

Send answers to Debi West, dewestudio@gmail.com



November Question

Question:

Which American illustrator is credited with creating the modern visual image of Santa Claus, featuring a cheerful, chubby man in a red suit, through a series of holiday advertisements for Coca-Cola in the 1930s?

Congratulations Nancy Walkup!



Congratulations to RAEA Past President **Nancy Walkup** for being chosen by the Michigan Art Education Association (MAEA) for the **2027 Distinguished Service Award**. She will receive the award in December in Detroit, Michigan.

This not the first time Nancy has received an award from another state. In 2019, Nancy became the Tennessee Art Education Association's Friend of TAEA. She is a true advocate for art education.





Barbara Laws

In The Spotlight

2022 NAEA Retired Art Education Alliance Distinguished Service Award
2014 NAEA National Supervision and Administration Art Educator
1988 Marion Quin Dix Leadership Award, NAEA
1986 NAEA National Elementary Art Educator
Past NAEA Southeastern Region Vice President
Past NAEA Supervision and Administration Division Director

Hello everyone! I'm Barbara Laws, art educator for 52 years. I spent 42 years with Norfolk (VA) Public Schools - 18 as an elementary art teacher, 1 as instructional specialist, 8 as elementary assistant principal, and 15 as the district art coordinator. In total, 21 workplaces and 30 "bosses"!

I can't believe that I am in my 11th year of retirement - and a busy time it's been. I'm the VAEA Policy Chair and Distinguished Fellows Chair and the Legislative Liaison and Policy Chair for the Virginia Coalition for Fine Arts Education. Among other things, I track legislation, write position statements, and call for action when there is a bill to support or oppose. It's a collaborative effort among all of the arts associations and other stakeholders. This year we were able advocate for and have passed by the legislature a bill which requires the VA Board of Education to develop guidelines for a high school graduation diploma seal for excellence in the arts. We also helped defeat 2 bills which called for class size increases in 6th grade music ensemble classes. I also serve as a consultant to the VA Department of Education and other agencies and organizations. At the national level, I just rolled off the NAEA Professional Materials Committee after 19 years, serve on the NAEA Advocacy Committee. and am the Distinguished Fellows Membership Chair.



Linda Kieling, Barbara Laws and Debi West



Barbara Laws and Pat Franklin

I am honored to continue to serve and give back to the profession. I've been a member of VAEA/NAEA since 1979 and except for COVID have missed 1 convention since 1980. If it weren't for VAEA and NAEA, I wouldn't have had leadership opportunities in my school system or with other organizations. I'm thankful for my mentors and professional colleagues. I'm also grateful for the friendships developed across the country over the years, some beginning 46 years ago. We love our tribe!

Here in Norfolk, among other things I belong to Monday Club, where we pick an annual topic and write and present related papers. This year's theme was "disruptors", and my paper was on Linda Nochlin and the Guerrilla Girls. I also make books (in 2018 made 1 per week) and this summer finally had my studio gutted and set up again so it's much more usable. Coming up shortly I'll be participating in a local exhibit by Norfolk art teacher retirees called "We're Not Dead Yet".

Gary (to whom I've been married for almost 54 years) and I live in the same house we have for 48 years and travel - sometimes on road trips and sometimes internationally. I appreciate his never-ending support - and willingness to visit art museums wherever we are!



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BIG NEWS! START SAVING ARTWORK FOR THE 2027 RAEA SILENT AUCTION!!

Don't forget to set aside your donations to the RAEA Silent Auction in New York City! Remember, this is the fundraising activity that RAEA uses to raise money for awards and NAEF support.

All RAEA members are invited to donate their personally handmade artwork!

This year we may have space limitations and fewer tables (like last year). We are able to accept the following:

- SMALL items (MAX 9X12 SIZE)
- 2-D artwork includes any framing or matting to a max 9 x 12 size (we do prefer submissions to be at least matted)
- Three-dimensional artwork must also fit in that same footprint.
- ONE SUBMISSION PER DONOR!

This year we are again asking for PRE-REGISTRATION for all donated works. Please fill out the Google Form (http://bit.ly/48JFE6r) by FEBRUARY 18, 2027. If you have any questions email: Kathryn Hillyer kohillyer@gmail.com

The information sheet to accompany any donated pieces is included in this newsletter. Please print it out and attach it to your artwork before you deliver it to the location (explained below). You must ALSO pre-register your piece online by February 18!

Drop Off Options:
If you are not going to NAEA in New York City please find a friend who can bring it for you. The hotel charges a large handling fee for receiving deliveries and we are all flying ourselves.
If you are bringing artwork to NAEA yourself you may drop it off at the RAEA Table in the Interest Group Hub (although this location may change as NAEA has not finalized this), time to be announced later. You may also bring it to the Silent Auction table in the Artisan's Gallery area an hour before the Gallery opens, however we prefer to have it in advance.

NON-PREREGISTERED WORK MIGHT NOT BE ACCEPTED!

We have limited space and may not have room for "walk-up" donations.

We are continuing last year's new feature: **Instant Purchase.** You may set a price for Instant Purchase when you complete your form. Please ALSO set the Minimum Bid price on the form (in case your donation is bid upon rather than instantly purchased). If someone bids the Instant Purchase price, they will receive that item and it will be removed from further bidding. Make sure you fill in that field on the Registration Form so bidders will know the amount if they wish to purchase it outright.

Thank you for your participation, support and understanding our confines at the 2027 Convention.

We hope to see you there!
Diane Scully and Kathryn Hillyer

Questions:
Kathryn Hillyer
kohillyer@gmail.com
847-477-8331

Diane Scully
dscully94@gmail.com
612-834-6881



Kathryn Hillyer



Diane Scully



Please fill out the Google Form (http://bit.ly/48JFE6r) by FEBRUARY 18, 2027.



2027 RAEA Silent Auction
Artist Information

Please print clearly and neatly. Attach this to any artwork you are donating to the Silent Auction, one sheet per artwork. This is in ADDITION to pre-registering your piece at: http://bit.ly/48JFE6r

Artist Name:_____

Artist Phone:_____

Artist Email:_____

Title of Artwork:_____

_____

Medium:_____

Retail Value:_____

Minimum Bid (required, but Instant Purchase option if completed will override this):_____

Instant Purchase Price:_____ (this is an outright purchase of the work, no more bidding will be allowed)

Mini Info Sheet for Bid sheets: Please also complete below. This will be attached to the actual **Bid Sheet, (not included here)** as table space is limited.

RAEA Silent Auction 2027
Artist Information

Artist Name:_____

Artist Phone:_____

Artist Email:_____

Retail Value_____

Minimum Bid_____

Instant Purchase: _____

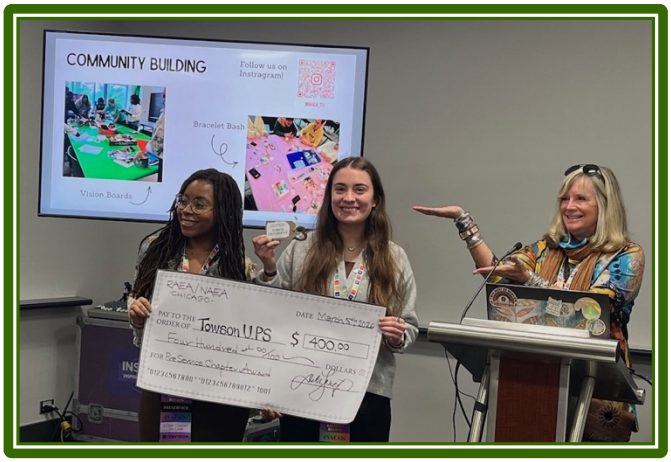
(this cancels all further bidding on this item)

RAEA 2027 Outstanding Preservice Chapter Award (OPCA)

The Retired Art Educators Alliance Interest Group (RAEA) is pleased to announce that the 2027 Outstanding Preservice Chapter Award (OPCA) description, application, and scoring rubric are available at https://www.arteducators.org/2027-raea-outstanding-preservice-chapter-award/ and on the Preservice Division and RAEA links on the NAEA Website.

In recognition of outstanding activities carried out during the year by a Preservice Chapter, the Retired Art Educators Alliance Interest Group (RAEA) annually invites nominations for the Outstanding Preservice Chapter Award, sponsored by the RAEA. The award, to be given annually, honors an outstanding NAEA Preservice Chapter. The RAEA/NAEA presents a certificate and a $400 monetary award to the selected chapter. The award is funded by donations and with proceeds earned from the RAEA Silent Auction, which is usually held each year at the NAEA National Convention's Artisans Gallery. The selected chapter is encouraged to use the funds to help support preservice members who attend the NAEA National Convention or for special projects.

Towson University NAEA Preservice Chapter was the recipient of the RAEA 2026 Outstanding Preservice Chapter Award (OPCA). The Chapter was recognized for its collaboration, community involvement, and professional development. Pictured are Co-Presidents Tia Trawally and Madison Caparella with RAEA President Debi West at the RAEA Awards Ceremony at the NAEA Annual Convention in Chicago. The RAEA/NAEA presented a certificate and a $400 monetary award to the selected chapter.



Eligibility
Must be a registered NAEA Preservice Chapter with NAEA effective through the NAEA National Convention, March 4 - 6, 2027 (annual registration required). *Any active, currently registered preservice chapter *except the chapter that won the previous year** is eligible.

Application
Online only. **The application deadline for the 2027 Award is December 4, 2026.**

The OPCA Award Selection Committee includes an appointed active RAEA member as chair/coordinator, serving without vote; the current Preservice Division Director as an ex-officio member, serving without vote; two (2) active RAEA members appointed by the RAEA President; and the preservice chapter advisor of the previous year's winning chapter, each with a vote (three voting members.)

Please direct questions about the award to Linda Willis Fisher, RAEA Liaison for Preservice Initiatives, at lmwfis@ilstu.edu.

RAEA members: Please encourage preservice chapter members and sponsors in your region or state to apply for the OPCA.



RAEA BOARD 2026

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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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