

# Western Region

Columnists: Kimberly Cairy and Theresa McGee

## Go WEST!! Great news from great states all across the Western Region!

### ARKANSAS

As I write this, it is Teacher Appreciation Week, and I would like to extend all my gratitude for our Arkansas art teachers during this difficult 2020–2021 year and EVERY DAY. YOU ROCKED IT! You taught hybrid, virtual, and traditional classes and glowed while doing it.

Arkansas has been moving and shaking! A virtual spring conference is being planned by our President-Elect, Patricia McCauley: *Survive and Revive* with Sarah Ackermann as our keynote, and art teachers across the state providing tutorial videos. *AAE in the Park*, an outdoor in-person conference focusing on fiber arts, is being planned and executed by our very own Trina Harlow of UCA. We've had an exciting and difficult year, but we survived.

### ILLINOIS

IAEA had a very successful Virtual Southern Illinois Educational Conference, and our Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee continues to create events and professional development. The Collaborating for Excellence program—funded by grants from the NEA, Illinois Arts Council, and Chicago Trust—has more than 65 participants. We are moving forward with our hybrid fall conference.

In September, we have our eyes on the first inception of NAHS/NJAHS Leadership Art Conference.

### INDIANA

AEAI is working on goals and objectives set forth at our board meeting to grow membership and promote advocacy throughout the state. Our YAM Showcase was held at the Indiana Statehouse with a virtual celebration this year. A big shout-out to our YAM coordinator, Esmeralda Schill, for an outstanding job in making this event a success. Our upcoming Fall AEAI Convention will be held in Noblesville at Guerin Catholic High School, October 23–24. We are looking forward to 2 art-filled days with a great keynote speaker and workshops.

### SOUTH DAKOTA

SDAEA hosted our first ever state Art Wars competition in conjunction with our state art competition in March. The event was for students that had won their regional competitions this year. The regional competitions ended up looking a little different than normal, with one being on-site and the other being virtual, but fun was had by all. We are looking forward to being able to host more regional competitions next year and have more students compete at the state level.

We are also in the process of arranging our state convention, in person next year, with the University of South Dakota in

Vermillion. The dates and workshops are yet to be finalized, but we are very excited to finally be putting our art family together again this year.

### TEXAS

Texas is planning for an in-person conference for November. VASE and YAM were both held virtually. However, this year, 13 pieces of student YAM art for the Governor's Ten will hang in the Capitol with a Governor's Mansion garden party reception in June.

TAEA members worked hard advocating to thwart a proposed bill that would take away our guaranteed fine arts graduation credit—a negative impact on art education. Twenty fine arts advocates, including art teachers, showed up at the hearing to testify against HB 434.

### WISCONSIN

This fall, WAEA is going back to Wausau for our fall conference! We are excited to share our keynote speakers, Nils Heymann and Daniel Bryant (Art Virtue) who both embody this year's theme: Art and Soul. This year's conference is one you won't want to miss out on!

### WESTERN REGION

We held our 2021 NAEA Western Region Summer Leadership Meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, June 22–25. We had 45 participants representing 14 Western Region states. Guests included Thom Knab, NAEA Past President; and Nancy Walkup, Davis Publications. We thank Carrie Barnett, Laura Tawil, and the Ohio Art Education Association for hosting us. We will be in Utah for NAEA Summer Leadership in 2023!

It is an exciting time of the year to be an art educator. We hope your summer provided you the opportunity to refresh, relax, renew, and rejuvenate yourself for the art education adventures that await you this school year! Go WEST!! ■



Left: Western Region Summer Conference cochairs, OAEA members Carrie Barnett and Laura Tawil. Center: Students competing at the state Art Wars competition. Right: AEAI Advocacy Chair Clyde Gaw hanging artwork at the Indiana Statehouse for the 2021 YAM Showcase.



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