

NAEA Pacific Region

As much as I enjoyed my immersion and experiences on the state executive board of the Idaho Art Education Association, this past year and a half on the NAEA Executive Board as Vice President of the Pacific Region has also been a rewarding experience.

The Pacific Region currently represents art educators from Alaska, Arizona, British Columbia, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. We hope someday to include leaders from Alberta, American Samoa, Guam, and Yukon Territory. (If you know art educators in those four areas, please send them my way!) We would love to have all areas represented and involved.

It is an invigorating experience to connect with art educators from all over one's state/province through conference and workshop networking, but as you know, meeting art educators from all over the United States and globally via involvement in membership and leadership with NAEA takes it to a whole new level. Leadership with the Idaho Art Education Association sent me to three National Leadership Conferences, three Pacific Region Leadership conferences, and multiple NAEA Conventions, where 4,000

to 5,000 art educators gather for days of professional development, keynotes, and a vendor hall that is an event in its own right. If you haven't experienced a face-to-face NAEA Convention, make sure to put one on your radar. Next year is NAEA's 75th anniversary, and the Convention is going to be in the Big Apple—New York City!

You might think that you are not ready or qualified to be on a state/province or national board, but part of doing it is growing professionally and challenging yourself to learn new things and communicate better. I am still learning! We are looking for nominations for people to be our Pacific Region Vice President—Elect and work with Robyn MacNair, our incoming VP, starting in March 2022. Don't be shy—you get on-the-ground training as an Elect, and you can connect with all our fine educators across the region.

The Regional Vice Presidents:

- Preside over the region
- Reach out to all Division members in the Region
- Plan and preside over Delegates Assembly
- Organize and chair NAEA Regional Leadership Conferences

It also would be great to get more people from the Pacific Region on the NAEA Board as Division Directors. www.arteducators.org/community/divisions

AND are you aware that there are a plethora of Interest Groups through NAEA with free or low-cost membership that you can add to your NAEA dues when you renew. This year when I renewed, I joined a variety of them. www.arteducators.org/community/interest-groups

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Joining Interest Groups is a great way to meet others and gain knowledge in a specific focus area. Definitely check it out!

One fab thing coming out of these recent upside-down teaching years has been the opportunity to connect more with other associations' conferences and workshops virtually. I am glad to be part of the amazing events the Pacific Region and NAEA have offered virtually. Art educators are the most resilient, creative, and innovative group I can think of! No pandemic is going to knock them down or stop the creative processing! The [VIRTUAL] 2021 NAEA Convention had more than 6,500 attendees! OH YEAH! Art teachers got GRIT!

This summer at the biannual Pacific Region Leadership Conference, we met virtually due to navigating safe logistics and distances. We had an amazing time hearing about what other Pacific Region state and province associations have been implementing, as well as their challenges. We learned about cultivating cultural competency, leadership, and advocacy. We created art postcards for each other (shout-outs to Blick and Nasco for assisting with supplies), engaged with SAL alumni leaders, were supported by NAEA staff and leadership, and had a wonderful mindfulness session presented by Davis. BE PACIFIC! ■



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