



# Interest Group Retired Art Educators Affiliate (RAEA)

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<http://www.arteducators.org/community/articles/73-retired-art-educators-affiliate-raea>

Check out our e-bulletin: <http://www.arteducators.org/search?q=raea+e-bulletin>

The RAEA e-bulletin is coedited by Flowerree McDonough, Tennessee, and Donna Anderson, Tennessee.

Hi all! I don't know about you, but this year has just zoomed by! I hope that you are making plans to attend the NAEA National Convention in New York, March 3-5, 2022! We are looking forward to resuming our silent auction. More information about this will be in the next e-bulletin, so check it out.

Retired art educators are doing remarkable things, and I would like to spotlight the Washington Art Education Association (WAEA) and Pennsylvania Art Education Association (PAEA) retired educators. WAEA has an active and vibrant group of retired members. Cheyenne Gillett, WAEA Co-President and *Splatter* editor, and AnnRene' Joseph, WAEA Retired Division Representative, sent the following:

Greetings from the Washington Art Education Association Retirees Division. We are regularly active and provide a myriad of services for our state regarding art education. Activities include a Retired Division Representative on the WAEA Board, a retiree survey and featured retirees, and writing articles for the WAEA quarterly *Splatter* magazine. WAEA retirees assist with leadership on other WAEA committees, such as Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI); annual state and national conference presentations; and attendance. They lead monthly professional development workshops, mentor new members, organize and coordinate the annual scholarship fund via a silent auction at the state conference, and assist with a reception and awards presentation at the state education agency's annual Superintendent's High School Art Show. They also assist with annual regional educational service district art shows. Our retirees are visual artists in their avocations, creating artworks in every form; managing businesses in their art form of choice; exhibiting their artworks in local, regional, state, and national exhibits; volunteering in their area schools, districts, and art galleries; and supervising

preservice and graduate students at colleges and universities. WAEA retirees serve on committees for art education in their districts and at the state and national levels, providing priceless institutional knowledge from personal experience. Wow, how awesome is that!

Pennsylvania retired art educators are also very active. Kris Fontes, PAEA Retired Division Director, said they have about 50 members and hold monthly Zoom meetings. During these meetings, they focus on issues facing art educators. They have hosted a student teacher and her cooperating teacher, who shared what it was like to teach during the pandemic. It was amazing to hear how they were able to follow all the health protocols and still teach meaningful lessons. Kris said it was an eye-opening experience. PAEA Historian Amy Anderson joined them for one meeting. She was gathering information about past events and initiatives. Many members of the Retired Division are past presidents of PAEA, and they have lots of archival information to share. Another guest was the fine arts education consultant for the Pennsylvania Department of Education, who shared current trends in education and the state of art education programs.

At one meeting, they created hexagons for the Hexagon Project, which is chaired by retired PAEA member Beth Burkhauser. The PAEA Retired Division has plans to create a registry of retired members willing to be mentors, assistants, and membership sponsors. It will be used as a resource for art ed-

ucators. They want to create mini-videos about their personal artmaking and make them available to art teachers via Zoom. They may even Zoom in to classrooms as virtual resident artists. Since 2016, they have given 1st-year professionals a PAEA embroidered padfolio—a wonderful program that was originally funded by the Retired Division and is now funded by PAEA. They also sponsored the second annual Peep Contest last spring! There were 168 amazing entries. Cash prizes were awarded, and retired members served as judges. Check these out on the PAEA Facebook page! So you can see, as PAEA member Meg Barney says, "We are retired, not expired!" Gotta love it! Until next time, stay safe!! ■



Top: Kris Fontes. Bottom: WAEA Retired Educators Collage Photos 2021.

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