



RETIRED ART EDUCATORS ISSUES GROUP

RAEA MISSION:

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;

To encourage and support, as well as provide mentorship for, student members of the NAEA.

RAEA

SEPTEMBER
E-BULLETIN
2016

From the President

LINDA
WILLIS
FISHER

ILLINOIS

Greetings!

I hope you had a wonderful summer and that you will take advantage of the many opportunities that the autumn season has to offer.

I am looking forward to the next few months filled with arts experiences. I will be involved in a Fundraiser for the McLean County Arts Center and will seek out arts related experiences including symphony concerts, plays, and visual art exhibitions in the community. I am on the planning committee for the 2016 Illinois Art Education Association (IAEA) Conference, ***Redefining Extraordinary***, to be held November 3 - 5 at the Marriott Hotel and Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois. I'm especially pleased to be involved since the conference is being held in the community in which I live. Several retired members hold leadership roles in IAEA and/or will give presentations at the conference. The Illinois Retired Art Educators (IREA) will meet as a group during the conference.

I encourage you to attend your state's art education conference. Consider what you can do to be involved in your state's art education association.

**Save the Date!! 2017 NAEA National Convention,
March 2 – 4, 2017, New York, NY**



NEWS FROM THE STATES

“Keep the Arts Afloat”

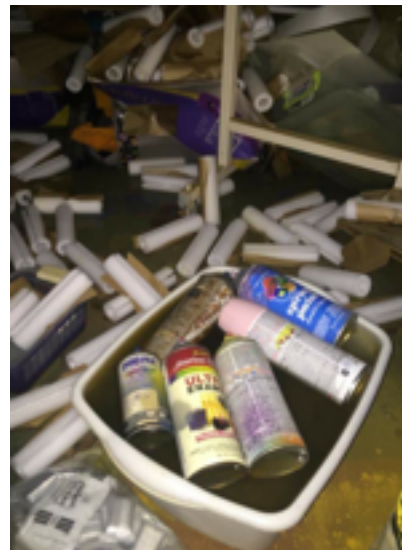
Beverly Crow is a newly retired teacher in North Carolina after a grand total of 33 years of teaching. Prior to becoming a teacher in North Carolina she lived in Louisiana and served as President of the Louisiana Art Education Association.

Being retired doesn't make you forget where you're from or what art educators and art education are all about. She has stayed in touch with members of LAEA and is very concerned about those who have been affected by the recent flooding in parts of Louisiana. Many have lost everything in their classrooms. Beverly sent these not so fun facts, that have been pieced together, to the Bulletin editors about Southern Louisiana. In the time period of Aug 12 - 14, it was estimated that four trillion gallons of rain fell on Southern Louisiana and 265,000 Louisiana students are home due to flooded schools.

BEVERLY
CROW

NORTH
CAROLINA

Thousands of teachers and school district employees have been displaced by the flood. Beverly says, “I think everyone down there is so busy no one has created a whole report. The information I have is from communication with individuals. The flooding was as far east and north as Hammond, Baton Rouge, Denham Springs, and Lafayette.”



Beverly sent the following link where there is a gallery of aerial photos you can step through on the page:

http://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/multimedia/photos/collection_75d2e660-6186-11e6-abeb-ffe940937355.html#5

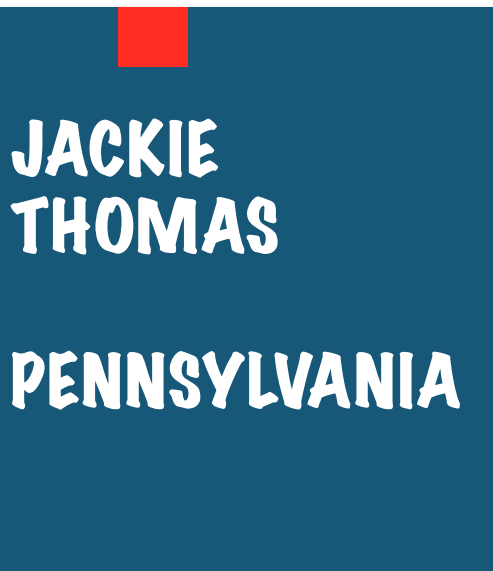
(use the arrows in the upper right corner of the picture box)

Margaret Holt, current President of LAEA, says in a note to Beverly: “I really appreciate your efforts for the LA art teachers who were flooded. Even if the school had flood insurance, which most don’t, these teachers have nothing to teach with when the schools do reopen. You are generous to get the ball rolling. Right now everyone is just stunned! We are working to set up donations with a major catalog supplier to offer help to the teachers in need.”

Editor’s Note: From the Louisiana Art Education Association website:

“Just two short weeks ago, as teachers were setting up their classrooms and preparing to welcome students back to school, the rains came. Areas of South Louisiana that are normally high and dry flooded. Homes were ruined, cars were flooded, and those carefully staged classrooms were totally destroyed. Many classrooms had 3 – 6 feet of water in them. Most classrooms will be nearly gutted. Supplies that art teachers had collected over the years were collecting mold. These teachers have nothing. They are our friends and colleagues, and our hearts go out to them.”

How can we help? Our friend Kris Bakke with NASCO has set up a web site called “It Takes a Community,” where teachers affected by the flooding in their classrooms can register to accept donations. When a donation is made, NASCO will send that teacher a gift card, in the donation amount, to spend on replenishing the supplies that were lost. “



Jackie Thomas has been appointed Chair of the Arts & Humanities Jury for Delta Kappa Gamma International (an organization of women educators: <https://www.dkg.org/>). She served from 2014-16 on the Jury and will continue on the Jury 2016-18 as Chair.

Illinois Retired Art Educators 2016 Summer Retreat

Members of the Illinois Retired Educators group of the Illinois Art Education Association spent two days in Michigan July 23 - 24 visiting the farm and studio of IRAE member David Knoebber.

Dave is a long-standing IAEA member, and is also an accomplished watercolorist. He designed his “Art Loft Studio” on the grounds of his family farm in New Buffalo, Michigan where he spends his summers creating his watercolor paintings. The farm dates back to 1926, and it is literally on the border between Indiana and Michigan. In addition to the studio space that houses a demo and sales area on the ground floor and a studio space on the second floor, Dave planted extensive gardens near the Loft where he grows the flowers that are used for the images in his paintings. The group also enjoyed learning about the history of the farm and New Buffalo area through photos in Dave’s house and displays on the walls of his studio.

Saturday evening, the group drove into nearby Three Oaks, Michigan to see the acclaimed production of “Broadway Blitz” at the Acorn Theater. Dave is on the Board of Directors of the Theater, and he recommended this performance by the Harbor Country Opera Singers. The ensemble of talented singers and

pianist shared highlights from Broadway productions, including Oklahoma, West Side Story and Carousel. The production was accompanied by dramatic summer storms and lightning that lit the evening sky and provided “natural” sound effects in addition to the music inside the theater. Sunday morning, the group gathered for breakfast at “David’s”, a wonderful café and bakery in New Buffalo (no relation to our David!) that has lines stretching out the door as people come from all over the area to enjoy the delicious food and laid-back atmosphere. A great way to end a fun and inspiring weekend!

IAEA Participants: Host and Artist: David Knoebber. Attendees: Judy Doeblner, Nancy Staszak, Becky Blaine

BECKY
BLAINE

ILLINOIS



The photos are of David Knoebber's hands and of him painting at his farm and studio.



**LYNN
CONYERS
VIRGINIA**

NEW WORK: Strokes of Distinction.

The show was a community project that was designed to partner an artist with a stroke survivor. I chose to work with my brother, Shelby Hilton Jr. who suffered a stroke two years ago. I usually work in ceramics, but had started a cut paper piece at a Blue Ridge Region Virginia Art Education Asst. retreat for art teachers. I became so enthralled by the process, that I came home, added two more panels to the first and finished the triptych that is called Transitions. If you look closely, you will see life as normal in the first panel, the stroke tearing it apart in the second, and a new life being born in the third panel.



Verle Mickish
September 27, 1928 - July 14, 2016

**IN
MEMORIAM**

**VERLE
MICKISH**

GEORGIA

Editor's Note: Many thanks to Dan DeFoor, Debi West, and Deborah Wilson for their assistance in providing material for this tribute to Verle.

Verle Mickish was born in 1928 in Greeley, where he realized every young man's dream by growing up in a sorority house operated by his parents Leonard and Edith Mickish.

Verle excelled in drawing and painting as a child and took his first college art class at the age of 15. He received his BA degree in art education from Colorado State College of Education, where he was editor of the 1950 Cache La Poudre annual. That summer, he went to Los Angeles as a singer and drew one-minute caricatures of house guests on KTTV. Due to the Korean Conflict, he returned to Greeley to finish his senior year. During his draft interview, he decided to join the U.S. Marine Corps and was assigned to the General's Headquarters Squadron as a USMC artist.

Verle received his MA from CSCE while teaching on a fellowship at College High and at CSCE during summer sessions. In 1955, he married a coed at CSCE, Ginny Johnson.

After leaving CSCE, Verle attended Art Center School in Los Angeles and taught art in Cheyenne, Wyo., and Boulder Valley Schools, where he became art coordinator in 1959.

In 1970, Verle received his doctorate in art education from Arizona State University and joined the art faculty at Georgia State University as Dr. Mickish in 1971. During the 25 years that he served as a professor and administrator at GSU, he was a highly respected and nationally known art educator, active artist, published illustrator and cartoonist, workshop presenter and book author. He was awarded the Distinguished Georgia Educator from the National Art Education Association and Distinguished Fellow and NAEA Art Educator of the Year in 1983. He was also honored by President Jimmy Carter in a White House Ceremony for Cultural Arts work in Brazil.

Verle retired from GSU in 1996 as a professor emeritus and continued to create professionally published cartoons and art.

He is survived by his wife, Ginny; daughter, Val; grandchildren, Cynn timer and Zeke Paull; and great-grandchild, Freya Graves.

The 1974 state GAEA Conference (the 4th state conference to be organized) was held at Georgia State College in Atlanta and was organized by Dr. Verle Mickish and Dr. Dennis White. Over 200 people attended. The main goal of the conference was fellowship with other art teachers.

1979-81 GAEA President

1981 GAEA Art Educator of the Year

1983 NAEA National Art Educator of the Year

1987 NAEA Southeastern Higher Education Art Educator of the Year

1989 GAEA Distinguished Service Inside the Profession Award (with Bob Nix, Bob Owens and Bob Clements)

1993 NAEA Distinguished Fellow

1998 GAEA Art Educator of the Year

2002 NAEA Distinguished Service Award

2002 GAEA instituted the Mickish/Nix Lifetime Achievement Award named in his and Bob Nix' honor

2006 NAEA Retired Art Educator of the Year

2014 Honored guest at GAEA 40th Anniversary Party at Macon Conference

Dan Defoor: “I am here today to talk about a warrior. Now, of course, Verle Mickish was a warrior in the traditional sense, for, after growing up in the college sorority house his parents managed, which most certainly must have made him the luckiest boy in Greeley, Colorado, Verle became a leatherneck marine. Even the marines recognized Verle’s artistic skills, as they made him a combat artist assigned to the general’s headquarters staff.

But I want to talk to you today about the many other ways Verle demonstrated the heart and spirit of a warrior. First of all, Verle had a warrior’s tenacity. Despite suffering from childhood polio, he ignored the doctors’ diagnosis that he would never walk again. Through determination, effort, and pure stubbornness, he proved his doctors wrong. His physical strength became legendary to all his Georgia State University students and professional colleagues who witnessed him climbing onto a table to demonstrate one-handed push-ups.

That strength and determination continued to age 87, when I was helping him take down an exhibit and he was working rings around me. And he drew on the same strength and determination when he developed macular degeneration. While some might consider this blinding disease a cruel joke on an artist, Verle took it as a challenge to find new materials, tools, and techniques to continue making art. The staff at Emory Eye Clinic always eagerly awaited the new cartoons, painstakingly drawn with the help of a magnifying glass, that he would bring to each of his monthly appointments. Showing the disease who was boss, Verle took inspiration from Henri Matisse, an artist who also adapted his techniques to overcome physical impairments. He transformed his work, which was always noted for its fine details, into new compositions of huge patterns of color and texture.

Verle was also a warrior for art education. Through his twenty-five year career at Georgia State University, his more than eight hundred workshops and demonstrations, his professional journal articles, his leadership of the Georgia and National Art Education Associations, Verle became a pillar of art education in Georgia and a national treasure. In fact, his influence in art education has been so profound that **Debi West, past president of the Georgia Art Education Association and member of the National Art Education Association Board of Directors**, is going to come share some memories of Verle’s work and relationships in those associations."

Debi West: “Where to begin...I thought long and hard about what to say today, and I decided that I would write a note about my dear friend summarizing all that he encompassed, achieved and passed on during his long and amazing life.

Dear Verle and Friends,

It’s difficult to summarize the brilliant and beautiful life of our friend Dr. Verle Mickish.

To begin, he was our art teacher hero! There’s no better way to describe him - He was a mentor, a leader, a visionary, a father, a husband and he was everyone’s friend... in the truest sense of the word. When Verle committed to something, he committed fully and deeply – Verle didn’t know a stranger.

1 John 4:7, Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

Verle was a founding father of the Georgia Art Education Association and helped to raise money not only for the GAEA but for the NAEA. In 1974 Verle and his colleague Dennis White coordinated the state’s 4th conference with the intention of bringing every art educator in the state together to learn, smile and inspire one another. Over 200 art educators attended this conference and the GAEA became a sealed and bonded family from this point on...Because that’s who Verle was, he was a teaching, smiling, inspiring presence that changed the way people thought about the art of pedagogy...and the art of collaboration and team work.

Proverb 27:17 , As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

Of course Verle was one of our most vibrant and creative GAEA Presidents, presiding over the organization from 1979-1981. During my Presidency, 2003-2008, I spoke with Verle often as he continued to mentor me, inspire me and teach me what great authentic leadership looked like. I am forever grateful for his never ending belief in me.

Of course Verle was elected GAEA Art Educator of the Year in 1981, and then the NATIONAL Art Educator of the year in 1983 – because he was seriously THAT GOOD! In 1987 he was elected NAEA Southeastern Higher Education Art Educator of the Year and in 1989 he received the GAEA Distinguished Service inside the profession award with Bob Nix, Bob Owens and Bob Clements. In 1993 he was recognized with the distinct honor of becoming an NAEA Fellow and not sure what took so long, but in 1998 he was again selected as the state art Educator of the Year! In 2002 Verle received the National Distinguished Service award and that was the year we in the GAEA decided to establish the Mickish/Nix Lifetime Achievement award, the highest honor an art educator can receive! I still remember Verle receiving this recognition and doing his one armed push-ups because he was also the life of the pARTy...always smiling...always seeing the positive...always pushing for quality art education programs for every child in the state and in the nation and applauding the teachers who worked tirelessly for these children.

In 2006 Verle received the NAEA Retired Art Educator of the year award, but we all still find this to be funny because although Verle was retired on paper, Verle never really retired – Verle remained a strong voice in art education in Georgia and in the Nation. He came to visit me and my students several times and every time, he inspired and encouraged us to all reach for the stars and be the best we can be every single day, every single moment.

In 2014, the GAEA celebrated her 40th anniversary and of course Verle was there to tell his stories, to make us all smile and laugh – and our past president's Dr. Bruce Little and Dr. Tom Cato even presented our Verle with a poster of him making money years back for the arts in GA by auctioning, well, his pants!

Oh Verle Mickish – although the later years became challenging with your eye sight, you never stopped SEEING! You saw the beauty in everything and in every one. You were the eyes to all that is GREAT in art education in Georgia...you believed in art education, you believed in US, your friends and colleagues...and your light will continue to shine brightly within the GAEA.

I will end with the story of my magnet bracelet wrap that you gave to me in 2006. I have held tightly to this beautiful gift because I see the analogy of the magnets and the wrap – you, my friend, were the most awesome magnet I have ever met. You held art education together, you attracted the best of the best and you reminded us that we all need to stick together, no matter what. To this day, our hearts are forever wrapped in your unconditional love of all that is good, and pure and happy!

Proverb 3-5:6, Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding – in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path...

I'm so blessed that Verle was on my path for the past 25 years!

We love you Verle Mickish!

So Sincerely,

Your Art Education Family – GAEA/NAEA”

Dan DeFoor: “There are times when a warrior must know how to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat. Verle was once in charge of a silent auction fundraiser. Upon returning to his hotel room to prepare for the auction, he discovered that the auction items had been stolen. He had nothing for the fundraiser and had to decide what to do, so he put on all the clothes in his suitcase. He layered on shirts and coats and so forth and then auctioned them off – basically a strip tease. The auction progressed and the money was rolling in. Verle was down to nothing but a bathing suit and a pair of socks, and he said, “We really can’t go any further,” but the bids kept going up. Finally, his dignity was saved in the nick of time when he was told that the fundraiser goal had been met.

As I mentioned earlier, Verle had a warrior’s heart, and I think that aspect of his personality has meant the most to me in the many years that he served as my role model. First and most importantly, for over sixty years he and Ginny forged a marriage that was an equal partnership of mutual love and respect, one which has served as a shining example to my wife Mary and me. As Verle’s former student, I know the truths I have gained from him have shaped my life, and I know that there are many of you here who can say the same. Verle not only taught me to be a better art teacher; he taught me to extend my vision, to push my boundaries, and to find fulfillment in serving others.

Eleven years ago when GAEA celebrated its thirtieth anniversary, I was honored to sing and dedicate a song to Verle as one of the fathers of the Georgia Art Education Association. Because that song captures a hint of Verle’s influence in my life, I’d like to sing it one more time for him.

*When I am down and, o my soul, so weary,
When troubles come and my heart burdened be,
Then I am still and wait here in the silence
Until you come and sit a while with me.
You raise me up so I can stand on mountains,
You raise me up to walk on stormy seas.
I am strong when I am on your shoulders;
You raise me up to more than I can be.
There is no life, no life without its hunger;
Each restless heart beats so imperfectly,
But when you come and I am filled with wonder,
Sometimes I think I glimpse eternity.
You raise me up so I can stand on mountains,
You raise me up to walk on stormy seas.
I am strong when I am on your shoulders;
You raise me up to more than I can be.”*



ITEMS IN NEED OF ACTION

COMMIT TO RAEA

COMMIT to exhibiting in the RAEA Members E-Gallery. When submitting work please include YOUR NAME AND STATE, THE TITLE OF THE WORK, THE MEDIUM AND SIZE, AND A SHORT DESCRIPTIVE COMMENT. HELP MAKE THE E-GALLERY A SUCCESS.

COMMIT to keeping us updated on member news; changes in RAEA State/Province leadership, gallery exhibits, milestones, deaths.

COMMIT to creating new opportunities for yourself and those around you!

YOU ARE THE RAEA!!! DO YOUR PART TO MAKE THE RAEA A VITAL ISSUES GROUP OF THE NAEA!

SEND Dean Johns the name and contact information of your state/province representative.

COMMIT to informing the editors of subjects you would like to see addressed.

COMMIT to contributing an article for inclusion in the E-Bulletin.

COMMIT to contributing artwork and/or sponsoring an auction table for the RAEA Silent Auction at the NAEA Convention (the only revenue source for RAEA).

DEADLINE FOR ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE E-BULLETIN IS THE 15TH OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION: DECEMBER 15 FOR JANUARY, FEBRUARY 15 FOR MARCH, APRIL 15 FOR MAY, JUNE 15 FOR JULY, AUGUST 15 FOR SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER 15 FOR NOVEMBER.

NEXT DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 15



THE RAEA E-BULLETIN IS SENT ELECTRONICALLY TO CURRENT MEMBERS OF NAEA WHOSE MEMBERSHIP DESIGNATION IS “RETIRED” AND WHO HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS ON FILE WITH NAEA. IT IS PUBLISHED IN MONTHS WHEN THERE IS NOT AN NAEA NEWS. SPECIAL ISSUES ARE PUBLISHED AS NEED ARISES.

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JOIN US AT NAEA IN NEW YORK, NEW YORK
MARCH 2-4, 2017

THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE