

VIRGINIA ART
EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION

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VIRGINIA
ART
EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER



WINTER 2006



VIRGINIA ART EDUCATION ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2006



The New Executive Board 2006-2008

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WINTER 2006

VAEA Announces Winners

Congratulations to the following art educators recognized at the VAEA Fall Professional Development Conference on November 5:

State Winners:

Virginia Art Educator of the Year
Cherry Gardner

Distinguished Service Award
Kathy Barclay

Vendor of the Year Award
Blick Art Materials

Retired Art Teacher of the Year
Jerry Tompkins

VAEA Supervisor of the Year
Pat Franklin

VAEA Elementary
Art Teacher of the Year
Jennifer Shamy

VAEA Middle School
Art Teacher of the Year
Kirstie Hein-Sadler

VAEA Secondary
Art Teacher of the Year
Mary Scurlock

Regional Winners

Elementary:
Nina Burke, Heather Staton, Jenny Shamy

Middle School:
Cheryl Crane, Karen Giouard,
Kirstie Hein-Sadler, Pam Rose

Secondary:
Jean Giacalone, Jessica Layman, Mary
Scurlock, Diane Wood



Lauren Albee, Gr.10, Art 3, Deep Run H.S., Henrico Co. Art Teacher: Mike Guyer

Cherry Gardner Selected VAEA Art Educator of the Year

In the words of Susan Hubble as she presented VAEA's top award: I am here today to present the Art Educator of the Year Award on behalf of the Virginia Art Education Association. It is with great excitement that I have been asked, as last year's recipient, to make this announcement!

We believe this year's recipient has been on the board longer than any other member in the history of the organization. This is due to the fact that we believe she is irreplaceable! Over the years, she has kept us informed on the latest trends in art education, leading us through numerous and various goals and activities.

This unique board member is an educator without a classroom. In fact, we are all her students as she educates us about our own chosen profession of art education. She has literally produced an art educator, who is currently employed in the Loudoun County Public School system.

Whether the subject is SOLs, SOQs, advocacy or hearings, this lady can handle any topic from A to Z. Or should I say, statewide student art exhibits to reindeer and peanuts on the Capital Christmas Tree?

I am sure that by now, you have all figured out who we are about to applaud. And I am sure you will agree with me when I say, "Life would be better if we had a bowl full of Cherries!"

I am so happy to present the VAEA Art Educator of the Year Award to Cheryl "Cherry" Gardner!

Editors note: Cherry is the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) liaison to the VAEA board and has served on the board for 26.5 years, including two terms as president and one as vice-president of the Northern Virginia Art Education Association. Her daughter is Cheryl Denee Gardner, elementary visual arts specialist, John W. Tolbert Jr. Elementary, Loudoun County Public Schools



Cherry Gardner accepts award from Susan Hubble.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Anne Wolcott with incoming President and VAEA Art Supervisor of the Year Winner, Pat Franklin

Learning Through Art

by Anne Wolcott

Four years ago Sharon and I were brainstorming slogans for the upcoming VAEA conferences. At the time I was starting my tenure as the vice-president of VAEA. Little did I realize what the slogan, **Learning Through Art**, would mean to me in the years I served as vice-president and president. Learning through art was my focus in curriculum development as well as at the professional conferences. At each conference and board meeting I learned a little more about art education and people. Little did I realize that learning would come from and through friends, colleagues, educators and other administrators. I have cherished this time to learn and grow from each and every one of you that have been involved in VAEA as well as in art education.

Many state organizations have people working to promote art education, but VAEA has great people who dedicate their time, expertise and efforts to make us one of the best state organizations. I want to thank each of you who have volunteered your time to serve on the board and committees to make our organization a growing success. In my quest for learning, two people have helped pave the way: **Sharon Clohessy** for guiding my learning through each conference and for making learning through art a success at each conference, and **Betty Tisinger**, for guiding my learning through art beginning with my student career at VCU until she retired in 2005. Thank you.

To those of you whose awards reflect learning through art at its best:

Distinguished Service Award, **Kathy Barclay**, Virginia Art Educator of the Year, **Cherry Gardner**; Retired Art teacher of the Year, **Jerry Tompkins**; ATY-supervision, **Pat Franklin**; Elementary Art Teacher of the Year, **Jennifer Shamy**; Middle School Art Teacher of the Year, **Kirstie Hein-Sadler**; High School Art Teacher of the Year, **Mary Scurlock**. Thank you.

Don't forget that teaching art is a vital part of any curriculum and learning through art is one way to achieve success for students and teachers in school as well as in life. Please keep the discussions of Learning Through Art on-going.

Regional Nomination Process to Begin Soon

By Ron Fabin

As you may or may not know, elections in the VAEA are conducted every year, alternating between the State and Regional elected offices. State Officers were elected this year.

In 2006, Regional Presidents of the VAEA will lead their members in the election of new officers for their region. It is not too early to begin the nomination process. Start talking about whom you recognize as leaders in your area. Ask them if they would accept a nomination for Regional President, Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer. Submit their name to your current regional officers. Please consider running for an office yourself! Don't hesitate to tell someone if you are interested in running! The Association needs to hear from people like you! In making nominations, please understand the state board requests you do not run with someone as a "Co-officer," such as a Co-President. We ask that Regional Offices imitate those of the State Board. Regional Officers will accept nominations through the spring of 2006. Watch your newsletters and website for deadlines relating to the election process.

The names of the Nominees will appear on regional ballots that will be mailed to you in the summer. If a person runs unopposed for an office, there will be a blank on the ballot below their name for a write-in vote. This allows for a choice in the election. A voter may write in the name of an alternate member if he/she chooses.

Ballots may be mailed through the summer with a deadline to be announced and results will be announced in the autumn. I know for a fact that there are many great leaders in our association and encourage you to step up to the plate on this occasion! We can use your help and this is an opportunity for you to take action. Please contact any current or past officer to ask questions if needed. The VAEA is what we make it.

This is also a good a time as ever to nominate members you recognize as outstanding educators for the Teacher of the Year Awards. There are so many great teachers that are passed by each year in various regions. Please take a moment to nominate your choices right now. Give them the attention they deserve. Nomination forms are available in newsletters and on-line.

Writing this newsletter is my last official duty after nine years on the Board. I would like to thank everyone that has tolerated me over the years. It has been a pleasure to work with all of you and to meet so many of you. I can't encourage you enough to get involved in the association. I have learned so much and grown in my profession. The friends I have met over the years are irreplaceable and unforgettable. I could not leave the board in better hands! I look forward to seeing you in 2006!



January 15, 2006	Southwest Region, Online Class starts
February 2006	Blue Ridge Region Educator as Artist Exhibit Waynesboro
February 11, 2006	Tidewater Region Winter Workshop Old Dominion University, Norfolk
	Central Region Mini-Conference St. Catherine's School, Richmond
February 26-April 8	Central Region Educator as Artist Exhibit St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Richmond
March 1, 2006	Central Region YAM Exhibit Sun Trust Bank, Richmond
March 2006	Southwest Region YAM Show Jefferson Center, Roanoke Co.
March 22-26, 2006	NAEA Conference Chicago, IL
May 2006	Blue Ridge Region Orkney Springs Workshop JMU Workshop Day
May 5-6, 2006	Central Region Retreat/Raku Firing Camp Piankatank
June 26-30, 2006	Teaching Academy at JMU "Contemporary Issues in Art Education"
March 14-18, 2007	NAEA Conference New York, NY



Ann Vernon, Keynote Speaker

Conference 2005



Sharon Clohessy, VAEA Vice-President, Peggy Wood, Executive Secretary, and Sid Ames, Conference Coordinator

Conference 2005 by Sharon Clohessy

I hope you enjoyed our professional conference in Williamsburg this past fall. For the past four years I have worked hard to provide you with interesting and innovative seminars and hands on workshops. My goal has always been to carry our members into the 21st century where the art world, art education, and our students are constantly changing. We must be open to these changes and be willing to take risks just as we ask our students to do. Don't settle for that same old lesson because you have done it that way for so many years and it feels comfortable. I'm not saying to throw that favorite lesson away but ask yourself "What do I want my students to learn?" Yes, perspective, elements of design, and color mixing are important technical skills, but what can I connect that art knowledge to that will give it more depth, meaning, and importance? I believe in the big ideas of humans and nature, conflict, identity, power, relationships. For my students, art makes connections to the real world and their personal lives.



Susan Lamson and Alyssa Johnson worked long hours at the Registration table.

They walk out of my classroom knowing about art as well as the people and world around them. The same thing is true for you. I want you to walk away from these conferences, not with a hand full of lesson plans that you probably can't decipher when you get back to your school, but ideas that you have discussed, brainstormed, and truly understood so you can make them your own and not just mimic. **Ann Vernon** read a quote from Mark Rothko written in Sydney Walker's book



Blick Art Materials won the VAEA Vendor Award for its tremendous effort for Katrina Relief. (See details in the Higher Ed. article.)

Teaching Meaning in Artmaking during her speech at the general session. Rothko said "There's no such thing as a good painting about nothing." Artmaking is about expressing an idea and making meaning through the manipulation of media and development of technical skills. Content, instruction, and assessment also work hand in hand to give our students a quality curriculum.

Thank you to the executive board and all the people who have worked so hard to make these conferences a success. It is not an easy task and takes many long hours of volunteer time to make everything come together. Thanks especially to **Sid Ames** for his help this year and best of luck in your new position as VAEA Vice President. Have a great school year and see you next fall in Roanoke.

It's in the mail...really

Mailing problems do not diminish conference attendance
by Peggy Wood

It is a wonder to me that I can place a letter in the mailbox outside my door and the same letter will reach my brother in Wisconsin two or three days later. Of course, I still visualize postal workers looking at each piece of mail and discussing it as they did with all of those letters addressed to Santa in *It's a Wonderful Life*. Following the most recent frustrations with the Conference Booklet mailing I was beginning to think that booklets were being selectively driven (or not) to each individual home. Believe it or not every booklet was mailed on the same date from the main post office in Richmond, Virginia. The diversity of arrival times at different localities is still a mystery to me.

continued on page 5



Jerry Thompkins recognized as the Retired Art Educator of the Year



Anne Wolcott presents Kathy Barclay the VAEA Distinguished Service Award



Chesterfield Co. students were recognized for their design of the VAEA Conference Logo.

Conference 2005 (cont'd.)



*Aren't we
Creative?*

It's in the mail...

continued from page 3

I called our representative at the mailing and handling company for some insight as to what could have happened. This company is responsible for imprinting the names and addresses on the booklet and then delivering the weighed, sorted and bundled booklets to the post office. His first comment was that the post office does not guarantee anything. The fact that we received the cheapest rate (non-profit) means that we will also receive the slowest delivery. Generally, according to the post office, bulk non-profit will be delivered within four to seven days, but it may take as long as ten days. Try twenty (or never)! He also offered "sometimes this happens considering the gazillion pieces of mail handled by the post office." Back to letters addressed to Santa.

Clearly there has to be a better way so that the availability of workshops at the conference can be more equitable across the state. I am recommending to the 2006 conference committee to not mail the conference booklet at all. The booklet will be printed for use at the conference but there will be no pre-conference mailing. Instead, the booklet will be posted on the VAEA website. A postcard will be mailed to every member and to each school using first class postage so that the disparity of mailing will be one or two days instead of one or two weeks. The postcard will indicate a date when the registration materials will be available on-line. Of course, because the VAEA does not accept credit cards or purchase orders the registration materials should be mailed to me or another volunteer in charge of pre-registration. As with any idea proposing a new course of action, I would welcome an email from anyone with comments or observations regarding why this may not work or how we can make it work even better. I should be meeting with the committee in February.

Despite the problems with this mailing, the 2005 VAEA Professional Development Conference was well attended and conference evaluations indicate that professional needs were met. Our vendors were complimentary of the diversity and quality of the workshops and seminars on the program as well as the opportunity of introduce their products to teachers and administrators.



Youth Art Month

YAM Books

By Meredith Snyder

The National Youth Art Month theme for this year is "Start with Art, Learn for Life." This theme was reflected in the YAM books that each jurisdiction submitted. Hopefully everyone was able to see these books firsthand at the VAEA Fall Conference in Williamsburg. I am thrilled to say we had even more participants than last year. Each book was filled with wonderful documentation, events, and images of children celebrating Youth Art Month throughout the community. This years YAM book winners are listed below:

State Winners

First: **Chesterfield County Public Schools**

Second: **Waynesboro County Public Schools**

Third: **Norfolk Public Schools**

Regional Winners

Tidewater

First: Norfolk Public Schools

Second: Virginia Beach Public Schools

Third: Newport News Public Schools

Northern Virginia

First: Prince William County Public Schools

Central

First: Chesterfield County Public Schools

Second: Henrico County Public Schools

Third: Hanover County Public Schools and Colonial Heights

Blue Ridge

First: Waynesboro County Public Schools

Second: Rappahannock County Public Schools

Third: Augusta County Public Schools

I'm also delighted to announce that Virginia has won a **National Award of Excellence** for our 2005 State Youth Art Month Book, which included a section from each jurisdiction that participated. This is one of the top honors that the Council for Art Education bestows. For two years in a row our state book and report have received top national recognition. Congratulations to all of you that participated. This success and achievement belongs to you for your hard work and support of the arts.



Alyson Aversa, Junior, Art IV, Deep Run H.S., Henrico Co. Art Teacher: Mike Guyer

YAM Flags and Advocacy Ideas

by Michael Gettings

The YAM Flag designs have come in and they look gorgeous! Keep up the good work!

Here is an advocacy idea that I started that should work for you too. I have been writing (emailing) local, state and national politicians to try to get quotes about the importance of art education. I have been displaying them throughout the school and on every art display as well. I also emailed my principal the quotes and requested one from her. She was delighted to give me one to use. These quotes are an awesome way to show students, the community and other administrators how people in administrative and office holding jobs view art education.

Here is the quote from **Governor Warner** (Feel free to use it in your class, school, or at any of your art displays):

"We place so much emphasis on making sure our students are educated for 21st century jobs," said Governor Mark R. Warner. "But we also must keep our students engaged in the arts. Frankly, a community rich with art is a great economic development tool for Virginia."

Let's all email the local councilmen and area politicians. Try a local or national celebrity too. Share your quotes with us so we can share them with the community and help boost the positive view and importance of art education.

Regional News

Blue Ridge

by Arnesa Lind



Clockwise from top:

- Anita Missal - 3rd place award winner
- Sculpey pins were created by Nina Burke during her summer vacation to hand out at conference for Blue Ridge members
- Roderick Rhodes, former Blue Ridge Region member, showing his latest publication "180 Days of Art"
- Lynn Hilton Conyers and Mary Lou Foster of Waynesboro H.S.
- President Arnesa Lind conducting Blue Ridge Region meeting during conference

Conquering the Blank Page. This was a topic in one of my favorite workshops. It, of course, was referring to an art page, but it also applies to how I feel whenever I find myself writing this or any other paper. But, as with the art page, now that I've no longer got a "blank page," (or in my case, blank screen), it's already easier.

I think I speak for all who attended this year's state conference when I say it was a great experience. Hopefully we are feeling rejuvenated and are already enthusiastically trying some new ideas in our classes.

The Blue Ridge region was well represented at conference and received numerous awards. Congratulations to **Nina Burke**, our Elementary art teacher of the year; **Karen Girouard**, our Middle level winner and **Jessica Layman-Herr**, our High School level winner. Waynesboro City Schools took the state second place award for their Youth Art Month book, Augusta County took a third place regional award for their first time Y.A.M. book, and Rappahannock County placed second behind Waynesboro. All of the books were great and are an excellent advocacy tool.



Blue Ridge Region Teacher of the Year winners

Plans are being made for the annual "Educator as Artist" exhibit in Waynesboro for February. Please contact **Lynn Hilton-Conyers**, **Anita Missal**, **Arnesa Lind**, or **Karen Girouard** if you would like to put work in the show. We will help transport the art to and from Waynesboro. Any medium is accepted and it is a non-juried exhibit.

Thanks again to **Nina Burke** and, also, the students at Beverley Manor Middle School for the delightful conference pins. It always makes our conference so special when everyone showcases his or her creativity in such a way.

Our Vice President, **Karen Girouard**, will be getting flyers out to you soon about the Orkney Springs workshop and mini conference in May. **Bill Wightman** wants to do the JMU workshop day for our students, but is looking possibly at a different date. Also, we may need to help him recruit workshop instructors in addition to the students he is able to contract. If you know of anyone who would be interested and qualified, contact me (Arnesa Lind) or Bill Wightman at JMU.

Plans are underway for our regional group to take a "road trip" either to New York City or to Pittsburgh (Andy Warhol Museum) and the nearby Frank Lloyd Wright house "Falling Water". If you have strong feelings either way, please contact me or **Sandy Gehr**. We'll be getting more information out in the spring.

In closing, I would strongly urge you to get together in small groups as well as participate in the larger group activities provided by the Blue Ridge Region Art Education Association. Being an art teacher can be a lonely endeavor and camaraderie with other art teachers is so important for our spirits. Enjoy the remainder of your school year and stay creative.

We are proud to have two volunteers to be our new Youth Art Month Coordinators; **Linda Daumen** and **Jill Brandstedt**. Both are from Patrick County. Southwest Region has been the only region not participating in the YAM notebook competition. We have been encouraged by the VAEA Board to become more active in this area, including putting together Youth Art Month notebooks. Linda and Jill will be sending out suggestions and asking for things that each school district does during March for Youth Art Month. It is a big job but we know they can handle it. Thanks so much.

Speaking of Youth Art Month, we have a Southwest Region YAM Art Show planned for March at the Jefferson Center in Roanoke County. Make sure you are on the e-mail list so you can get important information about the show. Each school/art teacher will be asked to send one picture. Details will be forthcoming.

Cherry Gardner dropped by our regional meeting to give us an update on the review and revision of the Virginia Art Standards of Learning. They are on the DOE web site and comment forms are available at <http://doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/solcommentforms>. Short comments can be made directly on the form but longer comments should be sent in an attached word file with each sender's name, school division and phone number. In the upcoming public hearings people will be invited to testify. Please take the time to review these standards and make comments where needed.

It was announced in our regional meeting that the Teaching Academy at James Madison University will be presenting "Contemporary Issues in Art Education" June 26-30, 2006. This is a great learning opportunity. Hope lots of people will plan to attend. **Cheryl Butman**, Montgomery County member, announced an exciting new opportunity for funding for art field trip through the Patron Foundation's "Culture for Kids" program. The web site for more information is: <http://www.patronfoundation.org/>. Let's all plan a field trip!

Next on-line class will start January 15th. Watch for details. Remember to e-mail Susan Watson with all your news. If you aren't getting regular e-mails from her then check and make sure you haven't put watsons3@aol.com in your "spam" file.

Southwest

by Susan Watson, Co-President



Pam Rose

Congratulations to the regional and state winners of the Art Teacher of the Year Awards. **Jenny Shamy**, **Pam Rose**, and **Diane Wood** won for our Southwest Region.

Jenny went on to win Elementary Art Teacher of the Year for the state! We are always happy for our outstanding teachers to be recognized by the VAEA. We also want to congratulate **Cherry Gardner** for her award of Art Educator of the State. She has done so much for the Arts since she has worked for the Virginia Department of Education.



Diane Wood

The conference was wonderful this year. A big thank you goes out to all the people who worked on this year's conference and to all those wonderful presenters. I loved the time to catch up with old friends, learn new ideas and see what has been going on with everyone. Don't forget next year's conference is in Roanoke. We will start meeting with the Blue Ridge Region to make plans in early 2006. It will be so much fun!

In our regional meeting it was brought to our attention that some of the new members didn't feel like they knew very many people and would like to have more personal contact with older members. It was a good suggestion, and we will make a special effort to make new members feel more welcome. The first step to helping everyone feel welcome would probably be for new members to e-mail me, Susan Watson, at [watsons3@aol.com](mailto:watson3@aol.com). That way I would have your names and e-mail addresses to contact you personally. Another suggestion given at the regional meeting was to have contact people for each county like we have done in the past. The contact person for each school district would make sure all teachers in their district received information from our region. **Susan Hubble** was nominated to work on getting contact people and for encouraging people to become members of the VAEA. Thanks, Susan, for your help.

Central Region

by Paul Guider

The Conference in Williamsburg was fabulous, but it feels good to be back home. I had a lot to prepare and now I can relax a bit more. I loved the Central Region Meeting because it gave us a chance to bond, and it gave me a chance to get you the information you needed. I am glad I extended our time; we never would have gotten all the information in 50 minutes. And you would miss the door prizes!

Thanks and praise were heaped upon the following people for all the work they do. **Sid Ames** for organizing the conference, **Beth Allums** for heading the pin committee, and **Kathy Tharpe** for the advocacy decals. **Michael Gettings** and **Meredith Snyder** received admiration for their award-winning work they do as the YAM committee. We appreciate **Kathy Barclay** for organizing the St. Paul's Educator as Artist Exhibit, and **Kirstie Hein-Sadler** and **Jacque Minarik** for running the regional conference.



Heather Staton, Regional Elementary Winner

Thanks to **Lise Mayer** for keeping our treasury, and to **Helena Agnew** and **Kristina Davis** for publishing our newsletter. Appreciation goes to **Kathleen Cooper** for recording and organizing all of our business information. Praise to **Dr. Mary Jane Zander** and **Michelle Kelly** for organizing the VCU student chapter. Who did I leave out? We have such a strong organization thanks to you all!

Kirstie Hein-Sadler is in charge of organizing our volunteers, and we need plenty. We will need people for the CRVAEA conference on February 11th, to hang the St. Paul's teachers exhibit February 25th, and to hang the SunTrust show on March 1st. Email her at kirhein@earthlink.net for more information, and to offer your services.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns about our upcoming events, or about our organization in general. Look for details in our next CRVAEA newsletter this month.

October was a busy month for Tidewater art teachers and the Tidewater Art Educator's Association. The 18th Annual TVAEA Juried Exhibition was held in Norfolk at the Hermitage Museum. The opening night was great thanks to **Jerry Thompkins**. Jerry arranged the show and hung the artwork. The first place winner was **Wendy Farnham**, second was **Sue Frost**, and third was **Jean Benvenuto Giacalone**. The following artists were selected as honorable mentions: **Anne Wolcott; Jean Rawls; Theresa Orloff; Joan Balaban; Mike Gilliatt; Clayton Singleton; Pamela Lassiter; Nicole Harp; Michele Barnes; Ron Ives.**

Tidewater teachers that attended the Art Conference in Williamsburg this last November felt it was an enjoyable experience. Two of our Tidewater members were honored at the awards breakfast on the last day of the conference. **Jerry Thompkins** received the final Bucky Wise award and **Pat Franklin** was honored as the new president of the Virginia Art Education Association. A big special thank you goes out again to **Debbie Taylor** of the Hampton City Public Schools for the heart of art pins that Tidewater teachers enjoyed during the conference.

Remember that on February 11th 2006, the Winter Workshop will be held at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. The Winter Workshop is held each year to bring art teachers in Tidewater together to create and share lessons for use in their schools. Breakfast and lunch are provided for a fun filled day. Get in from the cold in February and remember to come to ODU for the Winter Workshop. Registration forms will be sent out after the winter holidays.

Northern Virginia

by Amy Bruce

Everything was winding down as another VAEA Conference passed into history. It was a tremendous success as many of our members not only attended but presented. It was great to see members visit and share ideas, collect samples from the generous vendors and of course, find time to relax and be social. Those of you able to join us at the regional meeting were able to participate in a successful break out session. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank those members for their willingness to be a part of this meeting as it was a great venue for us as a region to connect and learn from each other. Huge thank you's go out to **Vicki Burns** for discussing Grant Writing, **Lil Cooney** for discussing Mentoring, **Kate Sternberg** for discussing The Artist's Process, **Renee Sandell** for discussing Professional Development, **Elaine Nunnally** for discussing Teaching AP, and **Cheryl Crane** for discussing Block Scheduling. I got a lot of great feedback from members who were there, and they extend their thanks as well.

Also at the meeting, **Cheryl Crane** was happily presented with our Art Teacher of the Year for the Northern Region. Congratulations Cheryl, a long overdue achievement! Vicki Burns graciously accepted the award for Prince William County who won the Youth Art Month Book Award, another amazing achievement for all involved! Finally, I would also like to congratulate our current Vice President, **Scott Russell**, who was just named the new VAEA Treasurer. Thankfully Scott will be able to continue his duties to our region during his first year. Congratulations Scott!

Our other main goal at the regional meeting was to gather information from our members. Most of you received our survey prior to the conference. If you did not receive this survey, we gave you the opportunity to complete one at the meeting and submit it to our secretary, **Rebecca Miller**, who has diligently been collecting and organizing all of this information. Thank you Rebecca! Our hope is to make sure the lines of communication are open to all members with updated information. We will also be posting as much information as possible to the NVAEA Yahoo Group, along with information about how to submit your artwork to our burgeoning Teacher Gallery. As we confirm ways to contact you, we will be inviting more of you to officially, "Join" the Yahoo Group so you will receive e-mail updates. We greatly appreciate your patience and input. If any of you have any information regarding happenings and events at your school please contact any one of us via e-mail and share. We always want to hear about our regions successes and growth. Thank you all for your support and commitment to the Arts.



President Paul Guider with Regional and State Art Educator of the Year winners Kirstie Hein (Middle School) and Mary Scurlock (Secondary).



Jerry Thompkins

Tidewater Region

by Julie Jenkins



Tidewater Ladies: Former, out-going and incoming VAEA Presidents Barbara Laws, Anne Wolcott, and Pat Franklin with out-going Vice-president, Sharon Clohessy.

Division News



*Kavera Flores, Gr.K, Laburnum E.S. Henrico Co.
Art Teacher: Ruby Texler*

Elementary

by **Bill Holliday**

I feel compelled to begin this portion of my contribution to the newsletter by recognizing the former leadership of our organization for their hard work and diligence. I can only imagine the time and effort put forth by our past officers.

We now have a new executive board which was introduced at our fall conference and take charge as of January 2006. They are charged with continuing the progressive course taken by their predecessors. Although our former leadership will be missed, our new leaders are equipped to handle the task set before them, and that is to lead our organization to higher accomplishments.

Now please allow me to digress for a moment and mention the excellent fall professional conference surely enjoyed by all. As usual the varied array of presentations by our colleagues from around the state, along with other exciting events, makes attending the gathering invaluable.

Additionally, I think it appropriate to mention the the opportunity for sharing concerns and ideas at the Elementary Division meeting. It was and continues to be a forum shared by and for educators with similar challenges and successes.

By the time you read this we will have hopefully enjoyed a peaceful and restful winter break. Now we are at the approximate midway point of the year and making good progress in satisfying the curriculum requirements established by our respective localities.

I wish you well as you help your students "Learn Though Art!"



*Meredith, GrK. Short Pump E.S., Henrico Co.
Art Teacher: Jennifer Bryant*

Middle

by **Holly Bess Kincaid**

The Middle Division enjoyed a wonderful time of sharing at the VAEA Fall Conference in Williamsburg. For those of you who were unable to attend we have several exciting things planned to improve our communication and keep the lines of sharing information flowing throughout the year. First of all I would like to invite all of you to send one of your favorite lessons to post on our Electronic Lesson Plan Exchange. If you go to www.VAEA.org you will find a link for the Middle Division Electronic Lesson Plan Exchange. Many thanks to **Lazelle Parker** for helping to set up this wonderful opportunity for us to share! Please send a simple write up of your lesson and if possible a digital photograph. Our hope is to continue to share tried and true lessons, lessons of inspiration, and develop a way to gain from each other's wealth of knowledge. In the course of our meeting in Williamsburg several people shared lessons that they have done in their classrooms. The ideas were developing into different connections for many. Thank you again to the Middle Division members who shared lessons this year: **Lazelle Parker** for sharing her African Bean Masks and Letter Sculptures, **Pamela Iwanicki** for sharing her shadow box lesson, and **Marlene Sisbarro** and **Liz Bahl-Moore** for sharing their Tin Repousse Mask lessons and I shared my "Character Counts Character" which produces a fun bobble head sculpture.

Another way of sharing that we are trying to develop is a Middle Division yahoo group available for you to post concerns or email other middle school teachers across the state for their help or inspiration. To find our group on the web go to: groups.yahoo.com/group/VAEAMiddle. Please take a moment and check out our page, share, sign up or post a concern. Throughout the year I am hoping to keep in contact closely with art teachers in every region both through the yahoo group, my articles and emails. If you were unable to attend our fall conference please drop me an email and tell me what you would like to see for our Division Meeting next fall in Roanoke and to let me know how to keep in contact with you through out the year! Since our conference will be held in the Southwest Region, I am hoping that the Middle Division can plan some exciting ways to show case our Division and our students! The ideas are already bouncing around in many minds along the idea of "animals and art" and what better level to understand moments with animals than Middle School. I left conference already excited for next fall in Roanoke and hope that TOGETHER we can show everyone how FUN being in the MIDDLE can be.

During our Division Meeting **Kimberly Turner** reminded us all about the upcoming NAEA Conference that will be held in Chicago. If you have never had the opportunity to attend a National Conference I highly suggest you attend and be amazed and proud to be among such creative art teachers in America. Personally I am looking forward to going to the National Conference in Chicago. After going to the conference in Denver I am still recalling many inspirations I gained in those few days. Information on the Conference can be found on the NAEA web site <http://www.naea-reston.org/>

Let me know if you will be attending and so we can get together for some art, inspiration and perhaps a bit of fun in the Windy City!

In closing I would like to send proud congratulations to our new VAEA State Middle School Art Educator of the Year: **Kirstie Hein Sadler** from the Central Region. Hopefully next fall Kirstie will share some of her lessons and ideas with us at the fall conference during our Division Meeting. One of my goals is to make our Division Meeting longer and allow for time for a lesson sharing discussion geared directly towards the Middle Level. If you would like to assist in sharing one of your lessons, or helping to make our meetings and division become even stronger please let me know. I hope you continue to have a great school year and enjoy teaching art!



*Shakia Robertson, Gr. 6, John Rolfe M.S., Henrico Co.
Art Teacher: Missy Day*

Secondary

by Amy Nast

Now that winter is upon us, it may be difficult to remember historic Williamsburg back in November, with the autumn foliage at its peak and an unseasonably warm breeze rustling through the leaves, but this was the picturesque and peaceful backdrop for the 2005 VAEA Professional Development Conference. Once again, the conference was packed with many interesting workshops and opportunities to connect with other art teachers from across the state. For those of you who attended, I hope that you left the conference as I did, feeling rejuvenated, infused with new lesson ideas and a renewed sense of purpose.

There were several secondary teachers who were recognized at the conference for their outstanding work in art education. Congratulations to **Mary Scurlock** from Central Region who received the VAEA State Secondary Art Teacher of the Year award. Congratulations as well to our other Regional Secondary Art Teacher Award winners: **Jean Giacalone** for the Tidewater Region, **Jessica Layman-Herr** for the Blue Ridge Region, and **Diane Wood** for the Southwest Region. Also, congratulations to **Michael Gettings** and **Meredith Snyder** for receiving an Award of Excellence for their work with Youth Art Month. These inspiring award winners exemplify the talent and dedication of secondary art teachers across Virginia.

We had a great exchange of ideas during the Secondary Division meeting at the conference, where we addressed a theme that was the focus of several conference workshops and mentioned by our featured speaker, **Anne Vernon** -- the role of "big ideas" in art education. Providing opportunities for students to explore big ideas in their artmaking is an approach that focuses on meaningful art content. Rather than teaching design components or technique for their intrinsic value, this approach emphasizes teaching students how to use these things to communicate meaning and ideas in their work.

Our discussion began with the question: What big ideas should students explore? Responses included themes such as identity, our relationship to our environment, and political issues. Exploration of big ideas that have universal appeal or relevance to the lives of our students can make lessons more meaningful for them and asking students open-ended questions can result in increased individual interpretation and personally relevant art content. Other questions arose during our discussion: How do you create lessons that focus on both meaning and skills? How can a teacher incorporate contemporary culture into an exploration of big ideas? What are meaningful questions to ask? Our discussion also identified some overarching art concepts teachers felt were important, such as motivation, art appreciation, the purpose of critiques, and recognizing the role of art in everyday life. Several teachers also shared how they make connections across disciplines and collaborate with teachers in other subject areas to help students see these connections. One participant mentioned the need to make people aware that, just as they do in other classes, students think and write in art class.

The Secondary Division meeting also included a presentation by **Amy Bruce**, VAEA Regional President for Northern Virginia and Fairfax County art teacher, on how to photograph student art work. She discussed the pros and cons of using digital media versus film and gave teachers many great tips for photographing student artwork. Many thanks to Amy for her informative presentation!

On a final note, my role as the VAEA Secondary Division representative is ending. I have been honored to represent you on the extended board and continue to be amazed by the dedication, professionalism, and creativity of secondary art teachers in our state. I look forward to seeing familiar faces at next year's conference. Until then, have a wonderful and rewarding year!



Ronnie Cople, Gr. 8, S. G. Stewart M.S., Fort Defiance. Art teacher: Anita Missal

Higher Education

by David Burton

Dick Blick, the art supply company, has given \$25,000 to relief agencies to help schools damaged or destroyed by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. They have dedicated another \$25,000 in matching funds as well. NAEA is collecting the matching contributions. Please send any contributions you wish to make to NAEA, 1916 Association Drive, Reston VA 20191-1590. Write "Katrina Fund" on your check. Your contribution will be matched dollar-for-dollar, doubling its amount. There is still a great need in the gulf states. It will be a long road to recovery. Any contribution will be deeply appreciated, and will be well used.

NAEA has taken steps to create listservs for each of the divisions and regions. That means the Higher Education Division will soon have a new listserv channeled through the NAEA website. (We already have a listserv which **Dr. Melody Milbrandt** at Georgia State University is very ably managing.) You must sign up for the new listserv because NAEA does not have current e-mail addresses and is concerned about sending unsolicited e-mails to its members. Check the NAEA website for more information as it develops.

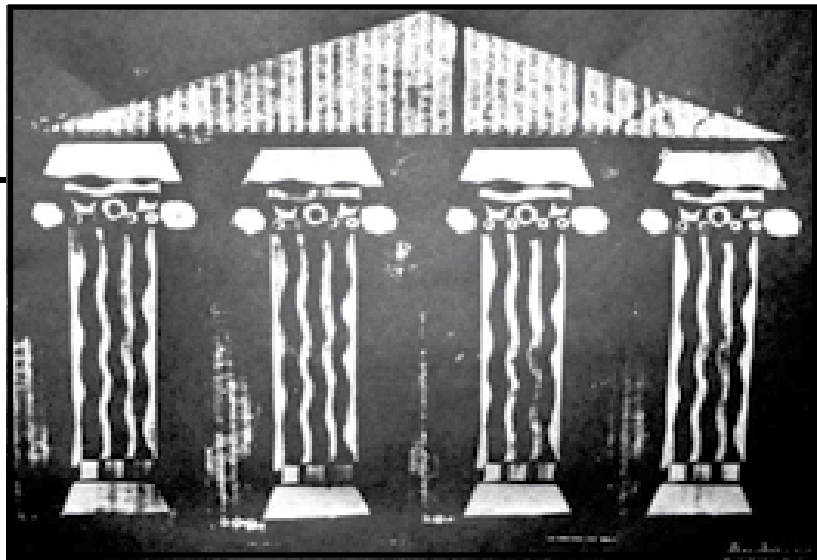
Another listserv of interest is that of the Arts Education Partnership. "ArtsEd hosts discussions and communications for the Arts Education Partnership, which demonstrates and promotes the essential role of arts education in enabling all students to succeed in school, life and work." You must subscribe to this listserv to get on it. To do so, send an e-mail to aep@ccso.org. In the "subject line, type "Subscribe ArtsEd (and fill in your name). In the body of the message type in all your contact information, especially noting your school or organization.

The International Journal of Education and the Arts is a relatively new journal which began in 2000. IJEA is an electronic journal which is published online. They welcome submitted articles, and appear to be an interesting new venue for art educators. Their prospectus notes, "Articles should be research-based and pertain to issues in any of the various fields of aesthetics and arts education. These fields include, among others, aesthetics, art theory, music education, visual arts education, drama education, dance education, education in literature and narrative. Holistic, integrated studies that cross or transcend these fields are also welcomed. A Book Review section contains thoughtful essays on current, recent, and classic works in arts education."

According to the publishers, "Because IJAE is published electronically, a wider array of representational forms and formats are possible than in print journals. These include musical, pictorial, and videographic, as well as verbal/print. Multimedia formats are especially welcome. Whatever the mode employed, articles (as examples of good art) should provide important insights into, or suggest provocative questions about, the phenomena of arts education. The originality, educational significance, and technical quality of submissions are important criteria in the review and selection processes. Manuscripts employing a verbal/print formal may use interpretive, narrative, art-based, contextualized quantitative, and critical approaches to studying education in the arts. Written manuscripts should be in English and prepared (in APA style). Articles can be of any length." Rich Text Format is the preferred word processor format, but Microsoft Word or Word Perfect is acceptable. Articles should be sent to Liora Bresler, Editor, College of Education, University of Illinois, 1310 South 6th Street, Champaign IL 61820-6990. Phone 217-244-0734. E-mails should be sent to liora@uiuc.edu



Sean Adams, Gr. 12, Godwin H.S., Henrico Co. Art Teacher: Laura Grutz



Audrey, Short Pump E.S. Henrico Co. Art Teacher: Jennifer Bryant

George Mason University Students Review the 2005 VAEA Conference

by Wendy Pierce MAT'06

Eleven students from the George Mason University Art Education Program had the opportunity to attend the recent VAEA conference in Williamsburg, Va. Through a wide variety of presentations and conversations we were able to expand and explore ideas about theory, the teacher as artist, approaches to art curriculum and aesthetics.

We also enjoyed participating as collaborative presenters in two sessions: "Unlocking the Art Museum; Investigating a Local Teaching Tool" and **Dr. Renee Sandell's** "Visual Literacy and Art Teacher Journals". We received valuable feedback and look forward to presenting at the March '06 NAEA Conference in Chicago.

Fairfax County's Art Instructional Specialist **Bettyann Plishker** and Fine Arts Resource Teacher **Tamra Ferreira** stirred up strong reactions and great enthusiasm with their presentation "Perpetuating Mediocrity". Despite limited resources and short classes, art teachers can cultivate creativity, thinking and problem solving skills. Teachers are encouraged to design curriculum content with consideration of 'the Big Idea' and to actively provide opportunities for student-inspired and solved problems. Parents and administrators can become advocates of the art education program when they are informed of the benefits of a more process-oriented than product-oriented classroom approach.

Sarah DeWitt and **Dara Wein** attended a Henrico County teacher presentation "Staying in Touch with the Artist Within". The presenters showed videotaped interviews with Henrico County art teachers and discussed strategies for maintaining their artistic pursuits, including providing journals, sharing sources of inspiration, and meeting with other teachers to create art.

In a similar vein with "Inside the Box and On the Page," Chesterfield County teachers developed an inspiring model for ongoing artistic motivation, relationships and thinking. Participants collaborated on a kind of artistic chain letter: each started a journal (or canvas or box) with a theme, such as 'evolution', 'life', and 'personal history'. Every month, each participant made an entry in someone else's journal and forwarded it to the next artist. The project ended in a group critique.



Rick Lewis, Tucker H.S., Henrico Co. Art Teacher: Betsy Yost

Michela Mansuino described **Eric Scott** and **David Modler's** lively workshop as "Journal Fodder: Junkies of the World Unite". Through hands-on activities, these teachers provided classroom strategies for overcoming fear of the blank page and encouraging students to collect, explore, experiment and play.

Marisa Pappas found ideas presented in "Visual and Verbal: Connecting the Curriculum" to be particularly valuable for integrating language arts and science into the art curriculum through a meaningful art lesson. The lessons all had a research, art making and presentation component. For a "Gallery Box" lesson students would research an artist, and act as curator and docent, create and present a miniature gallery of the artist's works.

Though we are pre-service art teachers, we found the sharing of ideas, theories, techniques and methods offered one of the best ways to stimulate exciting student art problems in the art classroom. For the first time, GMU MAT students had contact with our student counterparts from other regions of the state. We shared ideas and made plans to expand our interaction.

We are grateful to our Central Region hosts, who ran an efficient and stimulating conference, which left us all inspired. As **Sarah DeWitt** put it, "After leaving the conference I felt ready to return to class and excited to be in the field of art education."

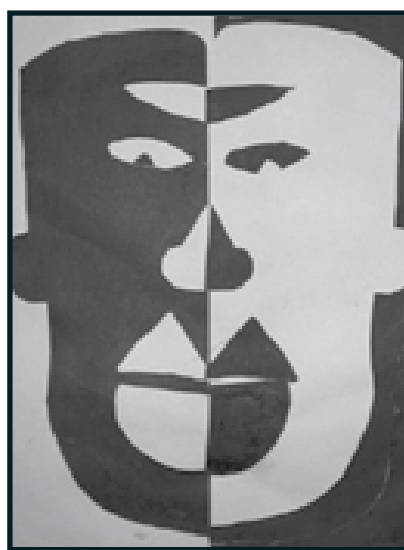
Supervision & Administration

by Pat Franklin

January and the beginning of a new year is always a time of reflection, resolutions, and giving thanks. This year has been especially meaningful for me professionally. With the end of 2005 I have completed my term as director of VAEA Supervision Division. It has been a two-year term of exploration and innovation. I have a lot to be thankful for.

During the 2005 VAEA November conference I had the honor of receiving recognition as VAEA Art Supervisor of the year. First and foremost I need to say thank you to all of my hard working art teachers for nominating me. They make me look good. They are a tireless group of educators always searching for a new way to challenge young minds and instill the love of art. There would not be art supervision positions in Virginia without the dedication of art teachers who work to expand the minds and hearts of students.

I would also like to say "Thank You" to all the Art Supervisors in Virginia. You have been a wonderful support system in the quest to understand the function of supervision in art education today. I have



Kierra Jackson, Gr. 3, Arthur Ashe E.S., Henrico Co. Art Teacher: April Barlett



DeQuan White, Gr. 3, Arthur Ashe E.S., Henrico Co. Art Teacher: April Barlett

had a wonderful time during my term as director of the Supervision Division and I am sure the incoming director will find it equally rewarding.

In reflecting on our recent conference in Williamsburg I can say that it was one of the best. The quality presentations offered met the needs of the wide variety of our conference participants. We all need to say a special thanks to those who made this conference such as huge success! The work of **Sharon Clohessy** and **Sid Ames** truly made it a work of

Affiliates



Susann Macleren, Tucker H.S., Henrico Co. Art Teacher: Betsy Yost

art. The behind the scenes pre-registration work of **Kimberly Turner** and **Peggy Wood** took a lot of time and effort. And everyone there appreciated the organizational efforts at the registration and sales tables (**Alyssa Johnson, Susan Lamson, and Jerry Tompkins**). A special thanks goes out to **Patsy Parker**, membership director, who provided a consistent face and point of contact for those new to VAEA conference schedules. I understand our student chapter numbers have reached all time records. These young teacher-hopefuls especially need the guidance of our experienced members and the expertise of our supervision. Last, but by no means least, "Thank You" to and her 2004-2005 board of VAEA for their tireless work to promote art education in Virginia. I am confident the incoming board will strive equally hard to meet the high standards you have set.

As for current business, the Virginia Board of Education is now seeking public comments on the revisions to the Arts Standards of Learning for use in the public schools in the commonwealth. (Supts Memo number 224) The Department of Education has posted the proposed Fine Arts Standards of Learning on the Department of Education's Web site at <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/SOLcommentforms/> with e-mail links for public comment under the headings of dance arts, music, theatre arts, and visual arts. I encourage all art supervisors to take a close look at the proposed revisions and send relevant comments or questions to Cherry Gardner. Cherry.Gardner@doe.virginia.gov

As for looking ahead I am anticipating an exciting term as the new VAEA President. I will continue to rely heavily on our strong supervisor's network for input, suggestions and feedback. I hope to see art supervisors at the Art Works for Virginia Conference on January 25 and 26 in Richmond, Virginia. We will have a special meeting during this conference for all art supervisors. This is a good time of year for us to discuss current issues and share good ideas. Additional information on conference registration and the program agenda can be found at <http://www.arts.state.va.us/>

And in conclusion---Happy New Year!

Retirees

by Les Tyree

VAEA Retirees Receive Awards at Annual Conference

Jerry Tompkins was honored as the VAEA Retired Art Educator of the Year at the 2005 VAEA conference in Williamsburg. Jerry also presented a workshop with **Kathy Barclay** and **Les Tyree** entitled "Planning for Retirement." He worked hard to have the logo printed on merchandise which was sold during the conference. The sweatshirts, T-shirts, bags and aprons displayed the conference theme *Learning through Art* and sold out quickly.

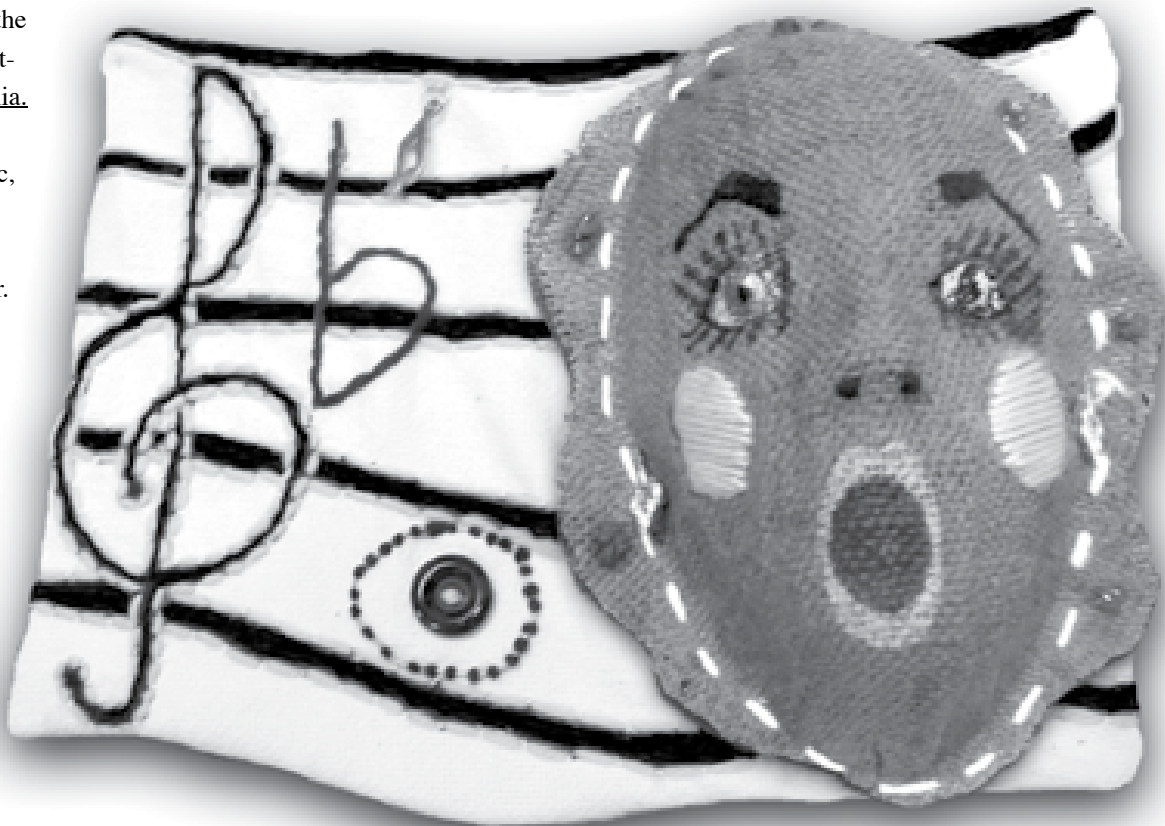
Betty Tisinger has retired as VAEA Executive Director. Betty was awarded the Bucky Wise Award for outstanding service to the VAEA. **Peggy Wood**, another VAEA retiree, is now working as the Executive Director of the VAEA.

Kathy Barclay has once again won national recognition for the VAEA by winning the category of best newsletter nation wide. This makes at least four times she has won this award. Kathy also received the Distinguished Service Award for 2005. Congratulations to our award winners for their dedication to the VAEA.

The "Planning for Retirement" presentation was attended by 32 retirees and prospective retirees. The session was conducted by **Kathy Barclay, Les Tyree** and **Jerry Tompkins**. Highlights included preparation for retirement, financial planning, making time for creative work, and taking care of your health. Each retiree displayed some personal art work and talked about how they made time for creative works.

Unfortunately we lost a life time member this year. **Charles Flynn** of Virginia Beach will be missed by all.

Some new retirees have been added to our rolls. They include **David Evelyn, Dr. Frances Kennedy, Melinda Mottley, Holly Mullen, and Dennis Winston**. Presently we have 72 retired members on roll. In a conversation with **Patsy Parker**, our Membership Chairperson, I asked what happened to those people who stop paying dues to NAEA. Unfortunately they are dropped from the master roll. If you are planning to retire in the future, please contact the Membership Chairperson and let them know you are retiring so your name can be placed on our retiree list. You become a life long VAEA member and DO NOT have to pay dues. We hope to increase our retiree membership.



Ashley Cooper, Gr. 12, Crafts, Tucker H.S., Henrico Co. Art Teacher: Kathy Barclay

Advocacy

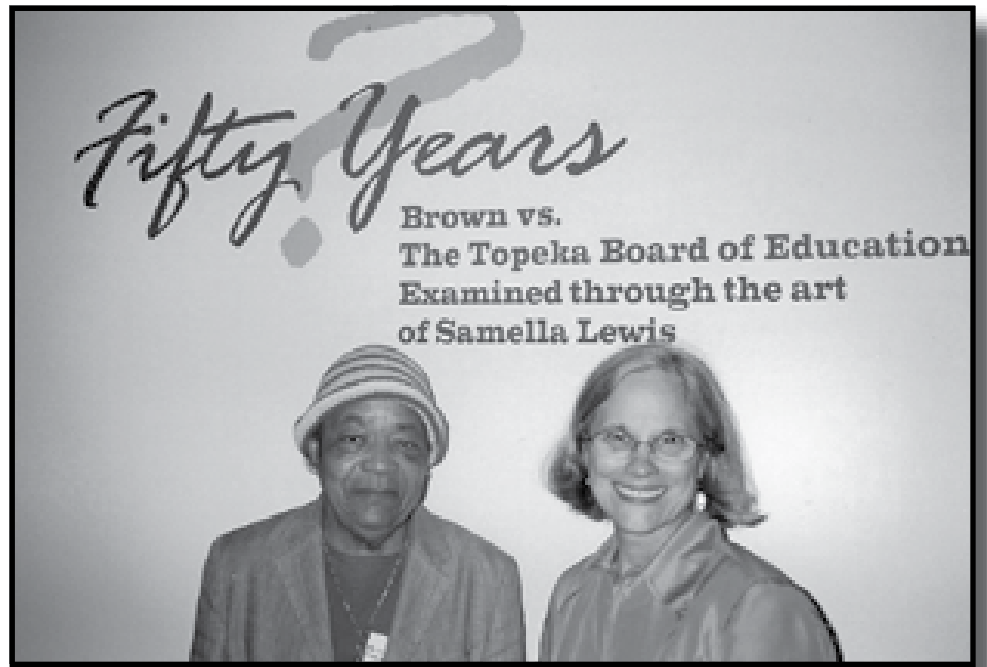
by Kathy Schwartz

Administrators Making Art: Great Art Education Advocacy

Susan Watson, Art Supervisor for Roanoke School District has an art education advocacy success story. Susan Watson has been teaching art for 33 years, and she has worked as the art supervisor for the past four years. Susan inspired and promoted a show for art created by their local school district administrators and principals. This was the first time most of the participating administrators had created art for display, and many of them had not created any art beyond their childhood. The art show was on display in the school district administration building and received extensive coverage from the local newspaper and community. The Roanoke Times states: Students aren't the only ones in Roanoke County Schools who are learning about art. Principals and administrators in the school system had the opportunity recently to try their hands at creating art for a project called "Experimenting with Art." Although the art education programs in Roanoke are generally appreciated by the community, Susan was inspired to create the art show for administrators to address the following goals: 1) help administrators understand what it is like to produce and display art; and 2) help administrators and principals to become more involved and committed to the art education program. The results of the program are commendable. First, most of the administrators and principals participated. Even the most reluctant principals became willing "artists" after their school's art teacher coached them. The administrators and principals learned through experience that producing art involves a multitude of thought processes and decisions. Next, the interaction between the art teachers and the administrators increased dramatically. The art teachers are respected for the guidance they provide and for their expert teaching skills. In addition, parents and community members are eager to see the art and the entire community is talking about the "art show". The Roanoke Administrator Art show is a great example of how we can promote what we value and gain support for our art education programs. Susan Watson and the art teachers have earned a level of respect from school district administration that goes beyond rhetoric. The success of the program already has everyone planning for another show next year. The administrators are now committed to the art education program because they can see the results of their own efforts. Congratulations to Susan and the entire team of art teachers. You can view the show on line at the following address: http://www.rcs.k12.va.us/art/sept_05.htm

Other Advocacy Highlights

- Congratulations to **Cherry Gardner**, VA Department of Education Principal Specialist of Fine Arts for receiving the VAEA 2005-06 Art Educator of the Year Award. Thank you to Cherry Gardner for her endless contributions to VAEA and for working so hard at the DOE to move art education initiatives forward.
- Congratulations to **Meredith Snyder** and **Michael Getting** for receiving a national Award of Excellence for Virginia's observance of Youth Art Month. This advocacy includes 25 articles, and 67 youth art month exhibits statewide. With almost 100% participation, different counties used a range of marketing ideas: stickers, YOM Logo on pencils and pens, banners, brochures, puzzles, buttons, t-shirts and pins. Virginia also had their YAM Flag designer at the flag event in Washington DC.
- Congratulations to **Sharon Clohessy** and **Sid Ames**, 2005 Conference Chair, for organizing a very successful art education conference in Williamsburg. In addition, Sid reports that they are distributing hundreds of "Learn through the Arts" bracelets for only \$2.00. They have also produced an art education "Wooden Nickel" for advocacy. The wooden nickels are sold as collector items for 25 cents.
- **Lazelle Parker** has done a remarkable job putting up the VAEA website. This site is full of good advocacy information. You can visit the site at: www.vaea.org.
- For a complete arts advocacy checklist, you can visit the following site: http://www.nasaa-arts.org/publications/public_adv_checklist.htm
The list gives good suggestions for cultivating political relationships, grassroots advocacy, advocates working together, and visibility. Check the NAEA website for updated advocacy information: WWW.NAEA-Reston.Org



Artist Dr. Samella Lewis and Director of the Hampton University Museum Mary Lou Hultgren at the opening of *Fifty Years? Brown vs. The Topeka Board of Education Examined through the art of Samella Lewis*.

Curriculum / Research

by Janet Payne

After attending the VAEA conference in Williamsburg, I was impressed by the number and quality of sessions on journaling. Reflective writing for teachers offers a powerful opportunity for growth both as teacher and artist. Through writing, teachers can sort through ideas to sequentially organize curricular delivery.

Through the act of writing, I have discovered that I have gained the confidence to author magazine articles and create curriculum units of study for publication. Once you discover a compelling topic, writing becomes a natural partner for documenting your experiences.

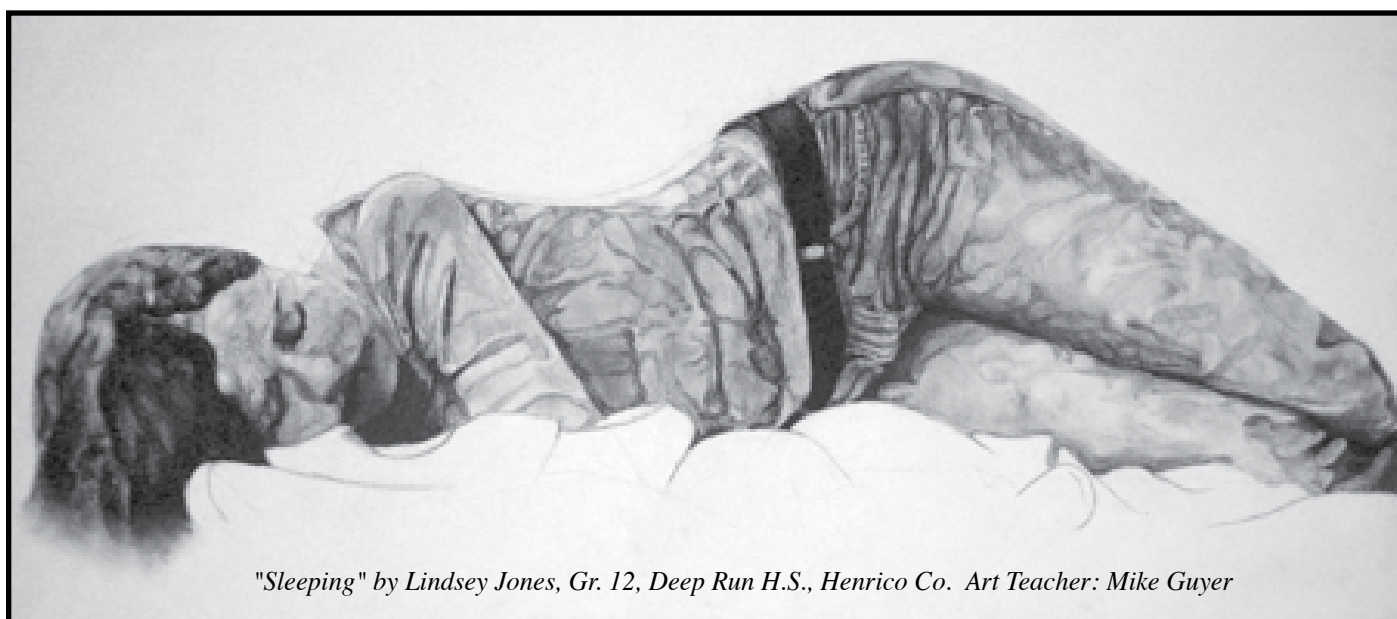
I discovered my passion for documenting information through my association with the Hampton University Museum. My latest project with the museum involves the creation of an "Art in a Suitcase" series. After selecting six African American artists from the museum's collections, images were chosen for reproduction and inclusion in the suitcase. This fall I attended the opening of the *Brown vs. The Topeka Board of Education Examined through the art of Samella Lewis* at the Hampton University gallery. As Dr. Lewis was one of the selected artists for the suitcase project, I had the opportunity to spend two days with the artist documenting her visit.

At the age of 80, Dr. Lewis is a force for African American art. She is an artist, author, educator, arts administrator; film-maker; and art historian. Dr. Lewis' connection to Hampton began when she transferred to the school at the urging of artist Elizabeth Catlett. At Hampton, Lewis studied with Viktor Lowenfeld who was the founder of the art department on campus.

As I was introduced to Lowenfeld as a student at VCU, I had read Lowenfeld's *Creative and Mental Growth* as required reading. As an art educator, I continue to use Lowenfeld in the methods class I teach at the University of Mary Washington. I was elated as I had the opportunity to talk with Dr. Lewis about her former teacher. Although Lowenfeld built his professional profile at Penn State, it was at Hampton that he began his American career. Wonderful African American artists like Samella Lewis and John Biggers realized their potential as students of Lowenfeld.

Lowenfeld believed that his students needed to understand how art could promote cultural identity which would help achieve greater self-confidence. Lewis stated, "The Lowenfeld experience meant freedom for me to be an artist, an independent feeling- not worried about people's opinion. The class was like a supportive family, we learned respect for other cultures through art." He encouraged his students to use their experiences, feelings, and emotions to inspire their creativity.

In Lowenfeld's class, students learned to mix their own paint with pigments, build their own stretchers, prime their unbleached muslin with rabbit's foot glue to seal the fabric surface then apply white paint to the surface.



"Sleeping" by Lindsey Jones, Gr. 12, Deep Run H.S., Henrico Co. Art Teacher: Mike Guyer

Dr. Lowenfeld suggested to Lewis that she stop "muddying" color by mixing the colors with her brush. In response, she completed her studio painting of Waterboy using a palette knife and placing pure color next to pure color thus making the color more symbolic and intense. Lowenfeld talked with Lewis about the style of van Gogh but did not ever show her any images of van Gogh's work. This forced the student to take the information and find her own solution to the problem.

While teaching at Hampton, Lowenfeld organized a student show Nature of Creative Activity which was exhibited at the Virginia Museum. Lewis recalled the opening event when the students and Lowenfeld car pooled to Richmond. Through Lowenfeld's support, the student artists were gaining the confidence to show their art work to a larger audience, a first step to eventual international recognition.

According to Lewis, "Coming to Hampton saved my life. I didn't like for anybody to tell me what to do." At Hampton, Lowenfeld taught his students not to feel they had to produce art to please anyone, but to paint from the heart."

While a student at Hampton, Dr. Lewis began to write, recording those special relationships with teachers and fellow students of art. She did her journaling which led to the publication of several art history books recalling the development of some of our great African American artists. She filled the void left from mainstream art history publications which omitted African American artists. Dr. Lewis and Viktor Lowenfeld are powerful role models for art educators today as current pedagogy reflects many of the same teachings which came from those early art studio classes at Hampton University.



*Weight Obsession by Caitlin Romig, Woodson H.S., Fairfax Co.
Art Teacher: Rachael Huddleston-Whitmire*

2005 Southeastern Leadership Meeting by Meredith Snyder

Michael Gettings and I were given a wonderful opportunity over the summer to represent our state at the 2005 Southeastern Leadership Meeting held in Atlanta, Georgia. We met and worked with representatives from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. NAEA vice-president **Becky Bailey** and President Elect, **Betsy Logan** ran the meeting.

Each state submitted a president's report, and discussed what they were doing to promote their artist's association.

We also discussed southern statewide advocacy ideas to promote the arts, such as the use of a common theme for art billboards. We also developed strategic plans and motions to bring before the NAEA board members.

Virginia will be the summer host for this meeting in 2007.

from the NAEA Website:

Ten Lessons the Arts Teach

Although some educators view the arts as closer to the rim of education than to its core, Elliot Eisner argues that the arts are critically important means for developing complex and subtle aspects of the mind. He outlines "ten lessons" that illustrate how various forms of thinking are evoked, developed, and refined through the arts:

- (1) The arts teach children to make good judgments about qualitative relationships;
- (2) The arts teach children that problems can have more than one solution and that questions can have more than one answer;
- (3) The arts celebrate multiple perspectives;
- (4) The arts teach children that in complex forms of problem solving purposes are seldom fixed;
- (5) The arts make vivid the fact that neither words in their literal form nor numbers exhaust what we can know;
- (6) The arts teach students that small differences can have large effects;
- (7) The arts teach students to think through and within a material;
- (8) The arts help children learn to say what cannot be said;
- (9) The arts enable us to have experience we can have from no other source; and (10) The arts' position in the school curriculum symbolizes to the young what adults believe is important.

<http://www.naea-reston.org/tenlessons.html>

Arts Education Public Opinion Fact Sheet

All data below from "To Educate the Whole Child, Integrate the Arts," a national poll, developed in consultation with Douglas Gould & Company and conducted in April 2005 by opinion research firm Belden, Russonello & Stewart. The survey sampled 1068 Americans, age 18 and over, including an over-sample of 152 K-12 parents.

Arts as a Priority

48% of the American public say there is too little emphasis of arts and music at the elementary school level.

36% of the American public say there is too little emphasis of arts and music at the high school level.

On a scale of one to 10, arts and music as a high priority for public schools rate a seven through ten by 60% of the public.

Arts and music is given a higher priority in public schools than standardized tests (56%), athletics (52%) and foreign languages (48%).

Who Supports Arts Education?

46% of Americans are core supporters of arts integration. This includes:

- o Arts-active parents (60%)
- o Teachers (57%)
- o Liberals (56%) and Independents (54%)
- o Well educated (college grads, 54% and graduate-level experience, 56%)
- o Young women under the age of 50 (53%)
- o Professionals (53%)

Support for arts integration increases with more information about how it functions. At the end of the survey, there is an increase of 12 percentage points among those who believe arts integration is an extremely high or high priority.

Increased support for integrating arts education in schools from the beginning of the survey to the end of the survey was noted in African-Americans (+24%) and Hispanics (+17%).

Why Is Integrating Arts in Education Valuable?

41% of Americans say that arts integration is valuable because it educates the whole child.

22% say that arts integration is valuable because it inspires creativity.

What Are Perceived Barriers To Arts Education?

63% of Americans say the biggest barrier to arts integration is teacher training.

35% feel that it will take away too much time from the core curriculum.

Only 20% feel that arts education would distract from standardized tests.

from my perspective . . .

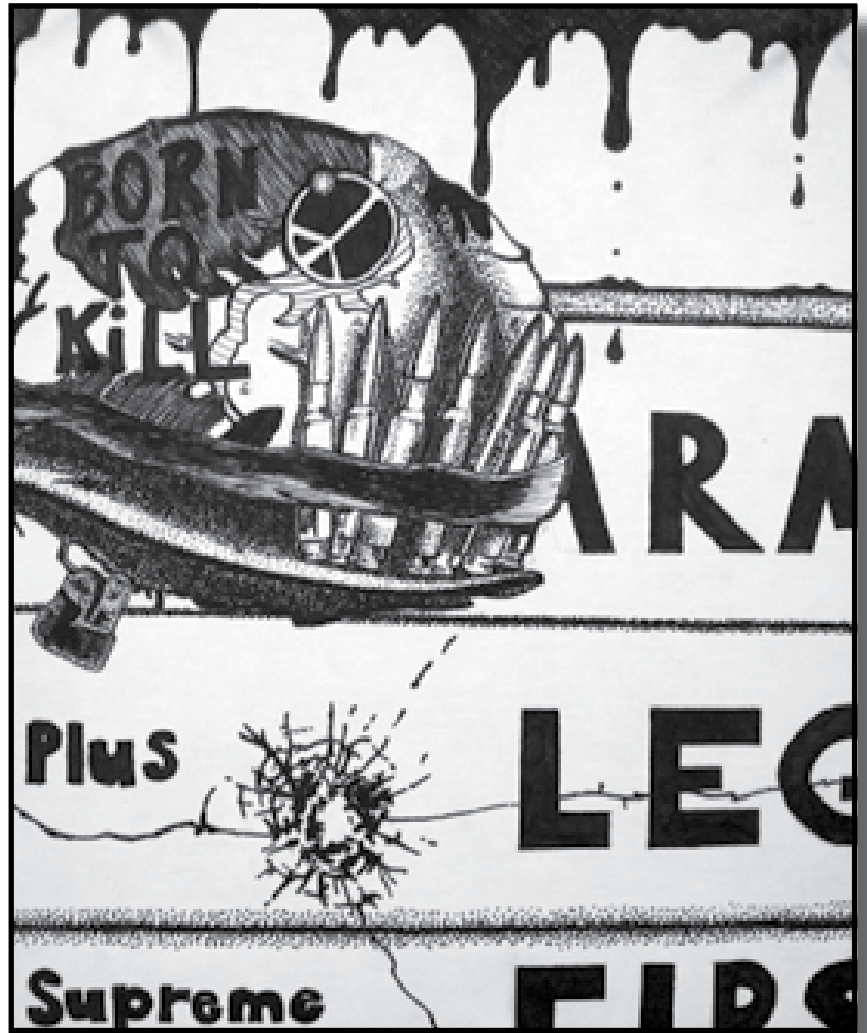
by Kathy Barclay, Editor

Save Trees Use the Website!

I was asked to include the proposal form for next year's conference in this newsletter, but frankly, after years of trying to figure out creative ways to put that boring form in (sideways or with faded photos underneath) I decided enough is enough. I'd rather use the space to highlight the really awesome art work our students are doing. And in this day and age, it makes more sense to utilize the computer for accessing such items since you will probably misplace or toss this newsletter once you have read it anyway.

If you don't know already, we have a wonderful website that was created and is kept current by Lazelle Parker, our amazing Webmaster. You can find current and back issues of this newsletter as well as some of the Regional newsletters, forms of all kinds (Conference Proposal, Nomination Form, Entry Forms for art shows, etc.), photos of events and art work, and links to other valuable sites, including NAEA. So don't let all of Lazelle's hard work go to waste, and don't make me use any more paper than I have to publishing this newsletter . . . *GO TO THE WEBSITE* and see for yourself!

vaea.org



"Blood for Oil" by Sean Jacks, Woodson H.S., Fairfax Co.
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To promote, support and advance Visual Arts Education within the Commonwealth of Virginia through Professional Development, Leadership and Service.

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Don't miss out ... Join NAEA/VAEA!

NAEA/VAEA Membership Application

Mail to: The National Art Education Association, Membership Dept, 1916 Association Dr., Reston, VA 20191

Membership Categories:

Active: Art teachers, directors of art education programs, or those engaged in pursuits closely related to the field. Provides all the benefits of membership.

Associate: School personnel not actively engaged in teaching art and other individuals with a general interest in art education. Provides the basic publication and discount benefits of membership. Members in this category will not receive membership bonuses and do not have the right to hold national office.

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