

# PERSPECTIVES



**Alabama Art  
Education Association**

**WINTER 2025**  
**NEWSLETTER**



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# **AAEA**

# **MISSION STATEMENT**

## **AAEA IS....**

a Professional Organization dedicated to the Leadership, Advocacy, Professional Development Opportunities, and Support for all Visual Art Educators in Alabama.

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# LETTER FROM THE

# PRESIDENT

"I don't want nobody to praise me when I'm gone. Give me my flowers while I yet live." Powerful words, beautifully sung by two truly authentic and soulful artists — Mary Ann Pettway and China Pettway from the Gee's Bend Quilting Collective. Their vocal performances and their keynote presentation left a lasting impression on everyone at the 2025 Fall Conference. The keynote speeches presented by Mary Ann and China Pettway and Doug Baulos, UAB Professor and mixed media artist, were awe-inspiring stories of resilience, creativity, community, and the unbreakable human spirit in the face of adversity. The creative energy continued during the Awards Dinner with the 'trashion show,' where attendees strutted around in runway-worthy lewks made from upcycled materials. The imagination and dedication our members poured into crafting such innovative garments, accessories, and outfits was absolutely mind-blowing. Serving as AAEA President over the past two years has been one of the greatest honors of my life. Since beginning my art education journey in 2015, I've attended nine state conferences — all engaging, all inspiring — but this one will forever hold a special place in my heart, mind, and soul. It embodied everything I love about our art educator community: creativity, camaraderie, and connection. A heartfelt thank-you goes out to our incredible conference chair trio — Sarah Caroline Padgett, Amanda Knight, and Brooklyn Scoggins — whose teamwork and vision made this enlightening experience possible. Also, a big thank you to our AAEA Treasurer, Sharon Christman, for being a guiding light for everyone on our board and a behind the scenes hero for our conference chairs over the past several years.

To be honest, I've been a little in my feels since the NAEA Summer Leadership Conference in Jackson, MS — not because my term as President is ending, but because it means turning the page on this chapter filled with meaningful friendships and shared purpose. The connections I've built with art educators across the state and nation have profoundly changed my life. As a 'people collector,' I plan to carry these friendships with me always — though I'll need a giant grandma-sized handbag (you know the one: soft beige leather, with a few unwrapped mints at the bottom) to hold all the memories, love, and laughter from this experience.

From the very beginning, my mission as President was to ensure our board worked cohesively to "Make Membership Meaningful." Through improved communication and technology, we've created more opportunities for members to connect both regionally and virtually — and I'm proud to say every single board member rose to the occasion. I'm confident that under the leadership of soon-to-be President, Rebecca Wall, AAEA will continue to thrive, supported by a strong board and the incredible passion of our members.

Thank you for giving me my flowers throughout my Presidency. But truly, it's you — our members — who deserve the recognition. Your participation, presentations, and daily dedication to your students and communities are what make AAEA flourish. It has been an absolute honor to serve as your President. This journey has been transformative, humbling, and filled with joy — an experience I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

Bless your HeART and stay Courageously Creative!

-Amanda Youngblood





# OFF THE GRID:

## UNPLUG AND UNWIND



The 2025 Alabama Art Education Association Fall Conference at Camp McDowell was a highly successful and energizing gathering for art educators from across the state. This year's event brought together more than 100 attendees, including K-12 teachers, higher-education faculty, pre-service educators, practicing artists, and longtime AAEA members. We had lots of first time attendees, too! Camp McDowell made the conference feel like a retreat. We were able to reconnect with their creativity, learn new techniques, and build meaningful professional relationships.

The conference theme "Off the Grid" guided much of the programming and encouraged attendees to slow down, step away from the pressures of daily teaching, and engage fully with hands-on workshops and community activities. There were over 35 sessions that covered a wide range of media—printmaking, ceramics, natural dyeing, mixed-media processes, fiber arts, and contemporary art-room practices.

One of the highlights of the conference was the keynote presentation and workshop led by Doug Baulos, whose gentle, nature-centered approach resonated deeply with the setting and theme. Their emphasis on biodiversity, sustainable materials, and reflective making inspired many participants to consider how they might bring similar practices into their classrooms. Equally as standout was the keynote presentation by Mary Ann Pettway and China Pettway of Gee's Bend, whose storytelling, quilting demonstrations, and discussion of heritage arts were both moving and educational. Their presence offered attendees a profound look at Alabama's artistic traditions and their continued impact on contemporary art education.

Some sessions and exciting things included the art supply swap, open studio sessions, and the Trashion show and awards dinner. The Art Supply Swap encouraged resourcefulness and sharing, while Open Studio sessions gave participants time to decompress, collaborate, and create personal work. The Awards Dinner and Trashion Show was a memorable celebration of creativity and sustainability, with many attendees showcasing inventive up-cycled outfits that brought humor, artistry, and camaraderie to the night.

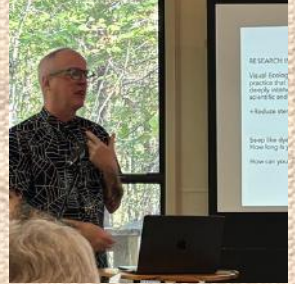
We left this year's conference feeling refreshed, supported, and inspired, ready to return to their classrooms with new ideas, new connections, and a renewed appreciation for the role of art education in Alabama.

-Sarah Caroline Padgett- Co Chair 2025 Fall Conference



# camp McDowell

October 15-18, 2025





# 2025 AAEA AWARD *recipients*



**Linda Miller**  
Elementary



**Jae Lynne Yerenea**  
New Professional  
Art Educator



**Sarah Caroline Padgett**  
Middle Level



**Philippia Fuqua**  
Secondary



**Tricia Oliver**  
Marion Quin Dix Award



Congratulations to all of our 2025 award winners, and thank you to everyone who nominated a colleague! We had a wonderful evening celebrating at Camp McDowell! Kelly Campbell Berwager did an amazing job creating our awards. They were thoughtful, creative and beautiful. I love that we have moved to celebrating our winners with unique artwork created by someone in our membership, I think it makes winning just that much more special. Please begin thinking about art educators who are members of AAEA who deserve to be recognized for their dedication to our craft...nominations for 2026 will be announced soon.- Mary Jane Coker, Awards Chair



## Award Significance/Artist Statement:

### DRESSES

Bodice made from recycled hymnal pages

Dresses and belts made from fabrics, tulle, and ribbon (some new, some vintage), vintage pins and earrings – ALL keeping with the recycle, upcycle, and thrifted theme!

### COLLAGE PIECES

**Canvases** – are covered in vintage dress pattern papers and colored tissue papers, along with gold/silver leaf. They embody us as teachers who sometimes follow a pattern (the rules) and sometimes we throw it all out and make something totally new!

**Mirrors** – symbolize how we often view ourselves and how we must constantly reflect on our teaching.

**Frames** – represent all the masterpieces our students have created with us

**Paint Sets** – stand for all the different types of media we use as artists and all the media we teach our students

**Art Books** – epitomize all the art and art history knowledge we have gained throughout our careers.

**Flowers** – illustrate all the “blooms” we have nurtured throughout our teaching careers.

**Tape Measure** – represents time...time as an artist, a teacher, a parent, a therapist, a friend, a mentor, and the many roles we often play.

**Leaf** – symbolizes the ever-changing seasons and facets of our careers, and how we often have to adapt and change on a moment's notice.



# ALICIA HAMES ALABAMA ART EDUCATOR *of the year*



Who could have imagined that the little girl named Alicia—who was always drawing on the walls, adding illustrations to every English paper to boost her grade, and strategically pairing her art classes with core subjects to keep that GPA afloat—would one day find her place in education for 38 years and ultimately be named AAEA’s Art Educator of the Year? It is an incredible honor, and a full-circle moment, to be recognized for a life spent turning creativity, resourcefulness, and a love of art into a meaningful career for students from Georgia, to Virginia and Alabama!

My first teaching position was in an open space elementary school in Fredericksburg, Virginia with a firm and detail-oriented principal, where I learned discipline and hard work bring the best outcomes. From there, I was offered a position at an elementary school in Snellville, Georgia as their first art teacher, serving a rapidly growing student population of more than 900 children. I initially taught my classes by carting from room to room, and was later relocated to a trailer, where I faced new challenges, including the absence of running water. I had to improvise—such as having each class bring two jugs of water to art—while still ensuring that students received the strong foundational experiences in art that I knew they needed. After five years of teaching in the trailer, the promise of a dedicated art room was finally on the horizon; however, I accepted a new opportunity in Blacksburg, Virginia, where I served as a part-time art teacher at two neighboring high schools. Following two years at the secondary level, the district invited me to help establish its elementary art program, teaching across two elementary schools. After three years in Blacksburg, I relocated once again—this time to Boston, Massachusetts. Despite having a decade of experience, I was unable to secure another art position and discovered that many schools in the area did not have any art openings at all. In 1994, my husband was offered a position at Auburn University, and we returned to the South, finally able to settle into what would become our forever home.





Once again, I was met with a challenge of finding a position available or a system that even had an elementary art program. I started by volunteering to do art projects with my oldest child's class and then found a grant through the Auburn Arts Association that funded supplies which would allow me to teach her whole grade level. For the next three years, I expanded access to the arts for an increasing number of students, supported by a variety of grants and community resources. In 1997, a new opportunity emerged when elementary schools in Auburn were given funding that could be directed either toward an in-school suspension program or an art program. Dean Road Elementary was the only school to allocate its

funds to art, and as a result, I was offered a full-time position to build and lead their program. Over the next five years, the remaining elementary schools added art programs after seeing the success of our program. This instilled in me the importance of community outreach and opportunities for families to see their children's work. People needed to see what we were doing day to day in our art room, and the importance of fostering creativity in children. I was able to showcase my student's work through partnering once again with the Auburn Arts Association, to create display boards that I could display student art work in various community spaces. Additionally, I was always trying to think of new and exciting ways to draw people to our annual art show. Perhaps my most ambitious idea was Art in the Dark, an immersive exhibition in which we turned off all the lights in the school and invited guests to bring a flashlight to experience student artwork in a completely transformed environment. Pieces were designed to react under blacklight to illuminate works inspired by grade level themes: nocturnal animals, rocks and minerals, undersea life and outer space creating a unique and memorable arts experience for the entire community. After 16 years at Dean Road Elementary, I made my final move to Pick Elementary to serve only 3rd through 5th grade. Pick was a brand-new school, built with new-aged technology, "clean" white walls, and smaller size rooms. I had to dig back into what I knew was needed to make an art environment to build a community to help spark creativity and to teach the whole child. This time combining my art curriculum with the school's musical theme brought hundreds of parents through the hallways to see the artwork they had created and watch their child perform in the musical.

I retired this June after 38 years in art education, and I am deeply grateful for every chapter and every challenge that expanded my creativity and strengthened my conviction about the value of art education and the need for equitable access to the arts. In many ways, retirement has felt like a sudden pause to everything I have known, and yet it has also invited a new kind of growth. I am now reintroducing myself to Alicia the artist, rather than Alicia the art educator. I recognize the privilege of having time to create, explore, and rediscover my own artistic voice, and I am honored to share this next chapter with each of you. Together, we remain partners in the work of celebrating and sharing what we all love—art.





# Around the State

## Southern Region 1

The AAEA Southern Region is proud to reflect on professional development workshops and student exhibitions that enriched our arts community throughout 2025. These programs strengthened collaboration among educators, celebrated student creativity, and continued our mission of promoting high-quality arts education across the region. In early 2025, our region hosted an insightful Color Theory Workshop led by Painting Professor Benjamin Shamback. Attendees studied the science and art of color, practiced advanced mixing strategies, and examined how color relationships influence mood, composition, and perception. Shamback's expertise provided educators with valuable tools to strengthen both personal studio practice and classroom instruction.

Our Student Art Shows highlighted exceptional young talent throughout the Southern Region. The YAM 2025 Student Art Show at the USA Marx Library celebrated Youth Art Month with an impressive display of artwork representing schools across the region. This show has quickly become the region's most anticipated showcase, thanks to our partnership with the USA Marx Library. Currently, the AAEA Southern Region Fall 2025 Student Art Show is being held at the Central Arts Collective in Mobile throughout early December. Both exhibitions showcase the dedication of our art educators and the creativity flourishing in their classrooms.

As I conclude my term as the AAEA Southern Region Representative, I want to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to serve our incredible community of art educators. It is my great pleasure to welcome Amanda White of St. Paul's Episcopal School as the new Southern Region Representative. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to Amanda as she steps into this role. I look forward to seeing the exciting ways she will help our region flourish.

## Eastern Region 2

The Region 2 art educators of east Alabama and members of Alabama Art Education Association hosted the inaugural Art Educators Exhibition titled "The Art of Teaching" in Auburn last month. The work was hung at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center and was on display from November 10-20th. The exhibition of the 30 works concluded with a reception on Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup>. Overall, 14 artists participated, both active and retired-

Tiffany Ala, Lacey Basgier, Lauren Beard, Aimee Bentley, Kelly Berwager, Sally Chambliss, Trina Crowdus, Sarah Goodling, Alicia Hames, Randalyn Henry, Betsy Logan, Tricia Oliver, Evelyn Shultz and Rebecca Wall. We look forward to the exhibition being an annual event every fall.





# Around the State can't

## Western Region 3

We had so much fun at Fall Conference at Camp McDowell and hope you did, too. Please let us know if you are doing anything amazing at your school or community that we can brag about!

## Central Region 4

Region 4 teachers enjoyed a recent craft meeting up to check out the new studio space of Makelt 52 in Helena and created candles from recycled vessels. Also, Fall Conference 2026 will take place in our region - yay! - if you are interested in assisting with the conference please contact Angela May ([amay@artsbma.org](mailto:amay@artsbma.org)).



## Northern Region 5

As my term as the North Alabama Representative for AAEA comes to an end, I want to thank you for the chance to serve and collaborate with such dedicated educators. It's been an honor to advocate for our region and to help strengthen arts education across the state. Even though I'm rolling off this role, I'm still here, still invested, and still cheering for everything you're creating in your classrooms.

If you'd like to stay connected, continue sharing ideas, or just keep the conversation going, you're welcome to follow and message me through my new Alabama Choice-Based Art Educators Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1Cp88TCnuT/?mibextid=wwXlfr> . I'd love to keep collaborating and supporting the incredible work happening in North Alabama and across the state.

Here's to what comes next for all of us in the arts. Happy New Year!





# What's the **WORD** from Grade Level Chairs?

## **Elementary Level Division:**

It was great to see all of you at Camp McDowell for Fall Conference. We discussed continuing our Lesson Swap, so be on the lookout for more information about the participating in spring Swap. Lessons will be submitted by the middle of January and shared with all participants by the first week of February. Just in time for the Spring shows and ideas. If you have any questions, concerns or exciting news to share, please reach out to **Brooklyn Scoggins, Elementary Division** at [aaeaelem@gmail.com](mailto:aaeaelem@gmail.com)

## **Middle Level Division:**

If you did not attend the Art Conference this past October at Camp McDowell, you really missed out! We had some amazing keynote speakers, who presented, as well as many awesome presenters who covered a variety of elementary, middle and high school lessons and ideas to incorporate into our classrooms. Conference is also a wonderful opportunity to network with other artsy people, make new friends, learn something new, and create some art for yourself. For me, it encourages, uplifts and revives my soul! I never miss this amazing event each year, and I've already got next year's dates on my calendar.

Since we only have a few more weeks until Christmas is here, I'd like to challenge you to make a new year's resolution to attend our 2026 Conference in Birmingham! I know it will be fabulous, and you will have fun!

As always, please know that we are here for you. So, let us know what you need, and we'll do our best to make it happen.

**Tiffany Ala**, [aaeamiddleschoolrep@gmail.com](mailto:aaeamiddleschoolrep@gmail.com)

## **Secondary Level Division:**

Tidying up this semester has me thinking about next semester and all of the events, exhibitions and competitions that will be coming my way.

During our Secondary Division Meeting at our Annual Fall Conference at Camp McDowell in October, we decided that I would create a Private Facebook Group for us to share Secondary information including ideas, lessons, NAHS, YAM, and Advanced Placement to name a few.

If you would like to be invited to this group, please email me at [aaeasecondarychair@gmail.com](mailto:aaeasecondarychair@gmail.com)

I look forward to this exciting opportunity!

Felicia Olds My email address is [aaeasecondarychair@gmail.com](mailto:aaeasecondarychair@gmail.com) and I will add you to the group. I am here for YOU!- **Felicia Olds**

## **Museum Division:**

The Fall semester started with a bang with lots of fun field trips and school visits. The Jule Museum hosted an artist talk with Binh Danh on September 18. We had a blast at Camp McDowell in October, getting inspired by the incredible arts educators in our state. It is truly an awesome experience to be surrounded by such creativity and skill. The semester ended with an educator workshop hosted by the BMA and led by artist Antoine Williams. It was such a pleasure to spend an evening making with area educators.

But what's coming up for the new year? Well something très magnifique is en route to the Birmingham Museum of Art! Monet to Matisse: French Moderns, 1850–1950 is an exhibition that will transport you and your students to France at a time of radical change—when bold ideas reshaped culture, politics, and the very definition of Western art. You will see works from Cézanne, Renoir, Chagall, Degas, Matisse, Monet and more. The BMA will offer teacher guides, online resources, and tours. And of course, we are gearing up for another fabulous educator night. So stay posted. For more information about the exhibition, scan the QR code. For information on exhibition tours or educator night, email [tours@artsbma.org](mailto:tours@artsbma.org).





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Thanks for helping to make our conference

*Amazing!*





# ***A Full Heart and a Full Cup:***

## **An Arts Education Fellowship Journey to Oaxaca**

In early fall 2024, I was awarded the Alabama State Council of the Arts' Arts Education Fellowship. This grant was meant to fill the cups of arts educators who give so much to our students and community. There was one place that was high on my bucket list as a place to use the funds. So I looked into workshops/retreats in Mexico during Day of the Dead and found one. The grant covered all of my expenses, including the experience itself (which encompassed hotel, a watercolor workshop, immersion opportunities in Mexican culture and Day of the Dead activities) and flights. Once the workshop and flights were booked, I waited. Workshops fill up fast, so I signed up as soon as possible to not miss this dream trip!

When I was little, my family lived in Venezuela. I attended kindergarten with my Venezuelan friends, and my teacher's name was Señora Rodriguez. I still make arepas in my kitchen, which keeps me connected to the childhood experiences that shaped who I am today. While this trip was not to Venezuela, it is easy to say my heart has been connected to the Latino culture for some time. And for as long as I have been in the classroom, I have sought to teach about Mexican culture through the holiday known as Día de Muertos or Day of the Dead. It is essential to me that I teach authentically, and students learn about their peers and their culture, given the number of Latino/Hispanic students in our schools.

After a day of travel and months of refreshing my Spanish, we finally arrived at our 16th-century hotel near the zócalo in the heart of Oaxaca. I'll admit I was nervous that this trip wouldn't live up to everything I wanted it to be. But when we came around the corner from our hotel, and I saw all the colorful papel picado hanging on a street leading to the zócalo, all my fears melted away. And that was just the beginning.



Our watercolor workshop was just on the outskirts of the city, settled in the valley of the mountains. Every day, we would work in the studio, learning from local artist Pedro Cruz Pacheco and his partner Corrie McCluskey. During the 8-day workshop, we spent three full days in the studio and the afternoons on the other days on field trips to visit artists and immerse ourselves in Oaxacan culture. We visited a small pueblo where families made their livelihoods from rugs and textiles. We met Federico and his lovely family, who showed us how the wool was dyed and how they worked on the looms. Federico has embraced modern designs and implemented them flawlessly via the loom. These tapestries deserve to hang in a museum. This segues perfectly into our next artisan, whose work *is* displayed at the Smithsonian. Las Mujeres del Barro Rojo (The Women of the Red Clay), led by Macrina Mateo Martinez, is a community of artists creating beautiful red clay pottery. These pots were crafted from clay taken from the hillside, which was separated into yellow and red clays. The clay pots were built and then covered with the red slip made from the red clay. No glaze is used. Macrina not only shared her journey but also shared the pan de muerto and chocolate for their families' altar since it was after 3pm and their loved ones' spirits had returned.



After one of the best meals I've ever eaten, which included an Oaxacan treat called a Tlayuda, we visited an alibrei studio. The father carved the copal wood, the son prepped the pieces for painting, and the mother-daughter duo painted intricate designs.





## ***A Full Heart and a Full Cup (continued)***

I cannot share about this trip without mentioning our trip to a cemetery at night. So powerful- families gathering, the air filled with history and tradition, the memory of those gone before, the smell of flowers, and the glow of candles. I felt like an intruder, really.



Our guides explained that the cemeteries had become more touristy over the last few years. These families deserved to celebrate Día de Muertos without people shoving cameras in their faces. After leaving cempasuchil on the graves of those without candles and flowers (those with no families visiting their graves), I quickly moved to the outside of the cemetery and felt the emotion of the night without impeding. After all, this was for the families.



I will wrap this up by sharing about my favorite part of the trip, aside from the incredible food (a whole article on its own), which was the anticipation of Día de Muertos itself. I think of it as a cross between Mardi Gras and Christmas...with skeletons. Every day, another restaurant, hotel, or gallery would add cempasuchil (BIG marigolds) to their storefronts, and ofrendas (altars) would be built and displayed inside. But it was all so festive and colorful! Pop-up parades with small bands. Vendors were selling chocolate, clothing, mezcal, and jewelry- everywhere! The music, the color, the art. Everything I wanted it to be.

My heart and cup were indeed both full when I left Oaxaca. So apply for the grant. It is so worth it. And the more that apply, the more grants that can be awarded. You deserve it.

*written by Tricia Oliver. Arts Education fellow*





# Calendar of Events



NATIONAL ART EDUCATION ASSOCIATION  
PROFESSIONAL LEARNING  
**STUDIO**

## NAEA WEBINARS

FREE for NAEA members; \$49 for nonmembers

Universal Design Learning: Time-Saving Strategies for Building Inclusive Art Classrooms

Wednesday, February 4, 2026 | 7–8pm ET


Previous NAEA WEBINARS are available to listen to [here](#).


## NAEA OPEN STUDIO CONVERSATION

Convention 101: Navigating the NAEA26 Experience

Thursday, January 22, 2026 | 7pm ET

## It's not too late to register!





### REGISTER NOW FOR NAEA26!

Join thousands of colleagues March 5-7 in Chicago, IL, for three days of sessions, workshops, events, and creative connections that will elevate your teaching and spark new ideas. We want you there!


**LEARN MORE →**






## Calendar of Events con't.

January 18, 2026- In Person Board Meeting, Birmingham Museum of Art  
2024-2026 board members be prepared to share with the incoming board  
your insight and notes from your tenure. Let's have a seamless transition to  
the new 2026-2028 board.




Applications for the Alabama State Council on the Arts Art Educator  
Fellowship will open in January of 2026! The deadline is March 1, 2026 This  
Fellowship includes an award of \$5000 to use towards your own artistic  
growth. For more information please visit our website and contact  
Kaci Norman, Arts in Education Program Manager at  
[kaci.norman@arts.alabama.gov](mailto:kaci.norman@arts.alabama.gov) or (334) 242-5148. [www.arts.alabama.gov](http://www.arts.alabama.gov)



AAEA announces a call for student artwork for the 2025-2026 Virtual Art  
Competition of Alabama, a juried online art competition. The competition is  
open to all students K-12 in public or private schools of AAEA members. All  
details are below, but please send questions to [aaeavae@gmail.com](mailto:aaeavae@gmail.com).

### Entry Requirements:

All entries must be submitted digitally to the 2025-2026 Virtual Art  
Competition of Alabama. Date to be announced via the AAEA website soon.  
No physical, mailed, or emailed submission will be accepted. Teachers must  
follow the online application process and meet submission requirements for  
entries to be considered for judging.





# LESSON *plans*

Lesson Plans are on a break this issue! However I'm putting out an all call for information about YOUR spring art shows! Our next issue publishes in March. The perfect time to use others' tips and tricks to have the best school show ever- in daylight, blacklight or otherwise! Please send 3-5 photos and a short blurb to [aaeanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:aaeanewsletter@gmail.com) by **February 15<sup>th</sup>**, our spring newsletter deadline.

Thanks so much!- Tricia Oliver, Newsletter Chair



**East Samford School**  
Auburn City Schools

# other NEWS



Aimee Esposito is the 2025 New Art Educator Scholarship winner and Meghan Pine is our 2025 University Student Scholarship winner.

Aimee is at Foley Middle School, where she currently teaches 7th, 8th, and 8th Grade Advanced Art.

Her supervisor, Amy Plunkett, says "Aimee and her husband relocated to Baldwin County in 2022 and she joined the staff of Foley Middle School in 2023. Amie has quickly become a valued member of the faculty.

Aimee is an exceptional teacher. She is consistently creative in her lesson planning and brings a level of energy and enthusiasm to her classroom that inspires students to explore and express themselves through art. Her classroom is a safe, welcoming space where students are encouraged to take creative risks and develop their artistic voice. It's clear she cares deeply for her students—both their artistic growth and their overall well-being. Aimee gives 100% to everything she does. Whether it's leading a classroom project, preparing for an art show, or collaborating with colleagues, she approaches her work with thoughtfulness, professionalism, and a genuine love for teaching. Her ability to connect with students and nurture their creative potential makes her a standout educator."

Meghan is currently itinerant visual arts teacher for Mobile County Public School System, where she serves six elementary schools, all of which are in under-resourced communities. Her supervisor, Dr. Susan Henderson states, "Ms. Pine's dedication to her students is truly exceptional. She teaches in schools where most students are from low-income households, are part of minority populations, and often have little or no access to art outside of school. She also works with ABE students, ensuring they have adaptive art opportunities that foster creativity, confidence, and joy. Meghan continually seeks out new strategies, techniques, and culturally responsive practices that make art meaningful and accessible for every learner. I know from firsthand observation that Meghan brings what she learns directly back to her classrooms—and far beyond them. She shares resources and innovative ideas with colleagues across the district, multiplying the impact of her professional development."

-Tammie Clark, Newsletter Chair

*Congratulations!*



# The Board

## Executive Board

President  
President-elect  
Past-President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Treasurer- Elect

## Name

Rebecca Wall  
Amanda Knight  
Amanda Youngblood  
Jack Vest  
Sharon Christman  
Rikki Rhodes

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Elementary Division  
Middle Division  
Secondary Division  
Retired Division  
Higher Education  
Supervision/Administration  
Museum Division  
PreService/Mentorship

Brooklyn Scoggins  
Laura Wilkerson  
Felicia Olds  
Sally Chambliss  
Kelly Berwager  
Natalie Roig-McKnight  
Angela May  
Andy Meadows

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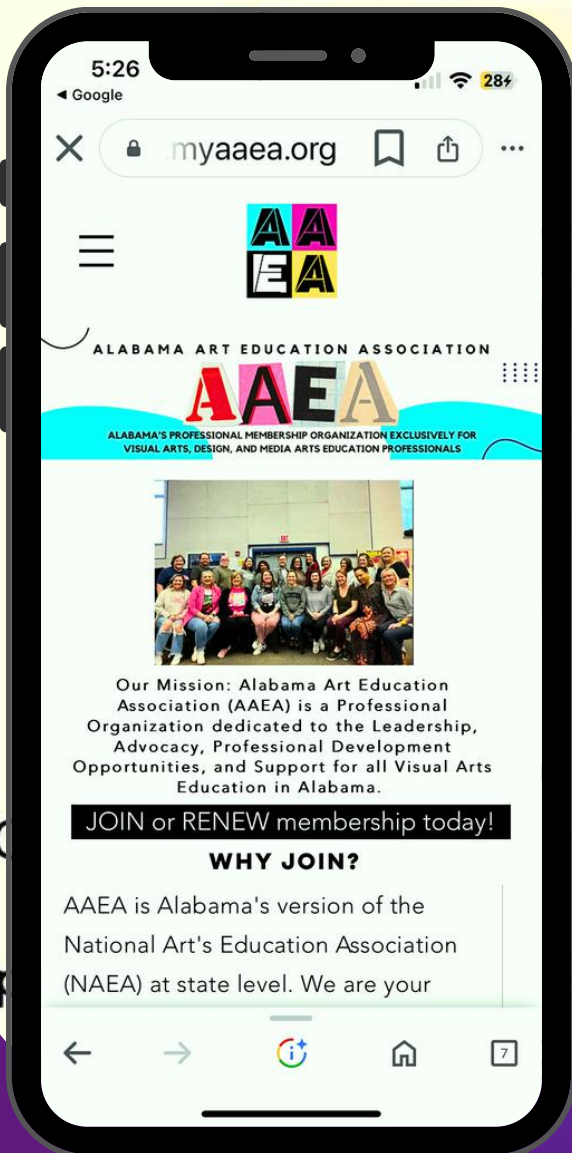
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