



AEI-THE FIRST 50 YEARS

1950-2000

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CHARTER MEMBER

Art Educators of Iowa/Retired Art Educators
Association/National Art Education Association



PREFACE

It has been a privilege to be the one to write the fifty years of AEI history. I have felt a big responsibility to get it correct. This was a challenge, a chore and a labor of love. Without help, I could never have completed the task. Many of our records have been lost, so accurate information was difficult to document.

I wish to thank Dr. John Hicks, who was the inspiration and mentor, who helped me see this project to completion. Kathleen Amelian was able to obtain a box of clippings, early newsletters, and mementos of our early years from Carelton Bump. Bob Glocke was thoughtful to see that I received a box of AEI records and newsletters that he had saved. This was an immense help with getting the events in sequence. Shirley Pfeifer supplied some dates and other records to help with the accuracy of this document. Last I wish to thank my son Robert Crow, who patiently helped me into the computer age. This made my task much easier. I was a charter member of the organization and I hope you understand that using a computer was not one of my skills.

It is my wish that the next fifty years will see more emphasis on Art Education for the young people in our school system. AEI has made great gains over their first fifty years and it is our hope that AEI will be remembered for its many accomplishments.

Elizabeth Bryant Crow AEI, NAEA, and RAEA Charter Member

AEI---- THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS

AEI has roots that go back many years before the actual organization was a reality. The teaching conditions of the 30's and 40's were far different than today. It did not take a college degree to teach and in some rural schools it was possible to teach with a high school diploma. Jobs were scarce, especially in the 30's during the great depression. At this time it was hard to find a school where art was taught except in a few of the larger cities. Art was considered an unnecessary frill, an attitude that persisted into the 50's - and beyond. Most teachers were single women; men tended to be in administrative positions. Wages were low and men received more pay than women. High school teachers were on a higher pay scale than elementary teachers. There was little money for supplies and if textbooks were used at all they were probably outdated.

The war came along. Most military age men went into service. Women began taking over some of the jobs and it was discovered that they could handle many of the administrative positions as well as the men. Women began getting into science, math, and even manual training. The pay became a bit better as people, to fill jobs, became scarce. There were women who followed "Rosie the Riveter" and made much more money, like \$10 per day, as opposed to \$900 to \$1300 per year for the top teaching positions. Just as significant was the fact that women had to prove they could handle many of the jobs that had been thought of as "male only".

In 1942 the Des Moines Schools went to a single salary schedule and one that was the same for all teachers, elementary through high school. The men protested and even talked of organizing. This was short lived when the administration called in some of the most outspoken and told them their jobs were in jeopardy if this materialized. The next year more schools followed suit. There was much grumbling, with the men saying they had families to support and needed more money than a single women without a family. More men went into teaching as they returned from service and went to school on the GI bill. This influx of men had an influence on the formation of AEI as will be shown later.

The Iowa State Education Association dominated the teaching profession in Iowa. All teachers and administrators were required to belong. One could protest by not paying dues but when schools closed for required meetings a salary deduction was made for everyone who could not attend. ISEA was very dictatorial with policies. During a state meeting, a registration was kept so attendance could be checked. The art educators had a section within the ISEA and always held meetings during the annual state conference. There was a speaker, a formal tea and usually an exhibit of student work. The event was held upstairs over a group of stores in downtown Des Moines. It was later moved to the Des Moines Art Center. The downtown exhibit rooms were the quarters of the ART FORUM, an organization of Des Moines people interested in art and who were instrumental in getting the Des Moines Art Center into reality. Des Moines was the only site large enough to accommodate the annual Iowa Teacher Conference. There was much resentment among members outside Des Moines because they felt that Des Moines dominated and more or less ruled the meetings.

There were, of course, more art teachers in Des Moines than anywhere in the state. ISEA would contact the Art Supervisor, Mrs. Bernice Setzer, and have her make arrangements for the meeting.

An exhibit of Des Moines student art, was hung by Des Moines teachers. The tea was a formal affair. There were beautiful tablecloths, borrowed china, and a silver tea service, plus a large samovar owned by Mrs. Setzer. There was always a fresh flower centerpiece and it was considered an honor if you were the one asked to do the flower arrangement. The morning of the first day of the conference the Des Moines schools were in session for incoming teachers to visit. The Des Moines teachers felt put upon and the outsiders felt that Des Moines was regulating too much. The men, who were now getting the same salary as women, felt that there was too much female domination.

Sometime before 1950 there was a beginning of a feeling of unrest and the need to change. ISEA became concerned and a committee was appointed to study the issues and revise some of the by-laws governing the art section.

While ISEA was reorganizing to stem off some of the unrest, Archie Bauman of Cedar Rapids and Harry Guillaume of the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls did some planning. During the art section meeting of the ISEA in 1949, a plan was presented by Archie Bauman for a new organization, independent of ISEA, which would have the capability of doing some of the things many art teachers would like to have for the state of Iowa. This was a surprise. It appeared that the idea for this organization was a spur-of-the-moment idea. Several years later the author was told by a person who was perceived to be a reliable source, that Archie's plan had been carefully worked out. The story goes that one cold rainy day Archie Bauman, Supervisor of art in Cedar Rapids, Harry Guillaume, Art Department Head at UNI and another man, whose identity has been lost, met in Vinton, Iowa. The new organization was planned out in the town's cafe.

This meeting was well before 1949 when it was presented at the ISEA art section business meeting. It was a stormy session. Two sides evolved --those who were loyal to ISEA and felt this new organization would detract from the state organization and those who felt there was a need for an independent organization that could more effectively promote art education within the state. A committee was appointed to work on this new organization and in 1950 AEI was born. Mrs. Rowena Clement of Des Moines was the chairperson of the steering committee, and Mr. Robert Martin of Denison was author and co-chair. Other members of the steering committee were:

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Mr. Archie Bauman | Director of Art, Cedar Rapids Public Schools |
| Mrs. Bernice Setzer | Director of Art, Des Moines Public Schools |
| Dr. Edward Del Dosso | Art Department Head, Drake University |
| Miss Marjorie Garfield | Head of the Applied Art Department, Iowa State University |
| Miss Dorothy Bechtal | High School Art Teacher, Dubuque |
| Miss Ruth Moberly | Perkins Elementary School, Des Moines |
| Miss Grayce Osborn | Art Teacher, Webster City |

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Mr. Frank Wachowiak | Art Department, University of Iowa |
| Miss Dickinson | Kenwood School, Cedar Rapids |
| Miss Helen Caldwell | Director of Art, Burlington |
| Miss Edna O'Brian | Applied Art Department, Iowa State University |
| Miss McDonald | Art Teacher, Cedar Rapids |
| Miss Kara | Art Teacher, Cedar Rapids |
| Miss Julia Crew | McKinley High School, Cedar Rapids |

The first Iowa Art Educators "Bulletin" came out in February 1951. The earliest one in our possession is Volume II Issue 1, October 1951. It was published bimonthly by the Art Educators of Iowa, a non-profit organization of persons concerned with and interested in the advancement of art education in Iowa. A page of ideas written by John R. Hodge of the Extension Department of the University of Iowa, gives us an insight to curriculum of the day. Some examples: If you regard the experience of finger-painting more important than the finished product, use the paint on white oilcloth and it will readily wash off. Silk screen squeegees can be re-shaped by drawing them across fine sandpaper. Bob Martin of Denison had introduced a novel form of decoration into his art room. It was one of the brightly colored, flexible toys designed by Charles Eames and featured in "Life" magazine. There was also a reminder that the 1951 traveling school exhibit of art on a set of slides was available.

The only information about the first conference is that it was held in Cedar Rapids in 1951 at the Roosevelt Hotel. The meeting opened with prayer and musical numbers. The theme of the second general conference was ART-FRILL OR FUNDAMENTAL. The meeting was in Waterloo in October. Miss Rosemary Beymer, Director of Art in Kansas City, was the major speaker. In 1951 there was a Red Cross appeal to Iowa Schools for participation in the International School Art Program. There would be an exchange of student's work in foreign countries.

The third general conference was held in Burlington, October 17-18, 1952, at the Hotel Burlington. Chairman of the program committee was Frank Wachowiak. The theme was "Art and the Child". The main speaker was Helen Parkhurst, Educator and author, "Child's World". Another highlight of the conference was an open house at the James Schram residence. Their private art collection included a Picasso, Giacometti, Moore and a Calder. The president of the association at this time was Harry Guillaume. Elaborate program booklets were made by Burlington school students. The meeting included reports from the Western Arts Convention, the small group discussions and the Art Educator's council meeting. Rates at the Hotel Burlington might be of interest. A single room with private bath was \$4.25 and a plain room with lavatory would have cost \$3.00.

In 1953 Bob Martin of Denison was President. The Art Educators March Newsletter included suggestions for a "Ruler and Yardstick Holder", "How To Keep From Misplacing Your Scissors", and "Folders for Paper Scraps". There was also a report on the Western Arts Association meeting in St. Louis. Archie Bauman was pushing for participation in the International School Art Program.

In a 1953 newsletter, Marie Brewer of Des Moines, wrote a letter in which she referred to the organization as AEI. Apparently Bob Martin had left Iowa for a job in New York and Marie Brewer became the new president before his term was completed. The same year it was noted that "Adventures in Art", a WOI-TV program went into its second year and was one of three programs to be continued. It was also noted that Frank Wachowiak had gone to Rangoon, Burma to teach art to children of that country. The administrator of that country wanted Frank to teach them to make American spinning tops, kites, and model planes. Frank said, "I'll teach them painting, claywork, design, puppets, etc. whether they want it or not."

In 1955 there were seven educational districts in Iowa. The Northeast District had the most members and the South Central none. Apparently there was no registration required. The annual conference was in Davenport and Miss Ella Preston, Supervisor of Art, put a note in the newsletter asking people to let her know how many were coming in their group and if you planned to stay for lunch. Annual dues, which included conference registration, were \$3.00 per year.

Lars Souder became president in 1956 and the conference was held in Dubuque. Mariska Karasz was the featured speaker. Her expertise was in stitchery. [The Des Moines Art Center now owns one of her pieces.] The theme was interesting, "Crafty Arts or Crafty Crafts". The dues had now gone up to \$2.50. There was also a pre-registration fee of \$1.50 to cover workshops, which were being offered for the first time.

By 1964 several revisions of the constitution had taken place. There were now four AEI districts and eleven standing committees. It was stated that special committees would serve no longer than the term of the administration.

Around 1970 Dr. John Hicks of Drake University became the Newsletter Editor. There was an array of featured articles on many subjects of interest and some guest editors. At this time the Newsletter became brightly colored and on slick paper. The President was Brent Wilson of the University of Iowa. In 1974, the publication became the "MESSAGE" which has remained until the present time 2000.

In 1967 the state AEI conference was in Fort Dodge. Sessions were held at one of the new schools, the Country Club, and Blanden Art Museum. June McFee, author of "Preparation for Art", was the speaker. AEI did not have enough money for June, even though she offered to come for only plane fare of \$250.00. Peggy Patrick of the Des Moines Art Center also made a presentation on creativity. A very large attendance took care of the finances.

The spring conference in 1974 featured photography. John Shultz, who taught photography in the Art Department at the University of Iowa, and himself a photographer of note, gave an inspiring presentation. He made the audience think about what photography is and also stressed what it can do.

1974 brought about unification with the National Art Education Association. The vote carried at this time but the mechanics were not all in place until later. At first there was a drop in

membership but it has continued to grow since. It is felt that AEI has more clout with this affiliation to the national organization.

According to a February 1975 issue of the monthly newsletter, there was a list of editors for each month. The only issues we have are for February and the spring-summer. The editor for February was Joline DeJong. She described the new facilities at Central College in Pella. She also wrote about student trips, via station wagon, to the Art Institute in Chicago. They stayed at a Christian College, Palos Heights. The weekend not counting transportation was \$8-\$10 per night.

There is a 1975 MESSAGE, Volume two-Number two that is the 25th. year anniversary edition. There is a letter of congratulations from Bill Lockhart, President of NAEA. An article written by Jan Soldish, who was the Secretary/Treasurer. in 1975, quotes Mrs. Charlotte J. Chenoweth of Iowa City. Chenoweth urged the organization to not only provide communication between art teachers but to provide communication between educators, superintendents, school boards and communities. The records compiled for the 25th year by Jan Soldish have not been located. We do have a picture from 1976 indicating that the 25th anniversary was celebrated in the spring of 1976. We have a picture from that meeting showing the charter members in attendance. They were as follows; Elizabeth Bryant [now Craw], Carlton Bump, Dorothy Bechtal Rossiter, Margaret Pederson, Helen Caldwell, Frank Wachowiak, Erma Oberg, Harry Guillaume, and Archie Bauman. This gala affair was in the Roosevelt Hotel in Cedar Rapids. Helen Caldwell is holding a special award trophy. Does anyone know what became of it? The record of charter members has been lost. Frank Wachowiak was the speaker for the banquet. He talked about some of his personal experiences and the importance of a good rapport with each student, especially the ones who failed to produce good art in the classroom. His message was to “love” each one and be generous with hugs. Always find something good to say about each student’s art. Frank got a standing ovation.

March 1975 was the first designated annual Youth Art Month in Iowa. The YAM designation was signed by Gov. Robert Ray. Dennis Dake and Peggy Newman were the chairpersons. The Michigan Artrain opened it’s Upper Midwest tour, which included Iowa.

In 1983 there was a milestone for the fall conference, with “Art in the Woods”. This event was at Camp EWALU in Strawberry Point State Park. The emphasis was finding art in nature.

The Chairperson was Betty Lake. Betty was later awarded AEI Art Educator of the year and after moving to Arizona, was also awarded Arizona Art Educator of the Year. Many workshops were offered. Plans were made to celebrate the tenth anniversary of YAM. In 1984, Art Attack, originated by Mary Jane Gill was going strong at the Iowa State Fair. A computer graphics program was offered at Drake for people interested in art and journalism. The next year Bob Glocke wrote an editorial about the computer in the art classroom. His advice was to jump on the bandwagon and not complain about money going into the computer age while money for the art budget was being cut. In 1984 the Retired Art Teachers affiliate of the NAEA had it’s beginning. In 1986 the dues were lowered and the retired teachers took on a positive role in it’s support of the national and state organizations. Today it has a strong program and is a vital part of NAEA. Our retired people feel they are still needed and are still useful.

AEI now has many programs and services for art teachers of all levels including museum and retired educators. There is public recognition given in the form of certificates and plaques for outstanding accomplishments, both student and members. The annual conferences feature speakers of national importance. Many of our members have been nationally recognized and a number have held NAEA offices. Recently AEI has joined with other fine art organizations in the Iowa Alliance for Art Education. Through networking, the arts can be strengthened.

It is hoped that much will be accomplished in the next 50 years as the last. We have an organization in which all art teachers can take immense pride.

Elizabeth Crow
 AEI NAEA RAEA
 Charter Member

AEI Presidents

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Robert Martin | Denison | Brent Wilson | Iowa City |
| Harry Guilluame* | Cedar Falls | Gary Statler | Marshalltown |
| Helen Brewer | Muscatine | Dennis Dake | Ames |
| Frank Wackowiak* | Iowa City | Doug Palmer | Harcourt |
| Lars Souder* | Davenport | Carol Durart* | Des Moines |
| Lucille Lenius | | Marian Skartvedt* | Ellsworth |
| Edith Bradbury* | Waterloo | Darlene Frazier McCoy | Boone |
| William Ells | | Betty Lake | Tama |
| Archie Bauman* | Cedar Rapids | Kim Stastny | Davenport |
| Bob Glocke | Fairfield | Nan Mercier | Iowa City |
| Dorothy Rossiter Bechtel | Dubuque | Lynda Black | Cedar Rapids |
| Clifford Harold* | Cedar Falls | Andy Helgerson* | Davenport |
| Edna Pierce* | Cedar Rapids | Joel Franken | Denison |
| Ruth Mobberly* | Des Moines | Susan Baer | Chariton |
| John Hicks | Des Moines | Kyra Wilcox Conley | Slater |
| | | Pat Grubb | Ankeny |
| | | Chris Noel | Newton |

* Known to be deceased

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Before 1946 there were two organizations for art teachers, Western Arts and Eastern Arts. They were not affiliated until 1947. At this time they joined to become the National Art Education Association. Iowa art teachers were active in the Western Arts Association. Before becoming Western Arts Association, it was the Western Drawing Teacher's Association.

WESTERN ARTS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS FROM IOWA

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Clara A. Wilson | 1901 (Western Drawing Teacher's Association) |
| Estelle Hayden | 1923 |
| Bernice Setzer | 1942 |
| Harry Guillaume | 1946 |

NATIONAL ART EDUCATION ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS FROM IOWA

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------|
| Charles Qualley | Des Moines Public Schools |
| William Bealmer | Drake University |
| Brent Wilson | University of Iowa |
| David Baker | University of Northern Iowa (Graduate) |

NATIONAL ARTS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION VICE PRESIDENTS FROM IOWA

| | |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| John Hicks | Drake University |
| Kim Statsny | Davenport Public Schools |
| Bill Frances | Drake University |

ACHIEVEMENTS OF ART EDUCATORS OF IOWA MEMBERS

Jim Harris, a Des Moines art educator, was the first black president of the National Education Association.

Bernice Setzer, Des Moines Public Schools Art Supervisor, was given an honorary membership in the American Institute of Architects, (AIA) She was given this honor because she incorporated architectural appreciation into the K-12 curriculum. This was a requirement for all students in 1947, a first in the nation. She is still the only woman to receive this honor.

Mary Jane Gill, a Des Moines art teacher, was a model for a Norman Rockwell painting when she was six years old. "Who's Having More Fun" was the name of the painting. Mary Jane and a neighbor boy are depicted eating an ear of corn. The painting was used in an advertisement for Niblets Corn.

Frank Wachowiak, University of Iowa Professor of Art Education, was the author of two outstanding text books for art education. EMPHASIS ART and ART IN DEPTH. Both were recognized nationally.

AEI AWARDS

ELEMENTARY LEVEL

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 2000-01 | Becky Kobos * |
| 1999-00 | Annette Vance |
| 1998-99 | Jeff Tadsen, Jean Caboth, Shawn Reynolds |
| 1997-98 | Ken Esveld * |
| 1996-97 | Kyra Wilcox Conley |
| 1995-96 | Pat Grubb |
| 1994-95 | Steve Cox |
| 1993-94 | Susan Baer |
| 1992-93 | Andy Helgerson |
| 1991-92 | Christine Laue |
| 1990-91 | Marlyn Green |
| 1989-90 | Sandy Vas |
| 1988-89 | Cliff Coussens * |
| 1987-88 | Tempest Kuykandall |
| 1986-87 | Lynda Black |
| 1985-86 | Suzanne Runyan |
| 1984-85 | Joyce Dazey |

MIDDLE LEVEL

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| 2000-01 | Pat Leinen |
| 1999-00 | Twyla Godbersson |
| 1997-98 | Don Kremer |
| 1996-97 | Jill Mitchell |
| 1995-96 | Joyce Green |

SECONDARY LEVEL

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| 2000-01 | Will Hildebrandt |
| 1999-00 | Paul Adamson |
| 1998-99 | Dave Pratt |
| 1997-98 | Dale Gentry |
| 1996-97 | Anne Lundquist |
| 1995-96 | Laurie Olk * |
| 1994-95 | Anita Coon |
| 1993-94 | Don Heggen |
| 1992-93 | Pat Watson |
| 1991-92 | Christine Noel |
| 1990-91 | Diane Foster |
| 1989-90 | Joel Franken |
| 1988-89 | Polly Brotherton |

| | |
|---------|------------------|
| 1987-88 | Norm Bennett |
| 1986-87 | Kella Gerard |
| 1985-86 | Vickie Summerson |
| 1984-85 | Kathleen Amelian |

HIGHER EDUCATION LEVEL

| | | |
|---------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1999-00 | Steve Thunder-McGuire | U. of Iowa |
| 1998-99 | Dale Jackson | |
| 1997-98 | Barbara Caldwell | * Iowa State U. |
| 1992-93 | Annette Swann | U. Northern Iowa |
| 1991-92 | John Weikein | * Iowa State U. |
| 1989-90 | John Hicks | * Drake U. |
| 1988-89 | Dennis Dake & John Weinkein | Iowa State U. |
| 1987-88 | Diane Gregory | U. Northern Iowa |
| 1986-87 | Sharon Hann | DMACC |

SUPERVISORY/MUSEUM LEVEL

| | | |
|---------|----------------------------|-------------|
| 2000-01 | Andrea Heiss | Museum |
| | Sharon Hobart | Supervisory |
| 1998-99 | Gerry Rodgers | Museum |
| 1997-98 | Meg Beshey | Museum |
| 1996-97 | Donna Davilla | Supervisory |
| 1995-96 | Peggy Leonardo | Museum |
| 1994-95 | Katie Virden * | Supervisory |
| ----- | | |
| 1992-93 | Ann Marie Hayes | Museum |
| 1991-92 | Mary Beth Schroeder-Fracek | Supervisory |
| 1990-91 | Diane Koeppl-Horn | Museum |
| 1989-90 | Cheryl Parker * | Museum |
| 1988-89 | Betty Winga | Museum |

ART EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

| | |
|---------|--------------------|
| 2000-01 | M. Joyce Green |
| 1999-00 | Kyra Wilcox Conley |
| 1998-99 | Don Heggen |
| 1997-98 | Marilyn Green |
| 1996-97 | Christine Noel |
| 1995-96 | Pat Watson |
| 1994-95 | Cliff Coussens |
| 1993-94 | Joel Franken |

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| 1992-93 | Polly Brotherton |
| 1991-92 | Kathleen Amelien |
| 1990-91 | Lynda Black |
| 1989-90 | Phil Murrell |
| 1988-89 | Joline DeJong |
| 1987-88 | Nan Mercier |
| 1986-87 | Martha Tauton |
| 1985-86 | Betty Lake |
| 1984-85 | Mary Jane Gill |
| 1983-84 | Kimm Stastny |

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE WITHIN THE PROFESSION

John Hicks (Also received the National District Award)
Mary Jane Gill
Bob Glocke
Kimm Stastny
Laura McGee
Elizabeth Crow
Dennis Dake
John Bowitz
Susan Kropa
Vicki Summerson

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OUTSIDE THE PROFESSION

Jodie Butler
Jerome Thompson
Jim Buddenhagen

SPECIAL AWARDS (Given in rare cases)

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Loren Reed | Advocacy |
| Elizabeth Crow | Outstanding Retired Art Teacher |

* Indicates NAEA Western Region Award

This history was published with the able assistance of Joel Franken in 2001.