

Highlights from the AENJ Advisory Council

Jane Graziano

During the past year, our advisory council representatives from each division (elementary through secondary) and region (northern to southern NJ) have been hard at work exchanging ideas, and making recommendations to promote meaningful professional development and advocacy opportunities.

A very special thank you to Susan Bivona, Debbie Greh and the Executive Board whose support and guidance keep us focused and moving forward!

Our Elementary Representative, Ellen Silverman, coordinated the 2nd Annual Y-Art Teacher Camp in Medford NJ and organized the first Elementary Dinner Meeting which drew 50 elementary art teachers from north to south for an evening of food and fun at the Doubletree Hotel. Kandy Lippincott, who joins Ellen in representing the elementary level on the council and last year's recipient of AENJ's Elementary Art Teacher Award, involved our guests in an evening of incredible printmaking activities.

Ellen is also organizing a series of Town Hall Meetings where regional groups will discuss "the state of the art of teaching in New Jersey". Responses from these gatherings will be shared at conference during the Advisory Council Annual Meeting.

Alonzrea (Lonnie) Austin, Middle School Representative, is currently organizing the first annual Middle School/High School Dinner to be held at the Doubletree Hotel on April 30, 2008. As this year's Middle School Award recipient, Lonnie will be conducting a workshop during this dinner meeting while this year's High School Award recipient, Eileen Glynn will also hold a workshop for our high school art teachers in a separate breakout session.

Our newest council member, Ursula Accumanno joins Nancy Knutsen as Central Representative(s). Ursula teaches elementary art at Alexandria Twp in Pittstown. There will be more to come as Ursula eases into her new position on the council.

Sharon Henneborn, NJEA Representative for AENJ is again taking the lead in organizing a wonderful line-up of workshops offered by AENJ members for all educators interested in arts integration at the NJEA Convention this November in Atlantic City.

Diane Driessen is keeping us connected with AENJ South. Their annual workshop series will include,

Higher Education representative, Jan Wilson has joined me in the effort to further involve our future art teachers from our New Jersey colleges and universities in conference. We are working hard to make registering school groups easier. Please contact Debbie Greh (dgreh@comcast.net) to find out how!

This is the first year the Student Chapter will be presenting a strand of events for students to attend. In addition to offering the 4th Annual Student Roundtable Event, AENJ's Student Chapter officers invite students and teachers alike to join them in setting up an installation in honor of Sandy Skoglund this year's keynote speaker. These dedicated and ambitious teachers to be will also be conducting their first Business Meeting to encourage student participation in planning future conference activities. A special presentation titled Teaching Art to Students with Special Needs with Joanne Haight is another Student Chapter Strand event you won't want to miss. Joanne was last year's Gloucester County Special Services School District's Teacher of the Year. How fortunate we are that Joanne offered to share her expertise with us!

Stop by the Student Registration Booth to introduce yourself to our officers and pick up an events flyer!

One final note, plans for the 2008 Spring Symposium: Choosing to Learn: Constructing a Student Led Art Education is underway. This year's event will be held on April 12th at Rowan University in Glassboro. We still have much to do but time and place are confirmed so mark your calendars!