

## Greetings Everyone!!!

We are now into September, the school year is underway, and we are getting organized for another wonderful year in LAEA!

Before I go any further, I want to thank Denise Tullier-Holly for being such a good role model for me, and for being such a vibrant leader of LAEA for the last two years. This past summer, she once again undertook the planning of a conference in New Orleans. The Southeastern Regional Presidents and Presidents-Elect met in NOLA for the Southeast Regional Leadership Conference with NAEA Director, Dr. Deborah Reeve, Debi West, NAEA Southeastern Regional Director, and Scott Russell, the Southeastern Director-Elect. Several members of LAEA also attended the cultural day and business meetings. Denise is definitely the planning guru - and the 2016 LAEA Fall Conference will be in Hammond, planned again by Denise!!! Sure to be a winner!!! Thank you again, Denise!

I am honored to accept the position as your President. It is a daunting responsibility for which I have many goals and need everyone's support and input. Having worked with the members of the LAEA Board, I know how dedicated and enthusiastic you are, and I sincerely appreciate your service.

The focus of this first President's message is the **LAEA Fall Conference**, October 9 and 10 in Monroe, LA, and **the new web site**.

***Fall conference!!!! YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS EVENT!!! There will be maps in your registration packet.***

Leah Reitzell is truly a super woman!!! She has been pulled in 200 directions at once, and she has managed to plan an exciting, professional Fall Conference that is designed with LAEA members in mind. Whether you want an art filled weekend with time to make art and relax with friends, or if you want to earn CLUs and return to your family on Saturday evening, this conference is made for you.

If you have items you can donate to the Silent Auction, you can turn them in when you register at the hotel. It can be new art books or those you no longer use, items you have made yourself, or items that you have had donated to you from friends or from

merchants in your town. Proceeds from the Auction are the way we fund our scholarships and grants.

The Board Meeting will be at 2:00 on Friday at the Courtyard by Marriott - near the Residence Inn - the conference hotel. All Board members will be in attendance, but we welcome any members who would like to see what the Board operation is all about.

At 6 pm Friday evening, we will gather at the University of Louisiana at Monroe's beautiful Library/Conference Center on the 7th floor for wine by Landry Vineyards and the beginning of the Silent Auction. Leah has arranged a fabulous catered dinner after which Ange Riehl will present this year's LAEA awards. This is always a highlight of the weekend. After the awards are presented, we will conclude the silent auction.

Our Saturday morning begins at 8:00 with coffee and registration at Bry Hall. Scheduled workshops and walk-up sessions begin at 8:30. At 11:30 we will head back to the ULM Conference Center for another catered meal, the LAEA General Meeting, and the Keynote presentation by Dr. Joni Noble. Then we will continue with the afternoon workshops. The conference will end at 4:30, so if you need to head back to your family, there will be time, and if you want to kick back and relax with friends and colleagues, there's lots to do in Monroe on a Saturday night!!!

Please join us for this exciting weekend!!! Thanks to Leah and her team!!!

Since taking over as your President at the end of the Summer Retreat, I have been working to present an organization that is transparent, organized, and helpful to all its members. At first these are baby steps for me, but starting with revamping the LAEA web site, we are getting the process off the ground.

Killian Morantine-Williams, our fantastic, knowledgeable web master and I have corresponded constantly over the summer, and we were able to meet face to face when he was in Shreveport for a tech training conference. We have begun to organize and update the web site, and we have been able to use it to get information and to register for the LAEA Fall Conference in Monroe. The web site [www.laarteducators.org](http://www.laarteducators.org) contains all registration information, agenda, hotel link, workshops, awards banquet info and much more, including the ability now to pay through Paypal!!! There have been several glitches, but I appreciate you all for being

patient with us, and for those who have caught our mistakes - thanks for pointing them out so we can correct them.

The web site isn't ready for launch, but here are just some things that will appear on the web site in the future:

- Already a reality - Fall Conference in Monroe - ability to use Paypal link
- Professional Development opportunities
- Board Member job descriptions and reports - what a great way to share with the other members throughout the state
- Contact information of all Board Members so you'll know who to reach out to if you have questions or need help
- Scholarship and Grant information for our members
- Membership information - some of the perks of membership in LAEA/NAEA
- NAEA link and the link to the Convention registration which is in Chicago, March 2016
- Award categories and this years winners
- Links to museums and to popular art teacher blogs, and we hope to include some of your favorite lesson plans!
- Art galleries for student art as well as teacher/artist art!
- Lots of pictures!

*We're aiming high, but we also need your input. Can you think of anything else we need to add - I'm sure there is lots more out there! Please take a moment and anytime you think of something you'd like to see added, send me an email - [president@laarteducators.org](mailto:president@laarteducators.org).*

After we fill in all the places where we want to add information on the site, when we make sure of the spelling, check that the links work, and so much more, we will officially launch the site and celebrate a huge milestone!!! Thanks again Killian!

I hope each of you received my email to the membership recently. I have spent the day going over the newest membership list from NAEA, and most email addresses are correct, but I was able to add 12 more new members to the list. As people join LAEA throughout the year, the list will need to be updated, but I hope to keep everyone informed.

My next message will focus on YAM. This is the next target for our web site. There is a new theme this year, and there will be a rubric to go with it! Kelly has been busy and there will be explanations, examples, and YAM forms available at the conference. A big thank you to Sargent Arts who sponsors this wonderful event!

In conclusion, I want to thank everyone again! Your dedication to LAEA means everything to me. **“Together We Are Stronger!”**

Margaret Holt,  
LAEA President