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NYSATA Region 6 News

New York State Art Teachers Association Region 6 includes: Albany, Columbia, Fulton, Greene, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren, & Washington Counties

A NOTE FROM YOUR CHAIR ~ Kathleen Hallam-Bushek

As we all move forward to meeting the challenges of our new school year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on how far we have come as region. We have been able to host 4 region meetings. We have had 3 quality newsletter publications. A portfolio program exists in 2 locations. An Activities Committee has been formed. Our first event was held at the Hyde this summer to view the Georgia O'Keefe exhibition. Our support to the Legislative Art Show is valuable at many levels. We have a partnership with CAAS which has enabled us to bring you the faculty show at NY-SUT among other student exhibit opportunities. OVA is hosted within our region and we advocate for it as well as support and partici-

pate in it. Scott Walroth from Niskayuna is our art educator of the year for 2013. On my Heidi scale I call that highly effective! Region 6 has gone from 0-10 in just 1 year. That could not have happened without some excellent people coming forth to help put this Region back on track. I would like to encourage everyone to search their busy schedules, take a moment to reflect, and see if there is one thing you might be able to do for your region. We have started the ball rolling, it would be great if we could keep it that way!

Have a Great Year,
Kathleen Hallam-Bushek, Region 6 Chair



Scott Walroth, Region 6 Art Educator of the Year

Scott Walroth, Region 6 Art Educator of the Year, is also one of this year's featured presenters at the 2013 NYSATA Pre-Conference: Innovation & Advocacy in Action. He is no stranger to this arena having previously presented at NYSATA Conferences in the past as well as NYSC&TE Annual Regional Conferences. Scott's topics consistently not only advocate for the arts but demonstrate how new technologies can be used a valuable tools of instruction in the arts.

"The words- 'What's best for kids?'- will always be remembered being spoken by the K-12 Director of Art Education (and my mentor), Scott Walroth". This is a quote

by colleague Stephen Honicki, the Nisk-Art Gallery Co-Advisor, evidencing that clearly Scott is ,above all, a student advocate. The student-run Nisk-Art Gallery is only one such student based initiative that Scott created in his school district . A state-of-the-art Electronics Arts Lab offers students Media Arts opportunities further enriching their Visual Arts experience ; another incredible opportunity for students created by Scott. Of the many rewards his students have received, eight of them have been Congressional art awards; several others have been on the local, state, and national levels.

Scott extended his initiatives beyond his school district as a member of CAAS to assist in creating opportunities to a larger number of students. Assisting with the Bi-Annual Art College and Career Night for Capital Area students is one such opportunity as well as the Empire State Plaza Collection Show. These two represent only a small few of many examples.

"Home" a thematic exhibition of work was a recent showing of professional art work by Mr. Walroth at the Nisk-Art Gallery (2012). Obviously advocating for himself as an artist is also another facet of his person.

I have presented only a snapshot of an amazing art educator of 31 years. He has taught middle and high school, Advanced, AP, Honors Art Studio, Photography, Cinematography, Ceramics, Sculpture, and Studio in Computer Arts. Scott Walroth is a strong, knowledgeable ,powerful advocate for Art Education as a Profession, for Students of Art Education, and Art Education of the Future. A most sincere congratulations to Mr.Walroth, Region 6 Art Educator of the Year!

Member Spotlight - Getting to know Krista Gillis, owner of Capital Region Teachers for Teachers

Krista Gillis is a Region 6 NYSATA member who has recently opened a new business that focuses on professional development opportunities. Her business, Capital Region Teachers for Teachers, is currently offering several workshops for art teachers and new courses are being added regularly. I recently chatted with Krista to find out more about her business and her background. Here's the results of that chat:

Tell us about why you decided to open Capital Region Teachers for Teacher.

As an art teacher myself, I found that I was becoming more and more disappointed and frustrated with the professional development that was available to me. The state is requiring more hours of professional development for new generations of teachers than ever before but districts are being forced to cut back on their professional development funds and resources, Teacher Centers are closing, and museums have had cutbacks too. Many of us are paying out of pocket for our classes or driving great distances to find a course applicable to our field. I decided it was time to take matters into my own hands and try a new approach.

And, what is that approach?

I can't state it more directly than the company name itself; Teachers for Teachers. We are all trained professionals and many of us artisans as well. Why not pass our knowledge to each other like we do every day with our own students. The mission is to create relevant and affordable development opportunities by relying on our greatest strength- our collective knowledge.

What kind of experience do you have in the world of professional development?

During my time as a grad assistant for the Art Education department at Naz-

areth College, one of my responsibilities was to help run a program called the Mentor Network. Capital Region Teachers for Teachers is based loosely on this program which also relied on teachers coming together for workshops and art experiences. My job taught me how to plan, market, register, and run an event. Eventually I took these skills and started teaching my own children's classes in the Rochester area. I also worked part-time for several years in the Creative Workshop at the Memorial Art Gallery. My responsibilities here were similar to that of the Mentor Network, although I worked as part of a much greater team.

How does your own classroom experience add to this?

I've been working in the teaching field for about ten years. In that time I have worked in mainly rural and suburban districts in the Rochester and Albany areas. I have, in this relatively short amount of time, had the opportunity to work with children in every grade level from K-12. I have taught kindergarten art, digital photography, art history, ceramics, photography, middle school digital art, and the list goes on and on. I have learned many things from these experiences but mainly that I LOVE to learn, that teaching is all about flexibility, and that I'm not afraid of a challenge. These experiences have really empowered me to want to learn more, reflect on my own practices and share where I can.

What kind of courses are your offering through your business?

Anything and everything I can: art making, technique driven, Common Core related, the integration of technology, and so on. I am willing to consider any topic as long as there is an interest from local teachers. In the future I'd love to offer some bus trips to museums as well.

Who teaches the classes?

I intend to teach some myself but any teacher can approach me with an idea. You have to have a solid idea and obviously the credentials to back it up. I'd also like to get

some local artisans to teach workshops on their own area of expertise. Once we have an idea in place, I can hire you as an independent contractor to teach your course and be paid for it. I can also help you to earn professional development hours by teaching the course. This is a general outline of course; more details of the process can be found on the proposals page of my website or through speaking with me directly.

And do I get credit for taking your courses?

Of course! Just like any workshop you attend you will receive an attendance certificate for your time in class that you can present to your district for PDP hours.

Let's hear more about your website.

It's capitalregionteachers.com. Since I am an independent business I have my own site that features our course listings, event calendar and shopping cart system. Once a visitor has registered for an account they will be able to view their upcoming and past classes, print/view receipts, and eventually print their attendance certificates- right now they are emailed to you once your class is complete. You can add a course to our shopping cart and either pay by personal credit card on a secure third party system or submit a request for a purchase order. And don't forget to find us on Facebook and Pinterest too!

Anything else you would like us to know?

I hope that you all remember that I have been in your shoes and understand the rigors of our field. I am passionate about learning and I truly do want the courses I'm offering to help make your job a little easier. I'm always open to ideas, opinions, and feedback, so don't hesitate to drop me an email or give me a call. So far I've been thrilled by the enthusiasm and support of my fellow colleagues and hope that we can all work together to continue to create a wonderful sharing community.

- Region 6 at the November Conference -

This is OUR conference!

For the first time in years, the statewide annual conference is in our neighborhood. So we need to show off our region, in hopes that it won't take so many years to bring the conference back to us again. What can you do to help? Here are a few suggestions:

- **The obvious: Attend the conference! Be welcoming to newcomers to the Albany area.**
- **Volunteer to spend a little time manning the Region 6 'Innovation Station' - a hands-on area where conference attendees can stop by during an unscheduled moment to decorate their conference name tag, perhaps add a personal touch to a mural, and visit with other conference attendees!**
- **Join other Region 6 members for a glass of wine at a meet-and-greet in our Hospitality Room on Friday before dinner.**
- **Clean junk from your storage closets and basements and gather 'random/recycled/rldiculous materials' to contribute to the TASK party on Saturday night. (No paints or other wet media, please; just any oddball scraps, recyclables, and leftovers that you might have.) Bring this stuff with you to the conference to contribute, or, if you cannot attend, give it to your region reps (Kathleen & Phyllis) to bring.**
- **Enter your own artwork in the Member Show.**
- **Sign up to display your students' artwork at the conference.**
- **Instead of going home to bed, stick around for the President's Dinner Party and TASK party on Saturday night. You won't regret it!**

Activity Committee NYC 'field trip' idea

After our successful outing to the Georgia O'Keefe exhibit this summer, we wanted to plan more such Region events and have been discussing possibilities and reviewing options.

At the recent Region 6 meeting in Saratoga, we discussed a 'field trip' (for us, Region 6 members; not for students) to NYC. Who doesn't love a trip to NYC?

We will be looking into group rates and upcoming exhibits for MoMA, the Met, and other favorite NYC locations.

It was agreed that the best time for such a trip would be during a school vacation—February or spring break.

To keep it simple, participants would arrange their own travel, but will be provided with details for taking the Amtrak train from Rensselaer.

We would arrange a time/place for a group museum tour, and the rest of the trip would be up to you. If you want to spend the night in NYC, you would arrange your own lodging. Certainly, spouses are welcome!

Please let me (Phyllis) know if you have any preferences or thoughts regarding this (or any other) excursion. In the meantime, we are still exploring other options and ideas for day trips and/or activities. We'd love your make suggestions! In addition, hopefully we will plan a day trip to Storm King in the spring or summer.

Do you want to show the world how your art classroom supports the Common Core?

Become part of the EngageNY Video Project

<http://www.engageny.org/resource/video-project-scope-and-resources>

Sandra Jabaut - Headed to Myanmar!

Queensbury School District Art Teacher, Sandra Jabaut applied and was accepted to serve on a United States educational delegation with the National Art Education Association to Myanmar (Burma). She is honored to have been selected as part of this delegation and is grateful to the school district for supporting her to be part of this unique opportunity.

This past November 2012 President Obama visited Myanmar for the purpose of expanding the tie between the United States and the people of Myanmar. As Myanmar embarks on a Democratic transition, and embraces the West, the once secluded country welcomes the opportunity to meet with their professional counterparts. In an effort to build upon the groundwork established by this historic visit, his Excellency U Than Swe, Ambassador to the United States from Republic of the Union of Myanmar invites The National Art Education Association to be a part of the US Education Initiative to Myanmar in November 2013.

The delegation will focus on the following:

- Establishing and applying educational policy, both on national and local levels;
- Curriculum, planning, including selecting content and establishing standards for teachers and learners;
- Teaching environments, including the makeup of daily schedules, both in rural and urban settings;
- Assessment of teaching and learning, and how specialized or magnet 'type' schools may inform decisions about assessment;
- Teacher preparation - how training methods differ between teachers in traditional school settings and those in alternative learning environments;
- Teaching artists
- The influences of local art and culture
- Community perceptions about art in schools

After 37 years of teaching in Illinois and New York State, Sandra desired to be a part of global education. She is excited to represent Queensbury, New York State and the United States in this historic event.

sjabaut@queensburyschool.org

Capital Region Teachers for Teachers - Fall Courses for Art!

All classes include time to learn, experiment, and make samples. All materials are included as well as lesson plans and handouts for the classroom. Attendance certificates available. Register on our site for classes by credit card or purchase order. Space is limited.

<u>Autumn Leaves are Falling</u> What's the best way to celebrate Autumn? Leaves, of course! Print, collage, draw, paint, and more with the beauty of the fall season as inspiration. Three elementary age projects will be introduced during this two hour course. Lessons will be provided and time will be given for experimentation and sharing.	The Arts Center of the Capital Region, Troy, NY	Thursday October 24 th 4:00-6:00	\$40
<u>New York State Artist: Grandma Moses</u> Self taught folk artist Grandma Moses was born in our very own Washington County! Hear the story of Moses' rise to fame and her connection with her community. Help students connect with their community through this fun painting project. Time will be given to plan and start painting your Moses inspired example to take back to your room.	The Arts Center of the Capital Region, Troy, NY	Wednesday November 6 th , 4:00-6:00	\$40
<u>No Worries: The Art of the Worry Doll</u> "Billy is a bit of a worrier. He worries so much he can't sleep." Know any students like this? In the book Silly Billy we learn how to whisper our worries away. Explore the Guatemalan art of the worry doll and help your students sleep more peacefully.	NYSATA Annual Conference at Hilton Albany Governor's Ballroom C	Friday November 22 nd 4:00 -4:50	Conf. attendee

Meeting Minutes!

- Below are the minutes from the Region 6 June 25th meeting at the Saratoga Arts Council, provided by Region 6 secretary Diana Westbrook. My apologies (from Phyllis, newsletter editor) for any formatting weirdness—for some reason these minutes fought being edited for format after I pasted them here. Hence, the big chunks of empty space.
- No official minutes were taken at the brief meeting held at the Hyde Collection in Glens Falls in July.
- The minutes of the October 1st meeting were previously sent in a separate email.

Minutes from NYSATA meeting June 25, 2013 at Saratoga Arts Council headquarters

Legislative Show report - The show will be two weeks long next year starting on February 21 with the reception on 3/3 or 3/6.

A call for help with the review, hanging, and taking down was made. A suggestion was made to put signup sheets at the conference.

Portfolio: There were 4 portfolio reviews from Argyle and 2 from Stillwater . There are now two locations – Argyle and St Rose. There were 12 student portfolios reviewed at St Rose.

It was noted that there needs to be more promotion and education about what the portfolio project is and what its value of it is.

Bob Wood will be doing a workshop at the conference on the portfolio project.

Region 6 art educator of the year is Scott Walroth.

There will be an increase in the cost of NYSATA membership as of September 1.

We are looking for volunteers for the awards committee.

Melanie will head up the social committee.

Phyllis will organize a group visit to the Hyde collection to see the Georgia O'Keeffe exhibit.

Anne announced a faculty art show open to NYSATA and CAAS members in the NYSUT lobby and asked for a partnership with section 6 to share expenses.

Roger thanked everyone for their help with OVA and mentioned Bob (Hyndman)'s upcoming trip to Italy.

Krista Gillis gave a presentation on her business "Teachers for Teachers" which uses art teachers to teach in-service classes for other teachers.

NYSUT/NYSATA**Art Show**

Congratulations to those of you who entered and will be showing artwork in the upcoming exhibit at the NYSUT building! Here are the pertinent dates:

Art work Drop Off:

10/16-17; 3-6pm

Show Dates:

10/28-11/13

Artists' Reception:

10/29; 6:30-8:30pm

Artwork Pick Up:

11/14, 9am-6pm &
11/15, 9am-4pm

DATES, DATES, and MORE DATES!!**Region 6 Meetings Scheduled**

When we met last June, we set up a schedule of meetings and meeting locations for this 2013-2014 school year. Please mark your calendars and try to attend:

Friday, November 22 - Hospitality room at the NYSATA conference!

Tuesday, January 14 - Albany/Troy area location to be determined

Tuesday, March 11 - location to be determined

Thursday, June 19 - the return of the end of year Region 6 Dinner and Award Celebration! With honoree Scott Walroth as our Region 6 Teacher of the Year.

Legislative Student Art Exhibition

February 24 - March 7, 2014

Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY

Reception: Thursday, March 6, 12:30-2:00 pm

Help is needed to log in artwork Saturday 1/1 and to hang artwork 2/21. Please contact Kathleen if you are able to help!

OVA

OVA is Thursday April 10 at the Saratoga Springs City Center
If you are interested in participating as a judge, contact Roger at roghyndman@aol.com

Portfolio Project

Portfolio Adjudication at St. Rose—May 17

Portfolio Adjudication at SUNY Adirondack— date forthcoming

Region 6 Award Dinner & Celebration

Please mark your calendar for June 19th, our Region 6 end-of year celebration dinner and awards, to be held in Round Lake.



Kathleen and Phyllis (with wrapped friend!) at the TASK party at the November 2112 NYSATA conference in Rochester