

OAEA: MOMENTS IN HISTORY

- 1848 The Ohio State Teachers Association was formed.
- 1906 The Ohio Art Manual Training Teachers Association was formed.
- 1936 The Ohio State Teachers Association became the Ohio Education Association (OEA).
- 1938 The OEA Art Section met at the OEA general convention for the first conference of art teachers in Ohio. *(We have met annually since that time except during the war years 1944 and 1945; and the Covid Year 2020).*
- 1939 The first Constitution was prepared by Jean Webb and Edgar Blain – Edgar Blain was named the first President. *(The Art Section met once a year during the OEA convention. The group organized with a strong focus on advocacy, working to get more Art Supervisors throughout the state. They began exhibition programs; membership drives and a newsletter).*
- 1954 On November 12th at the Cincinnati Convention a motion was made that the name of the OAEA Art Section be changed to the Ohio Art Education Association. There were 223 members and 201 people registered for this first Convention.
- 1956 At the Toledo Convention business meeting it was reported that OAEA did not have a chance to affiliate with the WWA (early NAEA) because we needed 25% of our membership to also be members of WWA; we only had 19%. Dr. Victor Lowenfeld was the keynote speaker for the Friday night banquet.
- 1960 The Honorary Life Membership category is established.
- 1963 The first OAEA Journal is published: John Michael, editor.
- 1966 Spring Leadership Conference initiated by Jerry Tollifson. The name changed to Spring Symposium in 1988 and continued until 2001.
- 1967 The first PR/Advocacy Regional representatives are named.
- 1969 The Youth Art Month program begins with advocacy programs.
- 1971 Official listing of representatives for all OAEA regions, although they are mentioned sporadically beginning in 1963.
- 1973 The OAEA and the Michigan Art Education Association hold a joint conference in Toledo.
- 1976 The first OAEA newsletter is published with six issues: James Mateer, editor.
- 1977 The Ohio Art Educator of the Year is established. Jerry Tollifson was named the first recipient in 1978.
- 1979 The first Divisional Chairpersons are named.
- 1980 First Outstanding Art Teacher Award.
- 1980 First OAEA Board of Directors meeting held at the STRS Building. This would continue until 2020 due to the Covid Pandemic.

- 1981 The first Youth People's Art Exhibition was held in the south wing of the Ohio State Capitol; organized by John Michael.
- 1983 First OAEA Distinguished Service Awards
- 1990 First OAEA Scholarship awarded. The OAEA was the first state art association to sponsor such a scholarship.
- 1990 The Ohio Art Criticism Open begins. It was later renamed in honor of Jerry Tollifson.
- 1991 The OAEA Distinguished Fellows is initiated.
- 1991 The first Ohio High School Art Exhibition hosted at the State Teachers Retirement System building; Christie and Bernard Casper organized.
- 1992 The first Youth Art Month Exhibition at STRS. This program is still operating.
- 1992 STRS Ohio Life and Times of Education exhibit and art purchase began and continued until 2003.
- 1992 The Circa Society is established to recognize OAEA membership beginning at 15 years.
- 1994 First formalized long-range completed.
- 1999 OAEA/STRS College Student Exhibit and Awards and continues through 2007.
- 1996 Jerry Tollifson named the first Ohio Department of Education Visual Art Supervisor. *(The need for this position was first introduced in 1923 by Alice Robinson; in 1950 Manuel Barkan tried again – OAEA never gave up!)*
- 1996 First OAEA Divisional Award Recipients
- 1996 Comprehensive Arts Education: Ohio's Competency-Based Model curriculum approved through efforts of key OAEA members and the State Department of Education. Professional development opportunities were also planned.
- 2001 The Ohio Art Education Foundation was established by Dr. Dennis Cannon, Dr. Nancy MacGregor and Norman Schnepf.
- 2001 First website unveiled.
- 2004 OAEA celebrated its 50th anniversary at the Columbus Convention with the theme, "Hand, Heart, and Mind – OAEA's 50 Year Journey. The anniversary brought a complete review of the organizational structure under the leadership of Mary Golubieski.
- 2004 Board position to support and encourage National Board Certified Teachers and associated professional development and training developed.
- 2005 First Foundation Classroom Incentive grant awarded.
- 2007 Highest number of OAEA members – 1786: Mary T. Boll, Membership Chair.
- 2013 OAEA became a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization under the leadership of Suzanne Mitolo.
- 2015 First Foundation Enrichment grant awarded.

- 2016 The OAEA Fellows initiate the Summer Symposium program with a pilot program at CCAD in Columbus - Kurt Reichert, Chair.
- 2016 OAEA is reorganized shifting from Board of Directors to Leadership Assembly under the guidance of Laura Tawil.
- 2016 House of Representative Exhibit begins.
- 2017 Regional reorganization from 9 regions to 8 regions under Alice Tavani's leadership.
- 2018 Jonathan Juravich (OAEA Artline Editor) named 2018 Ohio Teacher of the Year and finalist for the national award.
- 2020 ED&I Initiative established under Carrie Barnett's leadership.
- 2022 Randy Robart Memorial Funds grants initiated.

References: OAEA History journals (1995 Vol. 33, number 1 & 2; 2001 Vol. 38, number 1 & 2; OAEA History Update 2001-07, and OAEA files.