

Women's Caucus (WC) Website: <http://www.niu.edu/artedu/naeawc>

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As this column is printed in the *NAEA News*, chairs have in hand nominations for excellent candidates with the following awards: Kathy Connors Teaching Award, June King McFee Award, Carrie Nordlund Award, and Mary J. Rouse Award. These awards recognize individuals for major contributions to the field, and, variously for their dedication to colleagues and students. Listings of previous honorees include the 2008 honorees: Patricia Stuhr, June King McFee Award; Peg Speirs, Mary J. Rouse Award; Mary Wyrick, Kathy Connors Award; Christine Gorbach, Carrie Nordland Award. The 2009 Women's Caucus awards and acceptance speeches are expected to be highlights of the Minneapolis convention.

The July issue of *Art Education* contains a two page article collectively authored by 16 WC members, based upon a midday discussion group during NAEA in New Orleans organized by two of its current officers. "Vote 2008: What Should an Art Educator Do?" reveals possibilities for classroom investigations of contemporary image driven representations in today's political arena. The article contains "resources and strategies to guide students to critique portrayals of presidential candidates and issues, and help students to visualize the world from an informed perspective that challenges conformity with media, peers, and other social forces..." (Amburgy, Ballengee-Morris, Centofanti, Church, Diket, Guyas, Hoepfner-Poling, Keifer-Boyd, Knight, Manifold, Markello, McKay, Mullins, Stuhr, Taylor, & Wenger, 2008, p. 53). The "Vote 2008" article makes four major points—(1) images in presidential campaigns intend to persuade; (2) videos created for the Internet can portray candidates in pejorative ways; (3) comparison of portrayals can reveal disparities on or between candidates on single issues; and (4) an examination of strategies under girding image driven presentations of candidates reveals systemic tensions between media control and decentralized control of Web communication.

We would like to continue the lunch discussion at NAEA 09 in Minneapolis with the theme: "Enacting Change: What we can learn from each other?" We invite current, previous, and future Women's Caucus members to invite another person that you just met at NAEA to a lunchtime dialogue about enacting change. What are issues that you would like to hear others' experiences about or would like to share of your own. Bring them to the lunchtime open dialogue and let's learn from each other.

The Women's Caucus continues to recognize the role of its membership in educational venues. In a brief review of Google, using Women's Caucus and NAEA as search terms, page after page of entries attest to the integral role the

organization and its membership in shaping art education over the years. Publication highlights are noted on the WC Web site.

The importance of discussion was apparent at Women Caucus presentations at NAEA 08 in New Orleans. The Women Caucus encourages presenters to incorporate dialogues inspired from their presentations to generate articles that are submitted for publication. A list of journals that relate to Women's Caucus' goals are listed at the WC Web site. Please send me (Read Diket at rdiket@wmcarey.edu) further suggestions of journals or books specifically oriented to intersections of art education, visual culture, and gender issues so that the list grows with recommendations by NAEA WC members.

During the 2008 NAEA conference, Caucus members presented and attended numerous papers and wielded discussion of issues critical to further development of art education as a scholarly field, and as an expression of human understanding in visual and ideational modes. Now, new papers and discussions are proposed for 2009. Many outlets for publication, peer reviewed and more open Internet avenues, provide public access to the thinking within our organization. Please let Web coordinator Lilly Lu (lillylu26@gmail.com) know about publications stemming from presentations under the auspices of the caucus.

The Report, published by Women's Caucus, also welcomes submission of items of interest to the membership. To submit items, email co-editors: Linda Hoeptner-Poling (lhoeptne@kent.edu) and Anniina Suominen (asuomine@kent.edu). *The Report* provides a discussion hub for topics of interest to members.

In addition to the formal reporting of research, pedagogy, and curriculum of interest to Women's Caucus membership, please join in an ongoing discussion of possibilities for our organization. Your officers look forward to hearing from you in the near future. Officer contact information is at the WC Web site at <http://www.niu.edu/artedu/naeawc/>

References

Amburgy, P., Ballengee-Morris, C., Centofanti, J., Church, C. R., Diket, R., Guyas, A. S., Hoeptner-Poling, L., Keifer-Boyd, K., Knight, W. B., Manifold, M., Mrkello, C., McKay, S. W., Mullins, H., Stuhr, P. L., Taylor, P. G., & Wenger, G. (2008). Vote 2008: What should an art educator do? *Art Education*, 61(4), 51-52.