

Brief History of WVA: Originally named the Society of Milwaukee Artists when it was created in the year 1900, the organization was renamed Wisconsin Painters and Sculptors in 1913 and took its current name Wisconsin Visual Artists in 2008. Entirely volunteer, the group has operated continually for over 100 years to provide exhibits and enrichment activities for artists and public alike. In 1990, three chapters were created springing from the original Milwaukee origin, which include the Northeast Chapter, South Central Chapter, and the Southeast Chapter. Each chapter operates its own board and independent business, plus sends representatives to sit on a State Board of Directors which coordinates activities and criteria for the entire organization. The name Wisconsin Visual Artists reflects the wide representation of artists found across the state.

Benefits of Membership: WVA is a way for artists to interact, communicate, and to gain a sense of fellowship and opportunity. Members receive the quarterly magazine, *Wisconsin Visual Artists*, which is also available at www.wisconsinvisualartists.com. This publication presents information and articles concerning relevant events within the state and serves as a vehicle for artists to author their own articles, show their work and announce their exhibitions, classes and honors.

Members are eligible to exhibit in member shows held in quality galleries, museums, and universities across the state. Monthly meetings and serving on committees within the Chapters and on the State Boards of Directors are ways members can serve and be involved in the decisions of the organization. Meetings, workshops and demonstrations are designed to acquaint members on issues relevant to all aspects of art. Members can participate in programs designed to cover issues relevant to the business of art, encounter quality artists throughout the state and socialize with colleagues.

Exhibition: WVA organizes, sponsors, and promotes Wisconsin art exhibits of distinction including the Wisconsin Artists Biennial.

Education: WVA informs the public concerning art related matters and enhances understanding between artists and the communities they live within.

Networking: WVA encourages communication among artists through meetings, exhibitions, the WVA website and its magazine. Artists are informed about regional and national issues, and advocate for the arts at all levels.

Wisconsin
Visual Artists
WVA State Board
P.O. Box 511334
Milwaukee, WI 53203



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Wisconsin Visual Artists (WVA) is Wisconsin's oldest not-for-profit membership-based organization of visual artists working in all media. We are art advocates and promote its vital role in modern society. WVA is united to advance opportunities for artists and the general public, and are committed to promoting the visual arts through exhibitions, conferences, print and electronic media.

Join the chapter nearest to you.

www.wisconsinvisualartists.com

Affirmative Action Statement
WVA membership is open to all Wisconsin residents 18 years or older. WVA does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, religion, or national origin.

Materials to submit along with Application form with fee:

Applicants are asked to submit the following materials, and upon review by the appropriate membership committee will be notified at what designated level the applicant is placed. A letter of acceptance is then forwarded at which time dues are payable. (WVA bylaws indicate criteria for acceptance, and additional details can be gained from membership committees.)

1. Between 10 and 20 representations of work - Images on a website or delivered by other electronic means. The images should be accompanied by the following information: artist's name, title, medium, and dimensions. It is our opinion that an ability to create quality presentation such as a website is part of qualifying for the professional level. Slides are no longer accepted.

2. Professional and exhibition history - The number and type of exhibitions will enable us to determine if the applicant initially qualifies for professional or associate level.

3. Artist statement - Provided in any form or length the applicant decides is appropriate.

WVA categories of membership: WVA encourages all interested artists residing in the State of Wisconsin to become members. Membership consists of visual artists working in 2D and 3D visual materials, including painting, sculpture, ceramics, photography, video, jewelry/art metals, textiles, mixed media, etc. Besides providing opportunities for all to increase their professional resumes, as a professional organization WVA does seek to encourage a membership which shows accomplishment and professional intention and an interest to actively participate in the operation of the organization. To that end, there is an established jury procedure for prospective new members, with the result being potential acceptance at the following levels of membership:

Professional Members: This level includes those individuals who have shown achievement in their chosen media. Such experience may include some of the following: exhibition in juried and/or quality exhibitions; education and/or training; public and private commissions, private gallery exhibitions; publication of work; or related job experiences. Their work will reveal a level of maturity and development, and reflect their personal involvement and some advanced practice in the arts. It should be known that Professional members do not need to derive the majority of their income through art production.

Associate Members: This level includes those persons who may not have established themselves through a number of quality exhibitions with experience as mentioned in the Professional level, but who clearly show skill and dedication in the use of their chosen media, with an intent to continue development and to add to their exhibition record. Unless specifically designated as an activity for Professional level members, Associate members will participate in all other WVA exhibits and activities. Associate members may be considered for professional level when they fulfill those requirements and are reviewed through the appropriate acceptance procedure. It is up to the Associate member to ask for upgrading to the Professional Level.

Student Members: In order to encourage and support either undergraduate or graduate student's development, such persons may become members upon WVA review of their application materials. WVA does ask for some proof of student status at the college level. After leaving school, student members may be considered for membership at the Associate or Professional level and may submit the appropriate materials for review.

Supporting Members: Any individual, organization, or business interested in supporting the visual arts in Wisconsin may apply for a supporting membership by contributing annual dues equal to the Professional Level. While encouraged to provide advice and input, these persons shall not be permitted to exhibit their own art in WVA show nor shall they have voting privileges.

Application Submission: Applicants submitting the required materials should send these to the Chapter believed to be the most appropriate for the applicant's participation.

The Northeast (NE) Chapter is centered around the Fox Cities, Green Bay, Door County, etc.

The South Central (SC) Chapter is centered around Madison, then north, south and west of that city.

The Southeast (SE) Chapter is centered around Milwaukee, then south, west, and north of that city.

In some cases, an applicant may wish to choose the chapter to which they would like to belong, regardless of proximity to a location.

Include with the completed application:

- Website or other electronic presentation of images
- Check made out to WVA
- Artist Statement
- Resume



WVA Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Web Site _____

Media _____

Membership Category Request

Professional (\$40)

Associate (\$40)

Two artists/one household (\$30 each)
for Professional or Associate membership

Supporting (\$40) omit images, statement, and resume

Student (\$30) send copy of student ID
Name of School _____
Expected Graduation year _____

Please send this completed application & support materials to one of the following membership chairs:

WVA SE MEMBERSHIP area

Terry A. Fischer, 23620 7 Mile Rd. Muskego, WI
53150262-895-2122 terryafischer1@hotmail.com

WVA SC MEMBERSHIP area

Linda Steine, 700 Angel Ct. #306, Holmen WI 54636
608.386.9457 lindasteineart@gmail.com

WVA NE MEMBERSHIP area

Melissa (Mel) Kolstad, 464 Mary Lee Drive
Fond du Lac, WI 54935
mel@kolstad.net