

## Brief History of WVA

Originally named the Society of Milwaukee Artists when it was created in the year 1900, the organization was re-named 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. While each chapter operates its own chapter board and independent business, the three boards are represented on a state board of directors which coordinates activities and criteria for the whole group. The name Wisconsin Visual Artists was taken to reflect the wide representation of artists in the group. WVA has a membership exceeding 450 in number from across the state.

## Benefits of Membership:

WVA has always been a means for artists to interact, to communicate, and to gain a sense of fellowship and opportunity. Members will receive the quarterly magazine, "Wisconsin Visual Artists", which is also available at [www.wisconsinvisualartists.com](http://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 exhibits, classes and honors.

Members will be eligible to exhibit in membership shows held in quality galleries, museums, and universities across the state. One can participate in monthly meetings, serve on the Chapter and State Boards of Directors, and otherwise be part of workshops, programs and demonstrations designed to cover issues relevant to the business of art, allow exposure to quality artists throughout the state and always there are opportunities for socializing.

**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 the artist and community.

**Networking:** WVA encourages communication among artists through the WVA website, magazine and meetings. Informs artists about regional and national issues, and advocates for the arts at all levels.

**[www.wisconsinvisualartists.com](http://www.wisconsinvisualartists.com)**

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

 Wisconsin  
Visual Artists

## 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.**

## 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 CD's or a website with indications on each image of the artists name, title, medium, and dimensions. It is our opinion that an ability to create quality CDs or websites 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 thru 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 students 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 South East (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:

- CD or website
- 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) no slide, statement, or resume needed
- 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 53150  
262.895.2122 terry\_fisher\_261@hotmail.com

#### WVA SC MEMBERSHIP area

Deb Menz, 2205 Mayflower Drive, Middleton, WI 53562  
608.831.1266 debmenz@tds.net

#### WVA NE MEMBERSHIP area

Lee Mothes, 425 Dixon St., Kaukauna, WI 54130  
920.766.7895 mothesart@gmail.com