

OAEA Advocate Awards Description

- This is a state-level awards program to recognize extraordinary effort and accomplishments in advocacy for visual art education by a member art educator.
- The purpose of this award program is to recognize and uphold exemplary efforts in art education advocacy as model action for membership.
- The two OAEA Advocate Award levels are:

★ Advocate of Honor

- Performs a lead advocate for art education role outside of job duties related to daily teaching role.
- Recruits other art education advocates to participate in advocacy efforts.
- Testifies, in-person, on art education issues before a policy-making body (local, state, national).
- Works at the state and/or national level on art education advocacy issues.

★ Advocate of Merit

- Makes superior phone or written contact with policy-makers (local, state, national) in regards to art education such as policy actions, changes and advocacy alerts.
 - Volunteers to support art education advocacy initiatives within job duties related to daily teaching roles.
- OAEA members benefit from specific role models in advocacy action. This award provides that model and inspiration for advocacy. Recognition can also be very motivating for a teacher to take that extra step in a seemingly thankless endeavor. Our current awards recognize accomplished teaching in regions and by divisions. This award pinpoints a specific aspect of education practice advocacy leadership in art education.
 - An (annual) Advocate Award to recognize those who have demonstrated specific exemplary effort and accomplishment in visual art advocacy is significant to OAEA members because it promotes professional growth and leadership, which aligns with the mission of OAEA. Members can nominate, be nominated and honored more than once. More than one member can be recognized each year. The total number of Advocate Awards (Merit and Honor combined) would not exceed the total number of Outstanding Art Teacher Awards presented annually.