

## 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. 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 the name to reflect the wide representation of artists in the group. WVA has a membership exceeding 350 in number from across the state. The Centennial Exhibit of WVA in the year 2000 produced a color catalog with a thorough history of the organization, available upon request.

## 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, prints activities and opportunities for artists, and serves as a vehicle for artists to author their own articles.

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 Boards of Directors, and otherwise be part of workshops and presentations designed to cover issues relevant to the business of art... 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, informs artists about regional and national issues, and advocates for the arts at all levels.



## Application for Membership

### 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.

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

WVA, founded in 1900, is a non-profit organization of visual artists and friends united to advance opportunities and services for artists and the general public, committed to the importance and value of art and its creation in our society.

## 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:** Slides, CD's or a website with indications on each image of the artists name, title, medium, and dimensions. On slides, place a dot in the lower left hand corner. It is our opinion that an ability to create quality slides, CDs or websites is part of qualifying for the professional level.

**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, 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 which actively participates in the operations 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 the same number of quality exhibition with experience as mentioned in the professional level, but who clearly show skill and dedication in use of 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 at such time as they fulfill those requirements and are reviewed thru the appropriate acceptance procedure. It is up to the Associate member to ask for upgrading to 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 persons 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.

**Life Members:** Any person who presently is or previously has been a professional member of WVA and who has displayed achievement and/or given support for the arts in Wisconsin for a period of at least twenty years is eligible for Life membership. Life members are elected by a majority vote of the State Board of Directors. They shall have all the rights and privileges of Professional Members

**Honorary Members:** Such persons shall be individuals who have displayed outstanding support and/or effort on behalf of and for the benefit of the arts in Wisconsin. They may be elected to receive that title by a majority of the State Board of Directors. Such persons shall not be required to pay annual dues, shall not be permitted to exhibit their own art in WVA shows, nor shall they have voting privileges.

**Application Submission:** Applicants submitting the above mentioned materials should send these to the Chapter believed to be the most appropriate for the applicant's participation. The Northeast Chapter is centered around the Fox Cities, Green Bay, Door County, etc. The South Central Chapter is centered around Madison, then north and west of that city. The South East 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.

## WVA Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Web Site \_\_\_\_\_

Media \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Category Request

Professional (\$40)  Associate (\$40)  Supporting (\$40)

Two artists/one household (\$30 each)

Student (\$30)

Name of School \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation year \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this completed application and support materials to:

### WVA MEMBERSHIP

**Terry A. Fischer**

**23620 7 Mile Rd**

**Muskego WI 53150**

**262 895 2122**

**terry\_fisher\_261@hotmail.com**

Checklist:

CD, Slides, or website

Check

Statement

Resume