

It is official! We are moving our spring retreat to Fort Benton in 2019! A survey was sent to registered members after our 2018 retreat after dialogue ensued in regards to the location of Lubrecht and its restricted possible access to members in central and eastern Montana. Fort Benton was suggested as an alternate and member Autumn Elliot and I did some homework on the viability of that location. There is a great community center that is willing to host us as well as a variety of lodging options. The event will either be the 1st or 2nd weekend of February 2019. Specifics will be provided on our before our fall conference in Billings.

Speaking of which, Dr. Mara Pierce and I spent Friday May 18th setting room assignments and schedules. We tried to balance presenter preferences, grade level appropriateness, and studio offerings. Presenters will be receiving affirmations on assignment by mid-June and registration will be open mid-August. We are thinking that we will try to schedule our keynote for Wednesday evening at the Yellowstone Art Museum. Please let us know if you have any concerns in regards to that placement in the schedule. I know that Wednesday evening may still be travel time for many so please express any concerns sooner rather than later. Regardless YAM will still host our reception and Art Teacher of the Year awards that night.

Another great sag way, please review and send nominations for our TOY and our other outstanding awards now or before school starts. As we all know once school starts things are crazy. Nomination information can be found at, <http://www.maeamt.org/nominations.html>. The deadline is the beginning of September, but how sweet it is to not have to scramble and nominate now.

Also, last week I met with the Outwest Foundation. They are a big part of Western Art Week in Great Falls, which is held each March, and they would like to extend their scholarship opportunities statewide. With their blessing I have posted information on our website, <http://www.maeamt.org/scholarships.html>, with links to their applications. They offer micro-scholarships for students who would like to take workshops, etc. as well as classroom grants, both of which can be applied for at any time. Each spring they also provide college scholarships for graduating seniors. They are great group and love to support art education.

As we move into summer, please let me now if you have a preferred email.

Make it a great day,

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