

Dick Michalek



Dick Michalek has been a member of the Naperville Art League (NAL) for over 50 years. He remembers before we had a building, when the artists met in the basement of the Naperville Bank & Trust, and other local spots. Back then, NAL held art auctions at a car dealership on Chicago/Washington as one of their fundraisers. Charles Vickery always donated a painting which was always the biggest draw and NAL's largest fundraiser.

Dick took his first class through the Art League when they were meeting in the basement. The teacher was Maxine Eichhorst. He started out painting mostly in watercolor.

In 1978 NAL membership bought the building we are in now at 508 N. Center Street. It was then a church and was vacant. Dick was on the committee and attended the council meetings. Dick helped do the remodeling and worked on a lot of the original fixtures and the pegboard walls, that were used for the exhibits. Don Lockridge was an original member, and president in 1968-70. Dick remembers working along with him and many other members to help make our League what it is today. He remembers attending many meetings and artist demos in our new building. He also remembers coaching Brand Bobosky, another longtime prominent NAL member, in Little League.

Harold White (who owned The Sun) and his wife, who were art appreciators and supporters of NAL, paid the outstanding mortgage, and the gallery part of the building was added in 1996. Dick helped with that too and could often be found doing jobs around the league, cleaning out gutters and whatever else came his way. It was a team effort, and he remembers a lot of the members and their many contributions.

Dick was here when the Riverwalk Fine Art Festival first began, and he was a participating artist in the show for years with his watercolors and then his carved wood birds. He later moved to Plainfield and began working in Acrylics – “This is where he got his start” in painting.

Born in Downers Grove, Dick has lived in Naperville for 40 years. He now lives in Carillion retirement center. He no longer does wood working but his son has continued in his footsteps. Dick paints a Christmas card every year. He also enjoys bowling 2-3 times/week. His wife Dolores is still by his side. He has 3 children and 1 grandson. All live in the area.

Thanks for the memories Dick! NAL will forever be grateful for your contributions to the art community, your membership, and your friendship.

