

# WHAT CAN THE AAEC DO FOR YOU?



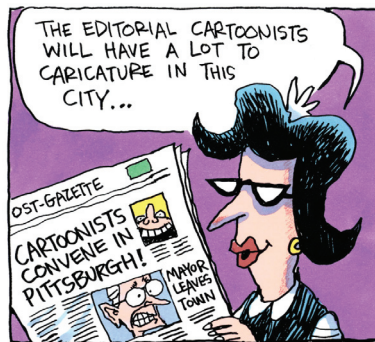
**\*Association of American Editorial Cartoonists**

## What do you get with the AAEC?

For over 50 years, the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists has been *the* professional association concerned with promoting the interests of staff, freelance and student political cartoonists in North America. Membership in the AAEC brings these benefits:

### THE CONVENTION

Our annual confab is the largest gathering of political cartoonists on the continent, if not the planet. Each year it is held in June or July in a different major U.S. city (with occasional forays into Canada). Cartoonists and their guests meet for four packed and often entertaining days of informative panels, timely guest speakers, sightseeing, partying and pub crawls. On occasion, reps from various tech companies bring in the latest hardware and software to demo (and yes, sometimes give away). Students and aspiring cartoonists can have their work evaluated by some of the best cartoonists working today at our portfolio reviews, and in recent years we've added "Cartoonapalooza," an evening event open to the public. The AAEC has also worked with the U.S. State Dept. to bring visiting cartoonists from the Middle East, Iran and Iraq, and hosts the annual fund-raising dinner for the Cartoonists Rights Network.



ROB ROGERS

### THE WEB SITE

Members can take advantage of our web site at [editorialcartoonists.com](http://editorialcartoonists.com) to post and archive all their cartoons online (with Regular members' current work appearing on a rotating basis at the top of our homepage). They can contact other cartoonists through our membership directory. They also can post their bios, offer themselves for public speaking engagements, promote their books, blogs and web sites, and catch up on the latest cartooning news on our own blog.

### THE "L"

Members are also allowed to join the AAEC-L, our convenient and exclusive e-mail listserv that instantly connects you with over a hundred other member cartoonists. Good for keeping in touch, getting quick advice, posting news alerts, and generating lively (and we do mean lively) internal debates.

### THE NOTEBOOK

Members will also receive the *Notebook of the AAEC*, our quarterly magazine that chronicles recent events and news pertaining to AAEC members and editorial cartoonists working today.



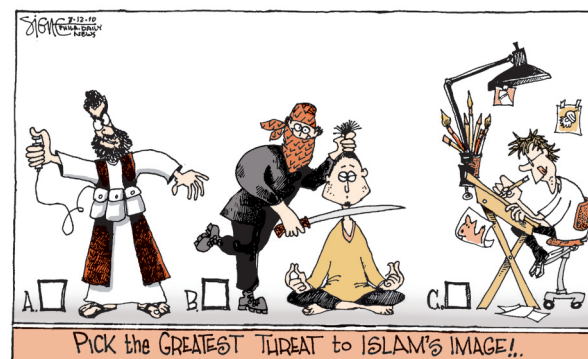
KIRK ANDERSON

## And sometimes something more

It used to be that every editorial cartoonist worked for a daily paper, and came to conventions to meet presidents and prime ministers, catch up on news, get job leads, hobnob with representatives from the syndicates, and complain about their editors. Those days are pretty much gone (well, except for complaining about editors).

Today, fewer than half of our members are on the staff of a newspaper or magazine, while the rest work as freelancers or for the few remaining syndicates. We meet and gossip (and publish) online, and we haven't been invited back to the White House since the Cold War. We're not looking for job leads anymore so much as insight into how to stay relevant and involved as the very medium changes around us.

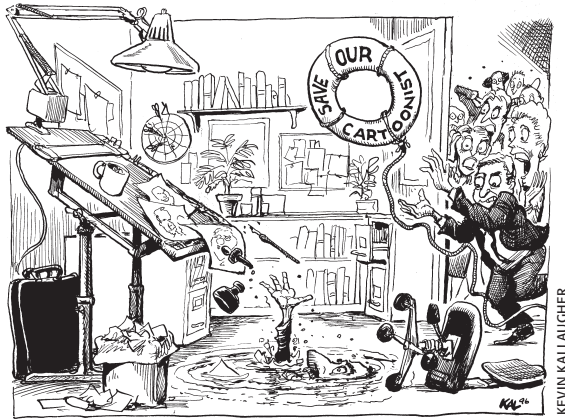
Being part of the AAEC — and going to its annual conventions — is as important now as it was in the 20th century. Sure, you can "meet" in chat rooms and see everyone's work on the Internet, but there is nothing like a face-to-face to get to know people and cement friendships. Come to the conventions and you might make some great connections that, a few years from now may come in handy when you're trying to navigate the latest iPad app, or dealing with a fatwa on your head.



SIGENE WILKINSON

## What else does the AAEC do?

Each year, the AAEC presents the **John Locher Memorial Award** to a college student for outstanding creativity in editorial cartooning. The Association sponsors the **Cartoons for the Classroom** program, providing teachers with free downloadable lesson plans designed to aid educators at all levels in teaching current events. We also work closely with the **Cartoonists Rights Network**, a small organization looking to publicize oppression and attacks on political cartoonists by foreign governments. Finally, the AAEC works with **Cartoons & Cocktails**, the annual fundraising auction in Washington, D.C., that benefits *Young DC*, a newspaper by inner-city youth. Aside from 1st Amendment concerns, the AAEC does not take sides in political controversies, or endorse issues or candidates.



## Want to join? Want to come back?

To apply for membership in the AAEC, please go to our web site — [www.editorialcartoonists.com](http://www.editorialcartoonists.com) — and fill out our online application or download our printable form. After you have completed the application, please submit three tearsheets or other reproductions of your current work to verify actual publication of the submitted work (links to work on a web site are accepted as well), and a check, payable to the AAEC, for the first year's dues in the category you wish to be considered for (below), and mail to: AAEC, 3899 NORTH FRONT ST., HARRISBURG, PA 17110. Annual rates are as follows:

Regular: \$150 Retired: \$60 Student: \$65 Associate: \$150

Applications will be reviewed by the Association Board of Directors and, upon their approval, you will become a member. (Even in the age of the Internet, please allow at least 6-8 weeks.) Former members looking to rejoin will still have to go through a review process, but turnaround time will be quicker for those whose information is still in the system.



## Membership in the AAEC

The Association of American Editorial Cartoonists has four categories of membership for those looking to join:

**REGULAR** Regular membership is open to professional cartoonists who publish editorial or political cartoons that appear on a regular basis in any regularly updated, recognized forum (including newspapers, magazines, and online news outlets), and are legal residents or citizens of the United States, Canada or Mexico.

**RETIRED** To be eligible for Retired membership, an editorial cartoonist must be a legal resident or citizen of the United States, Canada or Mexico, and must be retired from publishing editorial cartoons that appeared on a regular basis in any regularly updated, recognized forum.

*Both Regular and Retired members are eligible to vote in membership meetings and balloting, and run for office.*

**STUDENT** Any student enrolled at a college or university in the United States, Canada or Mexico who produces editorial cartoons on a regular basis for a regular college newspaper may be eligible for Student membership.

**ASSOCIATE** Any person with a professional interest in editorial cartooning who does not meet the qualifications of Regular membership may be eligible for Associate membership, including, for example, editors, publishers, historians and aspiring amateur cartoonists.

**Who decides?** Membership is determined by a majority vote of the Board of Directors (made up of Regular members elected annually to the position). The Board is the sole judge of membership qualifications and eligible forums.

## What they say about the AAEC

“A competitive, overbearing and sarcastic group, the AAEC appealed to me immediately.”

— Clay Bennett, *cartoonist and 2002 Pulitzer Prize winner*

“Okay, okay, I know I said I was going to blog from the AAEC convention, but I truly didn't have a moment to spare.”

— Jen Sorensen, *Slowpoke*

“This award is really a testament to the strength and support the AAEC and our merry band of cartoonists affords a solo cartoonist like me. I can definitely say that without all of you I would have stopped cartooning early in my career. Together we're so much stronger. The friendship, support (and even competition) that is all a part of our organization is vital to keeping the art form alive and growing.”

— Mark Fiore, *animator and 2010 Pulitzer Prize winner*

“The AAEC has become my second family and the annual conventions a true place of refuge for me.”

— Rob Rogers, *cartoonist and AAEC President 2006-2007*

“The AAEC isn't the hotels, the open bars (any establishment serving alcohol will do) or the Q&A with top politicians. It's an intangible. It'd be hard to market on the back of a brochure. I can best describe it as a brotherhood. It's a camaraderie among those who have a rare ability to point out injustices, inconsistencies and ineptitude in our society in a way that causes readers to chuckle or curse out loud.”

— Alan Gardner, *The Daily Cartoonist*

“... some of the smartest and funniest people on the planet.”

— J.P. Trostle, *AAEC Notebook editor, on NPR*



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

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