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RE: President's Report

Dear Colleagues,

Since our last BOD meeting in December I have been privileged to visit the Southeast Section, the Southwest Section and the Canadian Section. At our Fall BOD meeting I asked you for ideas to help promote better section meetings. Having attended many I can honestly say that they were all different and all good. Every section has its strengths and sharing these can help us all. I have compiled a short booklet of ideas gleaned from different sections and different sources to aid directors and section chairs along these lines.

The stated objectives of the ASGS are the promotion, gathering, and dissemination of technical and scientific information concerning all aspects of scientific glassblowing. This mission is accomplished through the many volunteers who step forward and see that the work gets done. Every contribution is important, from the committee chair, to the section officer, to the director, to the *Fusion* contributors, to the member who calls a fellow glassblower and says, "I haven't seen you in awhile. We're having a section meeting. Please come."

The ASGS is on a sound footing. We as members enjoy a professional publication, *Fusion*. Our website is current and useful. Our committee chairs share knowledge and dedication. We all have opportunities to expand our learning through section meetings and symposia, planned and hosted by our friends and colleagues. We enjoy all these things because someone gives of their time and efforts. If that time and effort is always contributed by the same people then we start to feel the effects of burnout.

The biggest challenge facing the ASGS is the renewal of the spirit of volunteerism. Our numbers are adequate. Our financial resources are sufficient. Yet in almost every director's report I have ever read the sections have problems with finding section officers and with increasing the involvement of the membership. John Heywood stated things pretty clearly in the mid-1500's. "Many hands make light work." The challenge facing the ASGS is how to get those hands to pitch in and join in our common objectives.

I am attaching two letters. One is written to members who didn't renew their membership in a timely fashion and the other to the membership of the PNW Section. I don't expect these letters to solve all our problems, but I do expect that you will see that we all face some of the same challenges and difficulties. We all struggle with membership involvement.

Thank you for your efforts this past year on behalf of your sections and the ASGS. I know we can remain a viable and vibrant society.

Sincerely and Respectfully,

James R. Hodgson, President ASGS