

October 4, 2001

To: ASGS President, Gary Coyne and the BoD
From: Gordon Smith, Executive Secretary
Subject: Executive Secretary Report

September Eleventh was a day that will live in infamy not only for us as Americans, but equally for all of us who share humanity and human values. It is truly appalling when innocent human beings are murdered and brutalized, their human sanctity and sacredness are raped, and they are made tools of repulsive politics, ideologies and narrow interests.

Our unassailable military might did not shield us against the horrors of September Eleventh, and it will never be the perfect shield against many forms of transgressions. It can protect us against armies and squadrons, but it cannot protect us against the ruminations and hallucinations of the despondent and desperate few. We should do whatever we can to not cause or aggravate misery, hopelessness and despondency in the world. I believe that our best shield, in the long run, will be to live the American principals – that we are an integral part of humanity sharing with all human beings their yearnings to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and that we uphold human dignity everywhere and at all times.

As members of the ASGS, we are and in the future will be further affected by these horrific events. Let us work together with a strong determination and let us do our very best to provide the ASGS with a dedicated and inspired leadership.

National Office:

The National Office is functioning well and Dawn will be providing her own report. Although I have not discussed Dawn's compensation with her, I feel that the present contract is satisfactory.

A few weeks after the Colorado meeting, Dawn received a call from a member who was traveling in the South and wanted to stop by the National Office on his way back to his home. He assumed that the National Office was a place where he could stop in and use the equipment, etc. Dawn was uncomfortable with his insistence on stopping in and after calling me and others, we suggested and she decided to stay away from the Office that afternoon until her husband, Don, returned home. Later that day, Dawn and Don were able to convince the individual that the ASGS National Office is not an "open office." The reason I mention this incident is that I would like the Directors to inform Section members about Dawn's concerns.

The paperweight raffle at the Colorado Meeting went quite well. Twelve members paid early membership dues. Dawn and I plan to offer the same raffle at the Alabama Meeting.

Insurance:

Heritage Insurance Agency, Inc. handles all of our insurance. They have been doing a satisfactory job.

Discussion:

I have some copies of the "Rules of Debate" if anyone would like a copy.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gordon Smith".

Gordon Smith
Executive Secretary, ASGS

ADDENDUM

Bylaw amendments and revisions

Recently, it was disclosed that the policy of requiring a second validating vote for Bylaw amendments and revisions was not originally stated as one of the ASGS Bylaws. I could find no mention of this policy in Robert's Rules of Order. It is possible that at some time in the distant past, this requirement may have been accidentally deleted from a Bylaw reprint. Since I believe that this policy is a good protective procedure, I believe that the Board of Directors should continue to require a second validating vote on all Bylaw amendments and revisions. I recommend that the BoD correct this Bylaw omission.

Robert's Rules of Order:

In some organizations a **particular practice** may sometimes come to be followed as a matter of established custom so that it is treated practically as if it were prescribed by a rule of order. However, if such a practice is or becomes in conflict with the parliamentary authority or any written rule of the organization, and a *Point of Order* citing the conflict is raised at any time, the custom falls to the ground, and the conflicting provision in the parliamentary authority or written rule must thereafter be complied with unless a special rule of order (or, in appropriate circumstances, a standing rule) is added or amended to incorporate the custom. If there is no contrary provision in the parliamentary authority or written rules, the established custom should be adhered to unless the Board, by a majority vote, agrees to do otherwise.

A proposal for making amendments to Bylaws:

Existing Motion:

That all Bylaw changes must either originate from the Bylaw Committee or be referred to them for recommendations before being acted upon by the BoD. Further, that all motions for Bylaw changes shall be duplicated and copies handed out to all Board members before the vote is taken.

Motion by: R. Ryan

Second by: D. Searle

Date: 11/04/88

Vote: Motion Passed

Recommendation:

First, committees that are effected by the proposal must review the Bylaw amendment proposal.

Second, if needed, the proposed Bylaw amendment can be addressed at a BoD meeting. A non-binding "consensus" vote can be taken. This action allows the Directors to go back to their members and present to them the issues pertaining to the Bylaw. The Directors will then have a better feel for the opinion of their Section members.

Third, the Bylaws Committee must review the proposed Bylaw amendment. It is the Bylaws committee that acts as a reference committee to help expedite the amending of Bylaws. The Bylaws committee can provide an informal setting where members can raise questions, state objections, or give suggestions for improvement of the proposed Bylaw changes. The committee can reevaluate the proposed amendments and make changes that are more acceptable to the original author and the membership. In most cases, the controversial issues can be resolved without changing the intent because the Bylaws committee can then propose a compromise amendment before the next Board meeting. Hopefully, the reviewed Bylaw changes will be in a form that is acceptable to the BoD and then they will be able to proceed with implementation.

Fourth, the reviewed Bylaw amendment should be placed before the BoD for passage or rejection.

I believe that if we follow this procedure, we will not only save time, but also, we will succeed in making cleaner, more logical and acceptable modifications to our Bylaws.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon A. Smith, ASGS Executive Secretary