

Presidential Report

Dear Members of the Board,

The thrills and excitement of being President is almost over, and yes I am ready.

Seriously, the honor of being at the helm of this great organization is one that I will cherish for the rest of my life. We have much to be grateful for and yet much to accomplish.

First and foremost, I look forward to this Board passing the Director at Large position. Just about everyone I've talked to about this By-law says it's long overdue, so the only thing that's left is to do it.

I also look forward to a positive resolution to providing paid links on the ASGS web site. The web continues to play an important role in this society and the society at large. We need to utilize all the tools we can in order to not only maintain the society, but to grow the society. Any encumbrances we set up for ourselves can only lead to self-inflicted injury. Our society is too crippled right now to afford the luxury of more self-inflicted injury.

It pains me to report that we will have two more sections go inactive at this meeting. Both Ohio and the Pittsburgh Tri-state have watched their sections dwindle in potential members to the point that maintaining the sections is not a viable option. On the other hand, I am very delighted to report that the Canadian Section has had a wonderful resurgence this past year. They have had two very successful meetings and display a strong upsurge in interest. Let us wish them well for the future.

I have had the immense pleasure of attending a variety of meetings over the past year at the San Francisco Section, the Southern California Section, the Northeast Section, the Midwest Section, the Canadian Section, and most recently the Great Lakes Section. If I could have gone to more, I would have.

I do want to single out special thanks to Mike Souza, Dan Edwards, Craig Nagami, and Dave Daenzer. Not only for the fact that they risked the safety of their house with my snoring, but by transporting me to and from the airports and putting me up for the weekend, enormous amounts of ASGS moneys were saved.

Let's not forget two members who are not sitting at this table, Allan Brown and Dave Smart—two vital links of our society who are recovering from serious illness. We wish them a rapid recovery.

Regrettably, this has been a difficult year for the world. Events of 9/11 have trickled across to all levels of our economy. Our numbers for this symposium are way down. This can be attributed to people being afraid to fly, not wanting the inconvenience of flying, and business' cutting back in spending that is both directly and indirectly causing cutbacks in the glass shop. All these events happened at a very bad time as our society is trying to increase membership while the rest of the country is trying to recover.

We must understand that this period is an exaggerated aberration of what would normally be a difficult time regardless. As such, it is imperative that we do all we can to help those who are trying to help us. This can be done in (at least) two ways: first please be ready to offer assistance when called upon. It is difficult enough when you are the only person trying to get a job done, but when asking for help and receiving none can be a very demoralizing experience. Secondly, please, if you feel it wise to criticize, besides choosing your words wisely, be ready to offer assistance. If you are not doing the work, you are not helping.

A soccer team cannot be a winner if everyone is depending upon one or two players. Likewise, if the team is playing kickball (aimlessly kicking the ball with no intention of where the ball may land), few if any games can be won. However, a group of players playing soccer (accurately passing the ball to players who are actively making themselves open) will win more often than not.

It has been a pleasure,

Gary Coyne

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