

TO: Mr Gary Coyne, President, The ASGS
SUBJECT: Symposium Coordinator Report
FROM: Jerry A. Cloninger

The 2002 meeting in Point Clear, Alabama is progressing . Gene Nelson and talk daily in preparation for the development of a final schedule. As of April 25, the room pick up was 90% of our room block. This means we get meeting space at no charge. Since then, we have had several members cancel their reservation with the hotel even after we ask them to do this with Gene or I. This would have allowed us to redistribute the rooms to people on a waiting list for a room at the convention rate. By people not doing this, we lost the room nights. Also, the hotel is completely sold out for this period. Member registration is slow, but we currently have 100 pre registered for the meeting and the seminars are going OK.

The Great Lakes section will serve as our host for the 2003 meeting with Scott Bankroff as the chair. The meeting will be held at the Sheraton Cleveland City Centre hotel in downtown Cleveland, Ohio. The dates for this meeting will be June 17 thru June 21 and the rates should not exceed \$124.00 for single/double. This committee will have exhibitor packets ready for presentation to exhibitors and have a booth at the Alabama meeting. The location of this hotel is very convenient and within walking distance of many city attractions.

The Northeast section has selected a site for the 2004 meeting and we have a completed contract. The meeting will be held at the Sheraton Saratoga Springs hotel located in the town of Saratoga Springs. The hotel rates have been set at \$129.00 single/double and Dan Wilt has been approved as symposium chair for this meeting. The hotel is located within walking distance of approximately 50 restaurants, pubs and unique shopping.

This BOD should consider changes to the current symposium format. If they should be discussed, recommendations should be make and approved **at this meeting** (should we consider only having a symposium every other year ? Should we have several "mini symposia one year and a National meeting the next year?"). Things that affect the hotel and dates contracted for should only be considered for the 2005 symposium. Things that affect our program only, can be changed at almost any time. I welcome any comments.

This BOD should give serious consideration to where we are going with our symposium program. Rob Bihler, the incoming Symposium Coordinator desperately needs input and direction. Our program has become timeworn and uninteresting for many of our members. Changes are needed to make it more attractive to all members. We are also experiencing **a lack of participation** of our membership in presenting papers, workshops, and posters. We appear to be having trouble attracting the younger members to meetings. Maybe it is because we are not offering the most attractive program that we could.

Ron is now seeking a host section for the 2005 symposium. If any section is interested, please contact Ron.

Respectfully,
Jerry A. Cloninger

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