

American Scientific Glassblowers Society

Directors Report

Date: November 7, 2009

Section: Exhibitor Section

Section Officers

Director: Deborah Camp

Chair:

Vice Chair:

Secretary: Bonnie Clark

Treasurer: Bonnie Clark

Section Profile

Number of section meetings planned for the year: 0

Number of meetings since last Board of Directors meeting: 1

Number of section members: 18 members in 2009, loss of 5 companies from 2008 numbers

Average attendance at section meetings: Last meeting only about 7-8 members

Financial resources: Adequate

How would you describe your typical section meeting (check all that apply)

Educational Social Speaker Tour Workshop

Meetings take place during the National Symposium. It is

Primarily a business meeting.

Section Challenges

Difficulty in finding a meeting location NO

Difficulty in organizing a meeting NO

Difficulty in finding workshop presenters NA

Poor attendance at section meetings YES

Difficulty in finding section officers YES

Difficulty in collecting Dues YES

Additional Comments (use additional pages if necessary):

The exhibitor group's section Objectives have been

- 1) To help symposium committee promote the symposium and exhibits
Using exhibitor resources.
- 2) To keep exhibitors informed as to exhibit logistics before the annual symposium.
- 3) To resolve potential problems in these areas.

We have since our charter added a Jr. Member scholarship which has been awarded annually in the amount of \$1000.00. 2009 we awarded the scholarship to Kathryn Jones of Salem Community College. We have no applications so far for 2010 symposium. Our Deadline for applications is January 1, 2010 for this year's scholarship. Please announce to your sections that we are looking for applications for the 2010 Scholarship.

This has been a difficult year for our exhibitor group. We had the lowest number of vendors attend the symposium in Vancouver. A lot of vendors stated the economy was a major factor, but I believe that geography also had something to do with it. I would recommend that we try to have the symposiums in the middle of the USA so that extreme travel and expense is not as much of an excuse not to attend. It appears that many of our east coast members are not willing to travel cross country to attend the symposium. I hope that the 2010 symposium is better represented by our members.

I also have to admit that it is becoming harder to motivate our membership. There is a core of about 10 exhibitors that are loyal to the ends. But there is the majority that only will make an appearance at the symposium and not wish to be involved in any other way. I hope that the executive committee and the society will continue to involve the exhibitor group in projects that will mutually benefit our membership. The more associate members and exhibiting companies are involved in helping in whatever capacity the stronger the ties will become and then less likely to sever relationships when the going gets tough. In other words we need to bring these people into the "fold".

I personally propose that the incoming president challenge the Exhibitor Group to continue to provide assistance with membership drives, serve on committees and do special projects as needed in order to bring them into the group a bit more. This can only serve to strengthen both relationships. As director I would be happy to assist in finding (coercing) volunteers as needed.

We will be trying to find a replacement as director beginning June 2010. Hopefully this person will also be willing to assist the current president and his/her agenda.

Please consider that the symposium committee be given a deadline for Vendor Packets prior to August 1 of each year. Ideally it would be appropriate to have them to give out at the previous symposium. This has been able to lapse over the past several years and I really advise that we get this dialed in. Early vendor commitment is essential to planning and budgeting for the symposium. It also makes it easier for the Exhibitor Group to provide assistance and help get commitments.

Currently the exhibitor group participated in a membership drive with the new brochures provided by the Publications Committee and Gene Nelson. The companies that agreed to help out are:

Litton
Carlisle School of Glass Art
Wilt
G.M. Associates, Inc.
Schott
North Jersey Diamond Wheel
VM Glass
Chemglass
Wilmad/Labglass

We sent out brochures to companies/individuals we sell to who are not current ASGS members. We also received a new membership application, and I made up some 50% off coupons for new members to try to entice them to join at a reduced rate. Companies used whatever means they chose to send out the flyers. I have no idea how successful this drive has been, but I hope that we can continue to do this every year in an effort to increase membership. I suggest that the individual sections also use this template as an example to hold their own membership drive each year.

Finally, I personally suggest that the BOD consider inviting Associate members to the annual business meeting. Since you have added a new classification of membership (Artistic), and so many of our members are Associate Members, it would make sense that they feel a part of the process. Although they can't vote, they may be able understand what is going on in the Society and may be able to help the process in some way. This is just a suggestion for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Camp
Director,
ASGS Exhibitor Group