



Incorporated 1954



THE AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC GLASSBLOWERS SOCIETY

302 Redbud Lane • Thomasville, NC 27360 • (336) 882-0174 • Fax: (336) 882-0172

President Report for the Board of Directors

June 2001

Dear Colleagues

As I reviewed the reports they prove there is still a core group of dedicated individuals that keep the ASGS alive. Of course, I want to thank the Executive Committee and especially Sally Prasch for her work as our Treasurer. Sally steered us through some tough waters and got us on the course of financial accountability. Sally will be sorely missed.

Dave Smart as Publications Chair and Marylin Brown our Editor have continuously raised the level of content and professionalism in FUSION at every level. It offers style and substance and provides both an image and legacy we can all be proud of.

Year in and year out, at each and every Symposium, Allan Brown and Joe Gregar demonstrate their commitment to the ASGS by sharing their time to bring the mission of our Society to others on a one to one basis. For those lucky enough to attend either of these Workshop Seminars, it becomes a baptism of sorts for some. For others, it is a renewal. But to all of us it is an inspiration.

This year I asked the Sections to provide financial support towards their Director's travel. The Sections responded with unprecedented support. Now, for the first time in nearly a decade, the business and functions of the ASGS were performed without using restricted funds. In an effort to connect one on one with our membership and their Sections I went the extra mile to try and see every Section I possibly could. I want to thank the individuals who made room for me at their homes or gave me rides to the meetings. It not only saved the ASGS money, it also gave me a chance to meet and discuss the individual problems that are facing each Section. It was in my mind crucial for our Society to provide a National linkage towards the Local Section. This came at quite a financial cost to me and as anyone who has been in my shoes knows. It takes a lot of phone calls, Emails, faxes and phone tag and time that you have to give back to your employer.

I realize there will be those who will criticize my exercise of trying to meet with the members and energize them as fruitless and a waste of money. This is an honest and reasonable disagreement on the use of assets in our Society. You may disagree as to the merits of my efforts. However, my motivation as your President has always been to do the best job possible. If I fell short of expectations, it was simply a matter of not having enough time in a day, enough days in a week and enough weeks in a year to meet all the requirements of this office. I can only justify this shortcoming by saying my efforts were always directed towards doing the best job I could.

Putting this difference aside let me share with you what has transpired and what I have learned:

- While some committees work within a shoestring budget others need more money to support the benefits that members expect.

- Some Committees are vapor committees that have little substance. Perhaps we should consider acknowledging the fact and remove them.
- The junior and regular member glassblowing seminars prove hands on training continue to be an overwhelming success. Support and contributions by members and regional sections towards the glassblowing seminars has grown throughout this year with great delight to the instructors who have nurtured these programs.
- We need to extend this effort towards the internship program, again, and streamline our symposium planning.
- The support from regional sections to subsidize the expense of their directors to attend the Fall board of directors meeting was outstanding. Where in the past the cost often exceeded \$10,000, the November 3 & 4, 2000 board of directors meeting was reduced to a total cost under \$3000;
- Advertising and marketing ASGS has been absent. We need to focus on these efforts and give them a priority.
- We need to begin marketing the ASGS in other areas related to glassblowing and/or science with other organizations, i.e. American Chemical Society, Art Glass Suppliers Association and American Ceramics Society. It should help us find new members', increase our mail list and new courses related to scientific glassblowing. Unfortunately it takes money to make money.
- We need to improve communication: Ideas, issues and concerns that affect committees are NOT always being consulted prior to board of director meetings. Dialogue is important whether it is positive or negative. Committee chairs are shy about responding but appreciate reading the dialogue.

As I attended section meetings in the Fall, information discussed with members varied considerably-- while there was no harm done, this concerned me greatly. As most of you know in the Spring I traveled to meetings and developed the 'State of the Business address'. While it covered many national issues and concerns it distributed a uniform message. This information proved to answer lots of questions that people frequently ask or needed to know. There needs to be a realization that the success of the ASGS relies on the contributions of each and every one of us, no matter how small.

Potential ideas to seriously consider:

- * Give associate members voting rights or a voice on the Board of Directors.
 - o Do you think they are going to threaten and take over the ASGS? There are too many members passionate about the mission of this organization that we would never let it be turned into a marketing front for one of our vendors, if anything, this could improve the ASGS. Their business skills could be an advantage.
- * Corporate membership- introduce this as a promotion for 12-18 months
- * Two-year presidential term
 - o Continuous leadership and reduce learning curve from year to year
- * Symposium every other year (see below)

* Consolidate committees: example: seminar coordinator and technical paper coordinator would be under symposium committee

Symposium Every Other Year: time and time again feedback from vendors and meeting planners complain that we have no new customers, seminars, etc.

* Stream-line symposia and include a complete instructional manual

* Form a steady group of individuals (to assist hosting symposium committee) to run the symposiums for several years

This is the closest substitute to hiring a professional planner. We know everything but we forget little things every year or every other year. I know this is the total responsibility of the Symposium Coordinator but this can be a full-time job. WE ALL have to pitch in.

* Identify ramifications of holding a symposium every other year:

- o Research the feasibility of this idea and make it work
- o Work within the proper non-profit status as required by the State of Delaware
- o Reduce the minimum number of members considered a quorum at the business meeting (as required by Delaware Law) to remain intact
- o Be aware of penalties if we reduce current hotel contracts

It appears the ASGS has evolved and has become a smarter group of professionals. The wealth of information the ASGS contains is enormous where new information has decreased at yearly conferences. That makes it difficult to host a yearly, profitable, national meeting. Information is shared constantly on the Internet; we have become spoiled by the instant gratification of answers immediately upon request. All the more reason to consider spreading out the cost and expense every other year. Consider regional sections host a mini meeting as demonstrated in the Southeast section balancing the mini-conference/section meeting from eastern, western to mid-west areas throughout the country. Hold the business meeting at this meeting, to meet the yearly requirement to maintain non-profit status.

In closing these suggestions are a reflection of what the membership has said to me throughout this year and my membership. Let this be a springboard for us to recognize great ideas and encourage discussion, positive or negative. Thanks to the many people who support, help and nurtured this organization: the Board of Directors, committee chairs and members, the nation office manager and the editor of FUSION.

Respectfully Submitted,



Doni Hatz