

National Office Report to the ASGS Board of Directors

Stephanie Stevens was honored to represent the National Office for the 50th Annual Symposium in Bloomingdale, IL this year. She had a positive experience and I appreciate all those who assisted her with the many responsibilities associated with registration, workshops, seminars, special events and the Charity Art Auction. Thank you for allowing me to entrust her to you for the week however, I missed seeing you and plan to attend the Manhattan Beach, CA Symposium myself next year!

Already, the Southern California Section is hard at working planning the upcoming 51st Symposium. We have been processing Exhibitor Booth Reservations through Rick Gerhart. Rick was kind enough to give the National Office a full Exhibitor Package for reference use – thank you!

Financially, the Society continues to improve its cash position. Combined checking and investment balances increased by \$9,443.16 between 09/30/04 and 09/30/05. As of 10/03/05, we have received \$16,989.62 in restitution payments since the initial payment on 06/23/03. The AIM investment account has increased in market value this fiscal year by \$2,072.47. The investment CDs at BB&T continue to roll over every three months. If interest rates rise, we can hope to increase our rate of return on these accounts.

Although overall membership has declined slightly, we have processed thirty-two new applications since May of 2005. This is a result of combined efforts by the Section Directors, members at large and Membership Chair, Gary Dobos, encouraging former members to return and new scientific glassblowers to join. A retiree questionnaire was developed by Gary Dobos, Marylin Brown, Dave Smart and the National Office to obtain a compilation of Retired Members' activities and accomplishments in scientific glassblowing and life during their working years. To date, six retired members responded to the questionnaire.

Thanks to Computer Chair, Michael Palme, and the Computer Committee, the website is once again informative and functional. The missing links have been repaired and updates are performed immediately. Based on the calls and e-mails received by the National Office, members and the public are using the site to search for suppliers, glassblowers, membership guidelines, employment, education and electronic communications. A patch to correct the error on the 2005 CD Roster was uploaded to the main page of our website allowing the National Office to easily direct members to the fix. Additionally, the Computer Committee is updating the Members Only section of the website. Members in good standing will receive their own unique user name and password to access this portion of our site. The National Office will mail each member his/her user name and password separately from their dues statement in November and will maintain these records for retrieval purposes.

The National Office has promptly responded to document requests by Audit Committee Chair, Ed Powell. Financials statements are prepared monthly by the National Office and distributed to Frank Meints, Jim Hodgson, David Daenzer, Ron Bihler and Ed Powell. Procedures to account for cash receipts during Symposium were also updated this year with the assistance of Jim Hodgson. To further protect the Society, its members and its assets, the National Office recently retained a new IT firm to perform a Security Vulnerability Test on the computers used to process and store ASGS electronic data in Madison. Minor holes were sealed and there was no indication of any intrusion. Since this type of testing benefits all "Bookkeeping Plus" clients, it is done routinely and at no additional charge to the Society.

Thank you for allowing us to continue to represent the National Office of the American Scientific Glassblowers Society. You are truly a pleasure to serve.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Collins
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