

The most enjoyable meeting for me was held at Josh Simpson's Studio in western Massachusetts. I have been going to section meetings since 1978 with my father William. It is a special event to spend time together sometimes my children also join us. I traveled along the Mohawk Trail through the Berkshire Mountains to Josh's hill top studio with my wife Lorraine, my father and his friend. The view was spectacular, but once we stepped through the door we were soon impressed with the state of the art spacious studio. After a film and presentation about Josh's work we were treated to his team creating a piece of blown ware 2" in diameter from start to finish. Josh does not allow public tours so we were entitled to a once in a life time experience! Some lamp workers gave demonstration and Mike Souza demonstrated a seal used in making a manifold. I had seen this seal before but this was a chance to get a closer look. When I returned to work I spent several hours practicing the technique. Learning this trick made the trip worth while. I always try to attend meetings to show appreciation for the organizers but I think a chance to see a new glassblowing technique close up in very valuable.

Glassblowers can be an asset to many companies. Our library of articles in Fusion and The Proceedings along with films and demonstrations can be utilized to solve problems. If the glassblower has the curiosity to use these tools it can help steer a customer to a solution quickly. We have many topics that are safety related; although the articles may be out of date they still provide an outline of potential hazards glassblowers their employers and customers should consider. Glassblowers can save the time of a whole team of engineers by quickly repairing a critical piece of glassware or advice on designing a new product or process

I think the best way for me to be a resource to the Northeast Section is to find out what members would like to see at meetings. I will ask members to e-mail request for specific demonstrations to see if we can accommodate them. If a section has a member that can perform a specific demonstration maybe other sections could invite the glassblower to travel to their meeting. The national could pick up airfare and the section could take care of transportation and lodging.

Sincerely Yours

Patrick DeFlorio
Northeast Director