



THE AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC GLASSBLOWERS SOCIETY

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President's Message

To the Board of Directors:

Growing the membership is one of the most important aspects in keeping our society viable. The ASGS started this past year trying to increase membership. One approach was to offer ½ price membership. The membership brochures were also redesigned and printed. Some of our vendors graciously offered to send the brochures out to non-member glassblowers. We have had success attracting new members this year. Where the ASGS is failing is in maintaining / keeping those who are already members. When the membership falls, so does the revenue.

At the ASGS Board of Directors meeting last November, the board was made aware of a deficit between the cost of a national office contract and the revenues from membership dues. This does not include the other operating costs associated with running our society. To cover these operating costs, we have depended upon our symposiums to make a profit which is not always the case. Several board members have either paid for their own expenses to attend the Board meetings, have been reimbursed by their sections by varying amounts, or a combination of both to relieve the burden on the society.

To be a viable society, we **MUST** have our dues cover our operating expenses. Your Board of Directors is looking at **BOTH** minimizing operating expenses and raising dues to cover our operating expenses. We will look also at having **THREE** department expense centers: (1) operations; (2) marketing (Fusion); and (3) symposium. Each of these departments will have their own revenue sources: (1) operations paid by dues; (2) marketing paid by Fusion and website revenues; (3) symposium paid by registration and exhibitor revenues.

Also at the November Board meeting, the Board of Directors gave a directive to write a new scope of services for the National office. The primary objective of the new scope of services was and is to reduce the National office expenditures so that the cost of the National office will be covered by membership dues. I would like to thank Deborah Camp, Curt Sexton, and Patrick DeFlorio for undertaking this task.

In May, Bookkeeping Plus informed the ASGS that they would not renew their contract with the ASGS. Their current contract will end July 31, 2010. On behalf of the Society, we wish to extend our appreciation to Amy, Stephanie and Cindy for their services over the past years. The search for a new National office has been taking place. There has been much time and effort put forth in this search. Thank you to Curt Sexton and Patrick DeFlorio for their efforts in getting proposals.

Ed Powell has taken the initiative to create a new website as part of the new face of the ASGS. We hope that this new face will attract more glassblowers as members, as well as provide an easy interactive site for our current members. The new website will provide credit card capability for members. This website should be up and running soon – maybe before the Symposium.

I would like to thank all of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee and ASGS members for their support during the past year. I have enjoyed my tenure as President and have considered it an honor to serve alongside each of the members.

I encourage ALL members to continue to express their ideas, comments and suggestions to their director and the ASGS President. I wish Curt Sexton the best as he embarks on this adventure.

Respectfully,

Gene Nelson