

American Scientific Glassblowers Society

Directors Report Fall 2006

Section: Great Lakes

Section Officers

Director: Michael S. Morris
Alt. Director: Chris Sprague
Chair: Chris Sprague
Vice Chair:
Secretary: Frank Meints
Treasurer: Harald Eberhart

Section Profile

Number of section meetings planned for the year: 2
Number of meetings since last Board of Directors meeting: 1
Number of section members: 80
Average attendance at section meetings: 12 - 20
Financial resources: Adequate Inadequate
How would you describe your typical section meeting (check all that apply)
Educational Social Speaker Tour Workshop
 Other

Section Challenges

Difficulty in finding a meeting location
 Difficulty in organizing a meeting
 Difficulty in finding workshop presenters
 Poor attendance at section meetings
 Difficulty in finding section officers
 Other (explain) _____

Additional Comments (use additional sheet if necessary):

The Great Lakes Section held a meeting on Sat. October 28th in Frankenmuth Michigan at Sullivan's Black Forest Brew Haus and Grill. 34 members and guests attended with several retired members making an appearance due to the short travel distance afforded by this location. The Brew Haus offered samplers of beer over the course of the meeting which was enjoyable without creating any problems. A three piece band played music for us during lunch. Demonstrations were offered and an auction was conducted raising a few hundred dollars for the section. A business meeting was held with section elections taking the prominent role. Doug Navalinsky was elected to replace Michael Morris having served two consecutive two year terms. Doug will serve a two year term beginning December 5th. Chris Sprague who has served two terms for four years was elected for another term as Chairman but would like to serve a one year term. Frank Meints remains secretary and Harald Eberhart remains treasurer. Sponsors for the meeting were Wyse Glass Specialities, VM Glass, TGP, and Friedrich & Dimmock.

Response to ASGS president Hodgson's questions on page two.

1) Think of the best section meeting you have attended. What was it about that section meeting which made it beneficial to you? What is important to you in deciding whether or not to attend a section meeting?

Location of meeting, who will be in attendance, quality or subject of demonstration and (or) tour. Sponsor contact and organization of event. Business meeting for discussion of national and section business conducted in paced informational manner with preparation and attention to keeping focused on agenda topics. Chairman who promotes input but keeps meetings moving is key.

- 2) Name three valuable services you think a scientific glassblower provides to their employer, whether it be a university setting, research lab or production shop.
- In house availability for direct verbal communications, consultation & technical support.
 - Emergency and short term response capabilities.
 - Ease of making requests for customer glassblowing needs. Convenience of pick-up and follow-up on work performed, particularly on prototypes and modifications.
- 3) How can we, as directors, be a resource for our local sections? What can our society, as a whole, provide which might be prohibitive for an individual section to undertake?

Directors who regularly contact section members for input and promote section and national level participation by personal communication are tremendously important to creating a feeling of being a part of something meaningful and enjoyable to individual section members. Whether personal or business oriented, asking questions and informing members by direct voice contact is the best way to build a team. E-mail distribution lists are good also but direct e-mail is also preferable to being impersonally contacted as a part of a list.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael S. Morris