

From the Editor's Desk:

www.StainedGlassQuarterly.com

A membership organization such as the Stained Glass Association of America must necessarily work to create a sense of community among the members and the potential members it serves; this is, after all, its primary reason for being. The Stained Glass Association of America has a number of very worthwhile objectives toward which the Association works listed in the bylaws of this organization; however, without a sense of community and the recognition of the simple fact that many are stronger than one, these objectives cannot be achieved.

In short, the objectives are good for everyone who works in the fields of stained, decorative, and architectural art glass; however, the sense of community created by the organization is not only good for those who work in the studios and who become a part of the community, but it is good for the organization as well because, without this sense of community, the organization will cease to be. The more professionals who make up our community in the Stained Glass Association of America, the better off we all are, because, as the community grows, the talent pool grows, and the quicker we can achieve the objectives of the Association, which are good for the entire craft.

We build community through conferences, through the effort of the SGAA Stained Glass School, through *The Stained Glass Quarterly* and other Association publications, and through many other means both in day-to-day activity and through special outreach programs. One of the ways that the SGAA builds community is through the SGAA Forum and the Association's various websites, including www.SGAAOnline.com and www.stainedglass.org.

It is for these reasons that I am extremely pleased to announce that *The Stained Glass Quarterly* has a new website: StainedGlassQuarterly.com. Right



Richard H. Gross, MTS

now, this site duplicates the content available on www.stainedglass.org but in an entirely new format. Over the course of the coming months, www.stainedglass.org will be transformed to the format now used at StainedGlassQuarterly.com. Additionally, websites will be added to the Stained Glass Association of America's online presence that support the mission and function of the SGAA Stained Glass School. The content and the methods of delivery of that content at all sites will evolve as the sites are developed.

These new websites will allow for a much more dynamic and interactive experience. They will also be easier to update, which means they will be updated more frequently, and they will employ such technologies as RSS 2, which will allow visitors to automatically receive announcements from the sites when they are made.

The goal of this new web presence for the Stained Glass Association of America is threefold: first, to create a sense of community within the membership of the Association and among the practitioners of stained, decorative, and architectural art glass; second, to reach out to the end user and offer an easily accessible online solu-

tion that meets their needs; and, third, to provide a vehicle to more quickly and easily disseminate information from the SGAA Headquarters to our members and affiliates.

The Association is not just using its online presence and rolling out additional websites to meet these goals; it is also taking advantage of the opportunities offered by various social and professional networking sites. For example, SGAA introduced a Facebook fan page during the 2010 Annual Business Meeting, which was held in Kansas City last January. In less than a month, the SGAA had more than 100 fans, and the number grows every day.

To find the SGAA on Facebook, visit either www.stainedglass.org or StainedGlassQuarterly.com and follow the "SGAA on Facebook" link, or simply search for "Stained Glass Association of America" when you're at Facebook.

I hope that you will visit the new website for *The Stained Glass Quarterly*; I invite you to visit our online discussion forum and participate in the dialogue there. You can find the SGAA Forum through www.stainedglass.org or StainedGlassQuarterly.com; just follow the "Forum" link, register, and, in no time, you'll be able to participate in what is going on there.

Most of all, I hope that you will take advantage of the community that the Stained Glass Association of America is working to build. In the early days of the Association and of this magazine, it was once reported that one of the reasons for the SGAA was to "make practicing the Ancient Craft more of a blessing than a curse." By working together in community, we can accomplish just that, and make the Ancient Craft better for us all

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard H. Gross".

Richard H. Gross, MTS