

President's Message:

Good Art Is Good Business

Today, where would your studio be if it were not for the Stained Glass Association of America? Most, if not all, studios, including the "local guy" working out of his basement, garage or storefront, selling supplies and teaching classes, would not exist in the United States.

The SGAA, as most know, was founded as a trade organization in 1903 to level the business field. Today the business world is just that: a world business. In this respect, the SGAA is increasingly an international group. This has not stopped the SGAA from being a watchdog over legislation enacted by the United States government that would severely hinder studios from plying their art.

Well-intended legislation by the United States Congress had, in the past, potential to doom studios in the United States. One case in point was during World War II. Studios were not allowed to purchase lead products to fulfill commission requirements. It was the SGAA that reversed this policy ensuring the survival of studios during this time. A recent case occurred during the 1970s, when legislation concerning the structure of stained glass windows as well as the specific requirements for glass would have effectively ended stained glass as a decorative art.

In 1977, the SGAA sent representatives to Congressional hearings, explaining the adverse effect the proposed legislation would have on the studios. The legislation would essentially have eliminated most, if not all, studios as we know them. The representatives from the SGAA explained how safe the art of stained glass was within architectural settings, thus securing exemptions from the legislation, ensuring that the decorative glass art community would continue to work.



Jerome R. Durr

Today, studios in the United States face a situation similar to that in the 70s. Mandates by the Environmental Protection Agency have severe repercussions to studios working in the United States. The EPA has issued a 60-plus-page document establishing rules and conditions for those disturbing lead paint in commercial as well as residential buildings built prior to 1977.

During the last two summer conferences, the SGAA has conducted very informative seminars about the EPA's rulings and procedures. During the seminars, experts have explained rulings and procedures that drastically affect studios. Should the EPA's regulations not be adhered to, fines in excess of \$30,000 may be imposed on the offenders.

The SGAA, along with numerous building groups, is monitoring recent developments concerning the EPA's rules. For this reason, it is incumbent on studios to be members of the only professional organization in the business of art glass. These efforts from 1903 to the present ensure that American studios can compete with our sister studios around the globe. The SGAA is here not only to educate those in the proper and safe practices of our craft but to make sure that those in the United States as well as the rest of the world have an art to practice.

The SGAA is in business so that you, the studio owner, remain in business. Good art is good business.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerome R. Durr". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jerome R. Durr