

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

KATHY BARNARD, SGAA PRESIDENT



Taking Stock of...Change

It's been a year now since I took office and the Stained Glass Association of America (SGAA) has undergone a lot of change. I like to look at change within the context of what is happening in the world and how it affects the changes that the SGAA is undergoing.

To me a very large contributor to change is the way the world has gotten smaller and more intimate through social and digital media. It's so easy to connect with people next door, in the next city, or even in another country. So how does that affect SGAA? This ability to communicate so easily across boundaries and cultures has made it possible to extend our boundaries as an organization. It is true that we are the Stained Glass Association of America, but our organization is becoming known internationally through memberships, artist residencies, and conferences that bring international artists together to entertain and educate each other while exchanging ideas and information about challenges and new techniques. The SGAA has several international members and several Professionally Accredited Studios that are located outside the U.S. This opens up a new pool for potential members which not only improves our financial situation, but also fosters the ongoing growth of our world-wide "community of glass."

We have seen some of the effects of change over the last year as we have redesigned and redirected the *Stained Glass Quarterly* magazine. We are listening to the comments that we are receiving and continuing our endeavor to make it a beautiful and informative magazine. Something that the SGAA can be proud of and that others "just have to have!"

We have endured some scary changes in the glass industry driven by the EPA issues. We continue to monitor this situation, but an unexpected outcome is that we are all communicating, exchanging information, and coordinating responses. This bodes well for our industry and the companies directly involved. They know that we support them and are standing by them.

We dealt with change when a scheduling problem caused a city change for the American Glass Guild's (AGG) 2016 summer conference. The solution was for the SGAA to coordinate with them to have both conferences "back-to-back." While not a perfect solution, there were a lot of plusses particularly with making it possible for more people from the SGAA conference to stay in Chicago to attend at least a part of the AGG conference, and vice versa. We actually received many positive comments in the evaluations about coordinating the two conferences. It is my hope that we will try it again in the future, but this time not as a response to a problem.

So, I think that the changes that the SGAA has gone through this past year have ultimately been very good for us. I want to thank all the officers, committee chairs, and members that are working so hard with me as we plot our path to the future. Let us hear from you.. Feedback is the only way we know that we are appropriately serving you... our members.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Barnard". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kathy Barnard
Kathy Barnard Studio