

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DAVID JUDSON, SGAA PRESIDENT



The end of 2017 has brought many changes to the SGAA and the Stained Glass School. After maintaining our headquarters many years in Raytown, MO, the board decided that it was time to sell the property that housed these two organizations and to rent elsewhere. The structure on the property was showing its age—years of deferred maintenance were beginning to catch up to us. The reality of the financial investment the building needed combined with the difficulty of holding school classes at the facility made the conclusion pretty clear. It was time to pull up stakes. The decision was also timely due to the school's new direction of focusing on regional classes, which is quickly gaining steam. The attendance of these regional classes is increasing primarily due to the convenience of proximity. The sale of the property meant the loss of our long time executive administrator Katei Gross who worked tirelessly for both organizations—longer than many of us can remember. Katei was a fixture of the association during her tenure and we relied on her experience and knowledge consistently over the years. She picked things up where others left off and got us over the finish line when times were tough. We thank her for everything she has done for these two organizations over the years and remain truly grateful. Katei, you will be missed!

Katei's last achievement was to graciously train our new executive administrator, Megan McElfresh. Over the past several months, Megan worked closely with Katei to download and understand all the responsibilities that this position holds. This was no small feat. Once the office duties were communicated, Megan then had to pack up the entire office and ship everything off to Buffalo, NY, then unload and unpack it all in the new offices of the SGAA and SGS headquarters. I know the unpacking is still going on and will probably take several more weeks to complete. Katei and Megan tackled this huge undertaking through teamwork and they did a flawless job. This transition marks a new chapter in the history of these organizations and a beginning of a new era.

So what will this new chapter look like for the SGAA? That is for all of us to decide. We recently held our 2018 winter board meeting at the Westin Hotel in Long Beach, CA where this year's summer conference will be held. The tone was positive and upbeat. While we have many challenges ahead

of us, there is a sense that we have turned a corner and that the future looks bright for not only our industry, but for the Association as well. The majority of our work has strategically focused on the things we do best, like the publication of this magazine; the programming for the summer conference; and the production of the Sourcebook. Our attention to these things will strengthen their value to you as a member and you will soon be seeing a lot of improvements. One of our top priorities is to update our websites to better communicate what we do as an association and a school.

I thank you for your continued support of the SGAA and the SGS, and I cannot stress enough that your support is as important now as it has ever been. Keep up the good work and I hope to see you in Long Beach this June.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Judson', written over a large, faint watermark of the Stained Glass Association of America seal.

David Judson
Judson Studios ■