

President's Message:

Is Your Glass Half Full or Half Empty?

Each year we are amazed at how quickly this time of the year is upon us and how, once again, another year has passed. All of those blessings and opportunities that we thought would overwhelm us last year have suddenly reappeared and again strain our time, our commitments, and our patience.

This past year has been an unprecedented challenge for our industry. Jobs we thought were going to keep us afloat dissolved, and other opportunities appeared that we normally would not have accepted but are now glad to have. Although repair and restoration work is not one of my favorite activities, I personally am very thankful for all that came my way this past year! All of us have learned to do more with less, and we have all learned to be thankful for those blessings received.

Major corporations throughout the United States have been liquidated, consolidated, bought out, or taken over this past year. However, our organization has again tightened its belt, been creative in meeting its obligations, and weathered one of the most stressful years since its founding in 1903 and definitely the worst in several decades.

How fortunate we are that our organization has the wisdom, experience, and creativity to continue to bring in new members, set new goals, and find new ways to bring benefits and knowledge to our members!

The Stained Glass Association of America is responsible for providing its members with an organization that is the premier leader in certification of studios, archival information, and a network consisting of hundreds of years of combined experience. This alone should provide enough incentive for anyone to join who has an interest in stained and art glass. In addition, *The Stained Glass Quarterly* has been published continuously since 1906 and has provided a diverse selection of articles and reviews for our reading pleasure and fulfillment.

The most ambitious undertaking of the organization has been the commitment to build a National



Jack Whitworth, III

Center for Stained and Architectural Art Glass that will include classrooms, archives, space to house the National Headquarters of the Stained Glass Association of America, and a community room for local events. Fundraisers have begun for this project, and grants have been submitted for consideration.

Is our glass half full or half empty? Our glass is overflowing, and we need more members to enjoy the benefits and opportunities that are available. The SGAA continues to offer other benefits; including a proactive health insurance plan for members and their employees, discounted name-brand work clothing for members and affiliates, and access to more than 100 years of information.

If you want to find out ways to increase your blessings and be thankful for so much more, the Stained Glass Association of America is a way to maximize your commitment in the world of stained and architectural art glass. Now is the time to make a commitment to yourself and your love of stained glass and to help make next year the best ever. Those of you who are already members know the work our organization undertakes is worthwhile and rewarding.

I want to thank all of our members for your support this year. I wish the best to each of you this season of thanksgiving and blessings! A special thanks to Katei and Richard Gross (and Jill) for helping me through these first months of this office — and for helping all of us at the Stained Glass Association of America.

Next year, may all of your glasses be overflowing with success and happiness! I know that 2010 is going to be an incredible year to remember for our organization. I am honored and humbled to be in this place at this time of our history.

Jack Whitworth
Jack Whitworth, III
president@sgaaonline.com