

THE STAINED GLASS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

is a TRADE organization?

by Karen Hendrix

Yes, we are a trade organization... a 501 (c) 6 to be precise. What does that mean to us, the glass world in general, and why should you belong to it?

Trade organizations exist for a variety of reasons, including: to provide networking opportunities, to influence public opinion, to provide professional expertise and educational opportunities. Our trade organization exists for all of those reasons. It also exists to promote public awareness of stained glass, through *The Stained Glass Quarterly* and the *Sourcebook* that is sent to more than 18,000 architects each year and is downloaded in its entirety dozens of times every day. Now when architects see the SGAA seal, they know that this studio has met basic standards in craftsmanship and sound business practices.

We have begun a program of offering Continuing Education Points for AIA architects. These architects are required to receive Continuing Education points every year to maintain their license, and our programs are designed to provide an understanding of stained and architectural art glass and how it can be used in their building projects.

We are an accrediting body. We review applicants to verify that they meet industry standards of skill and knowledge.

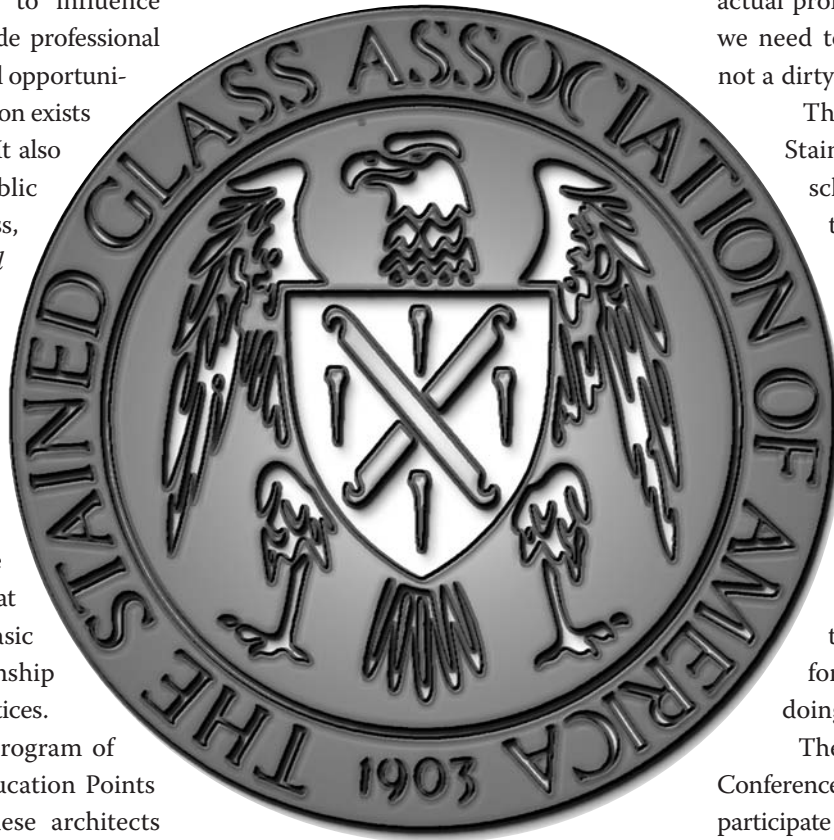
We serve as a voice for the art, craft and industry. We monitor government legislation to see that our art does not lose a vital ingredient of our trade: lead. This has been an ongoing battle almost 20 years; it is a battle to which there is no end in sight.

When the government tried the first time to ban lead and its uses – including stained glass windows – several dedicated members and officers of the Stained Glass Association of

today by the cheap foreign lamps and panels. We all see them advertised, and some of us even sell them. Why not? They can be bought from overseas distributors for far less than we can make them here, and they can be sold for an actual profit! As artists and craftsmen we need to remember that “profit” is not a dirty word.

The SGAA established the Stained Glass School to be a scholarship-granting body and to organize and host educational seminars and workshops. A fund-raising effort has been set into motion to establish a permanent location to house the Stained Glass School, the SGAA business office, classrooms and a library. This is something that has been talked of and dreamed about for years. Now we are at last doing something about it.

The SGAA Annual Summer Conference offers the opportunity to participate in the business decisions of the organization. Section meetings are held so that particular interest groups can discuss points of interest in an informal setting. Artists present their work; ideas are discussed. The expanded focus on education and the art of stained glass has greatly enhanced the quality of the conferences. The SGAA Annual Summer Conference offers everyone who attends the opportunity to meet and talk with stained glass designers, artists and studio owners from all over the country and the world. Networking is a vital part of professional growth. It offers the opportunity to exchange ideas, gather new information and have your creativity stimulated. The value of networking is limited only by the imagination.



The seal of the Stained Glass Association of America

America, acting on behalf of all of us, joined with other lead industry leaders and went to Washington, D.C., and appeared before a congressional investigative committee to stand up for our rights. The legislation was defeated. We were successful then because there is political strength in numbers.

The original founders of the SGAA banded together more than 100 years ago for the purpose of promoting American-made stained glass. Low-cost imported windows were flooding the country at that time in a way very similar to how we are being flooded

The Stained Glass Association of America strives to offer its members many benefits and incentives for their membership. We understand that the decision to be a member of the organization and to support its work with your membership dues is a decision that is not made lightly. We strive to maximize the benefits that our craft receives from your dues dollars. Our members reap many benefits because of their decision to be a part of the Association. All you have to do to participate in these benefits and advantages is join us.

Founded in 1903, The Stained Glass Association of America (SGAA) is a nonprofit trade association dedicated to the advancement of the stained and leaded glass field. The organization is run by volunteers and a small administrative staff. SGAA has published this magazine continuously since 1906

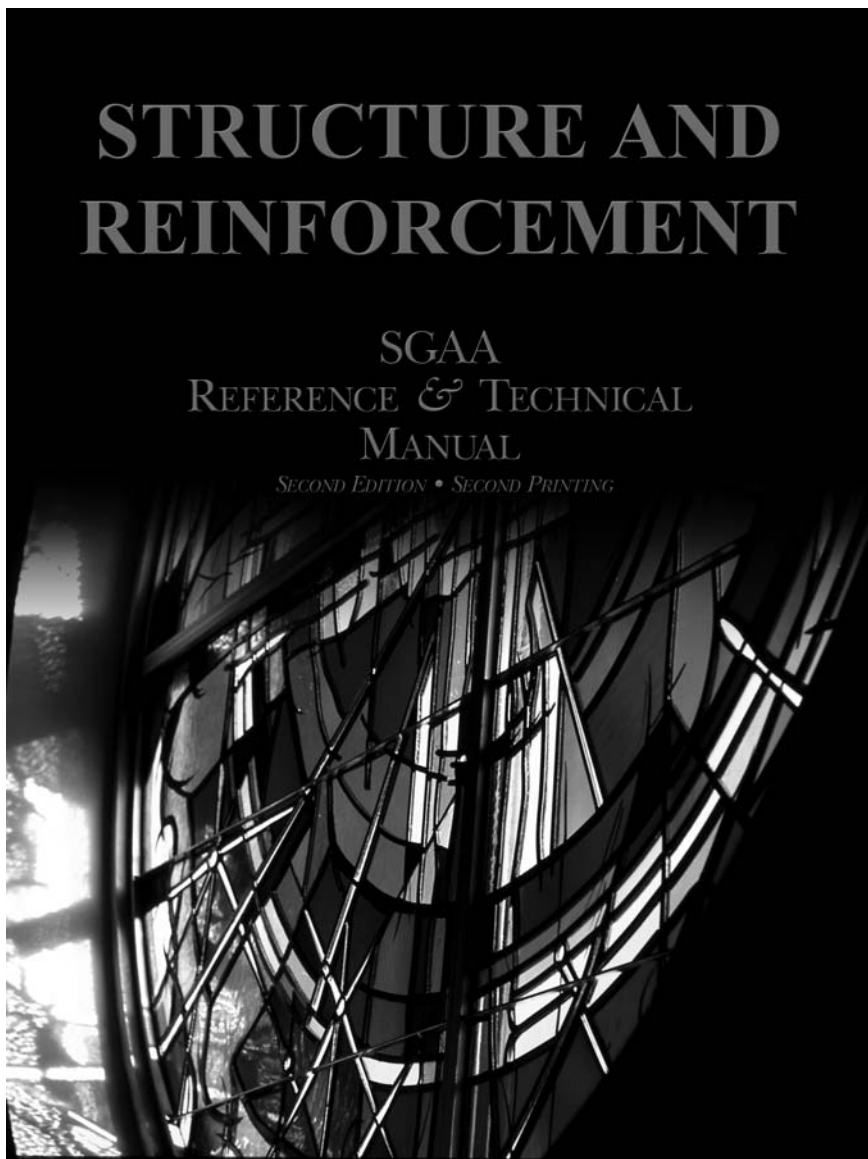
The objectives of the Association are: to function as the recognized organization of distinction and to conduct its affairs in a manner that will reflect credit upon its image and craft; to maintain the highest possible standards for excellence in craftsmanship, integrity, and business practices; to provide facilities offering active membership participation, extensive craft training, organizational and craft-related information, trade-related consulting and documentary services; to research and develop new products, processes, and techniques for the advancement of innovative craft expression; to act as the authoritative historian and archivist for its craft in America; to defend and protect its craft against unwarranted regulation restricting its freedom of use as an architectural art form.

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Stained Glass Association of America
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