

From the Editor's Desk:

The People with the Vision

What is the point of the Stained Glass Association of America? Why does it exist? What does it do? How can it do it better?

I have been the Editor and Media Director of the Stained Glass Association of America since 1995. In that time, I have come to a deep appreciation of the mission of this Association. This Association works hard to create an environment in which stained glass can flourish. It does this by maintaining the highest possible standards for excellence in craftsmanship, integrity, and business practices. It works to advance the awareness, understanding, and appreciation of stained glass and the Stained Glass Association of America. It works to enact programs for the benefit of its craft and to assure the continuing advancement of its craft by offering proper guidelines, instruction and training. There is no other organization performing these important functions for the craft of stained glass.

For a number of years, the SGAA Stained Glass School has been a scholarship granting and publishing body but not a physical school. That is changing. Today, the Stained Glass Association of America is moving toward the goal of creating a physical school in which classes and seminars will be taught on an ongoing basis. The school will also feature a research center and library.

It has been exciting to be involved in looking at buildings and considering their potentiality as a permanent headquarters and a physical school. It has been even more exciting to see the Association's long-standing dream of once again having a physical stained glass school move ever closer to realization. The classes and seminars that the Association provides at its Annual Summer Conference are important, but there is so much more that can be done.



Richard Gross

There are those who say it cannot be done. The Internet has been a forum for some chatter among the naysayers who want to believe that the Association cannot achieve this goal. This, I suppose, is unavoidable. There were those who said a man would never make it to the moon, and, when he did, the naysayers refused to believe that he had been there.

Fortunately, the naysayers are not the ones in charge of the dream. They are not the ones with vision. They are not the ones who will make the extraordinary become reality.

The members of the Stained Glass Association of America are the people who will recognize the importance of this goal and who will work to make it a reality. This is because it is the members of the Stained Glass Association of America who represent the highest possible standard for excellence in craftsmanship, integrity, and business practice. It is the members of the Stained Glass Association of America who understand the importance of working to advance the awareness and appreciation of the stained glass craft. These members are the people who want to see an institution created that can offer proper guidelines, instruction, and training in stained glass.

The members of the Stained Glass Association of America are the people with the true vision. These are the people who will make a positive difference in the future of stained glass.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Gross".