

President's Message:

Change and Opportunity

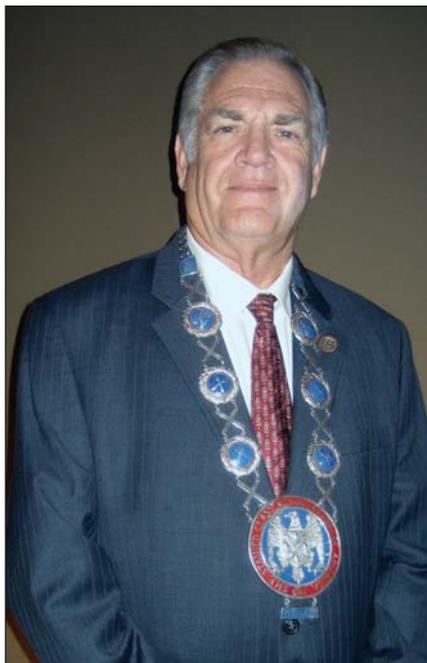
Spring! Change is everywhere, and there are so many opportunities! After “putting off” (read: procrastinating) my new year’s resolutions as long as possible, I decided to join the local YMCA and try to change my physical and mental perception of myself. As I stood at the front desk last week awaiting the completion of my membership application, I noticed a large bowl with at least 75-100 folded pieces of colored strips of paper. Thinking they may be words of inspiration, I removed one and opened it.

On the paper were printed these words: “People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within. —Elizabeth Kubler-Ross”

This really happened! And it happened three days after I had listened to a sermon entitled “Why Worry?” in which I was told that most people worry only about two things—yesterday and tomorrow. The message then proceeded to explain the differences between concern and worry and why faith and intellect should be our foundation for change. So this spring message is for all of us who hope to change and recognize opportunities and act on them.

The reason I went to the YMCA and joined was because a lady seated at the noon meeting of Rotary was talking about a Pilates class she teaches at the YMCA and told me I should join. If I had not made the effort to join Rotary, I would not have received that invitation. Being in a civic organization exposes you to many expected and unexpected opportunities.

I have put off having the traditional “ribbon cutting” celebration by the local Chamber of Commerce of opening my studio’s new location for more than two years. I have been “too busy”! After revealing that this is my 40th anniversary of working in stained glass, it was suggested that we celebrate, get a picture and some free advertising in the paper, and generate additional business exposure.



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Of course, we have now painted the building and replaced the front doors (they are awesome!), and we are planning for the big event. Change and opportunities—all of us can participate!

In an effort to control quality and integrity, we are beginning to see contractors and architects specify that stained glass studios must be Accredited Members of the SGAA in order to bid on projects. This change presents opportunities for studios who are Accredited and presents opportunities for those studios that understand the opportunity. Being an Accredited Member of the SGAA is a commitment to represent the professionalism and dedication that this organization represents.

The Stained Glass Association of America has several categories of membership. If you have an interest in stained glass and love looking at it, if you are a hobbyist and want to learn more, or if you are a studio that aspires to be the best—the SGAA has a place for you. We have studios representing generations of ownership, studios whose owners began stained glass work as a hobby (myself included), large and small businesses, architects, designers, interior decorators, and those who love this art for its beauty.

Change and opportunity! I implore and urge you to commit to doing something different than you are doing today. Think “outside the box”! Make those decisions you have been putting off. An astute friend of mine revealed to me that change means movement—and one of the laws of physics is that movement causes friction. So deal with the friction, and oil the movement so it will provide benefits and more opportunities for whatever you choose to do. Each of us has a responsibility to ourselves and our business to make it the best it can be.

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