

# President's Message:

## *What's In It for You?*

---

*I hope the following illustrates what is in it for you to be a member of the Stained Glass Association of America.*

Recently, a few of the blogs dedicated to the decorative art glass world have had a few questions about the EPA's lead legislation. As has been previously noted in my President's message in the Fall 2011 issue, the Stained Glass Association of America, being a 501(c)6, is the only organization of its type that can lobby Congress. The SGAA, in the past, has sat in front of Congress to deal with lead and fair-trade issues.

The SGAA has a very active Health and Safety Committee, chaired by Al Priest ,that has championed these concerns of this noble art.

Of a more recent concern are the EPA's rules concerning disturbing lead-based paints during the removal and replacement of windows in residential and commercial spaces. The SGAA has been very vocal, along with the voices of numerous building trades, as to a much-needed clarification of legislation. As of this writing, the EPA's legislation is on hold. This withholding of legislation does not absolve a studio from the responsibility of preventing contaminates of any variety at a work site. Nor does it release a studio from protecting their employees in a contaminated area.

The SGAA will be monitoring any new developments with all safety issues that may come about in the future.

On another note, "*It's the economy, Stupid.*" Feast or famine seems to be the rule of the day. Some of our colleagues are very busy, and some are looking far and wide for work. Everyone seems to be cautious going into the coming winter season. Many shops have expanded their product lines as well as their



*Jerome R. Durr*

techniques of production. It seems as if everyone is trying their hand at lamination, air brushing of vitreous oxides, as well as sand etching.

To that end, the SGAA has organized workshops in both lamination and glass-painting techniques. The 2013 Summer Conference in Indianapolis will be offering the third workshop on lamination and, of course, a painting workshop. Also, The Stained Glass School will be offering expanded, week-long workshops this coming spring in Raytown, MO.

Lastly, I would like to mention a few thoughts about Dan Fenton. As you know, Dan recently passed away. The Stained Glass School honored Dan with a Lifetime Achievement SGAA Award at the Oakland Summer Conference in 2008.

I first became aware of what my art could become by reading Otto B. Rigan's book *NEW GLASS* (1976) and marveling at the photos of Charles Frizzell. There I saw Dan's work. Interested, I ventured to the first PortCon, and, when traveling on the West Coast, I briefly meet Dan. It was not until the Oakland Summer Conference, that I interacted with Dan and his partner Patricia O'Doherty, while working with them to get the pre-summer workshop up and running. We discussed the ins and outs of our chosen life's work; and, I was struck by Dan's kindness and his ability to advise and share all that he knew. He was a gentle and talented man who will be sorely missed.

*Jerome R. Durr*

Jerome R. Durr