

## The 109th Annual SGAA Conference An Electric Experience in All Things Glass



(Left to right) The new Board of Directors for 2018–2019: Ed Gilbertson, Courtney Alvarez, Kathy Barnard, Jim Piercey, Sr. Ann Therese Kelly, Bryant Stanton, David Judson, Eric Suevel, Ariana Makau, Ron Weaver, Ralph Mills, Tom Holdman, and Kristine Nordmeyer.

by Megan McElf, SGAA Headquarters

Giving the “State of the Association” address at this year’s conference would have been a daunting task if there had not been so much to celebrate. In the first six months of 2018, the office moved across country, and we hired a new executive as well as a part-time bookkeeper. In turn, we’re undergoing sweeping changes to our computer systems as we pave the way for our new website. SGAA has also upgraded to an electronic billing system, installed a server, and prepared to begin the monumental task of digitizing the archives of *The Stained Glass Quarterly*, among so many other things. We’re sad that we’ve lost a dear friend in Al Priest, who was our first vice president, but we also welcomed new board members this year who represent the future of our organization and our industry.

### Conference Highlights

A record number of attendees were served at this year’s annual conference—members who are both well known to us as well as so many brand new faces. The energy this year at the conference was electric with a positivity and enthusiasm for the future that is contagious. Attendees, board members, and staff alike all left exhausted but completely inspired.

Always a conference highlight, we offered classes this year in restoration, traditional painting, lamination, and creating imagery in fused glass. There was also a special demonstration on angel gilding. We hope to offer many more such demonstrations in the future and really enjoy hearing from attendees about the value provided in the conference and workshops.



David Judson surprises Andrew Moor as the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

One attendee shared these thoughts about the conference. “I never thought I would have any use for any of this glass laminating or fusing, because I do ‘traditional work.’ I now can’t wait to take glass laminating, painting, fusing, and plating classes! I have so many new ideas and an awakened enthusiasm for the glass arts!

“I am sitting here looking at my name badge, smiling ear to ear. It was so nice to meet everyone and make what I hope are lifetime connections. What an amazing group of glass artists! I felt very honored to attend the conference and classes.

“Learning about how to use Hextal and how to wire-tie properly in Ralph Mills’ class gave me the confidence to be able to approach a restoration job properly! I read and research things, but the interactive class was invaluable! Thanks again!”

### The 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award

It was a thrill to have Andrew Moor, artist and author from London, United Kingdom, as this year’s special guest speaker. It was also our pleasure to present him with the Lifetime Achievement Award, which we had managed to keep a complete surprise from everyone, especially the recipient!

One Lifetime Achievement Award is offered annually, but not necessarily awarded each year. To receive the award, the recipient will have been involved in stained glass for a minimum of 25 years and will have provided a significant service to the art and craft of stained glass. Moor has been a central figure in the architectural glass world for nearly 30 years and brings a wealth of knowledge to the field, both in his studio practice and through his teachings and publications.

Moor is known throughout the glass art world as an authority on what can be achieved in glass, has written three critically acclaimed books on glass art, and lectures around the world at major international conferences on contemporary developments within both the aesthetic and the technical side of this powerful art form. It was an honor to spend time with such an inspirational member of our international community.

Until next time, our dear colleagues, fellows, and friends, your grateful Association cannot thank our speakers, sponsors, attendees, and readers enough. Your teaching, sharing, gracious giving of heart and spirit, and kindness lift up the work of all of us. May your year forward be *luscious*—and may our community continue to grow!

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Visit [www.stainedglass.org](http://www.stainedglass.org) to learn more about the Stained Glass Association of America, its upcoming events, and how to become a member.

We are thrilled to announce the Board of Directors for the 2018–2019 year.

#### The SGAA Board of Directors

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