Membership

Membership is for professional glassblowers, suppliers of scientific glassware and equipment, or simply those who have a close association or interest in glass and scientific glassblowing.

In total, there are six types of membership:

- **REGULAR MEMBERSHIP**
  Regular membership is for those who have for five consecutive years and currently gain the major portion of their income as a scientific glassblower.

- **JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP**
  Junior membership is for those who actively engage in scientific glassblowing with less than five years experience.

- **ARTISTIC MEMBERSHIP**
  Artistic membership is for those who actively participate in artistic glassblowing.

- **ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP**
  Associate membership is for those who have either a close association or interest in scientific glassblowing.

- **STUDENT MEMBERSHIP**
  Student membership is for those who are actively enrolled in an accredited Scientific Glassblowing curriculum such as the Salem Community College Program. Only two years of eligibility is allowed.

- **INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP**
  International membership is for those residing in areas not represented by the Board of Directors outside the United States and Canada.

Fees & Contacts

Membership runs from January 1 to December 31. Current dues are $100.00 (US) for members in the U.S. and Canada. International memberships are $125.00 US. For a membership form, contact the National Office (716-353-8062 / natl-office@asgs-glass.org) or go to the membership page of our web site; a Section Director (if appropriate) will contact you. Fees can be paid by check or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, or American Express). The National Office also handles advertisement or subscription inquiries for *Fusion*.

WHEN YOU JOIN THE ASGS, you find yourself among men and women dedicated to improving themselves and their profession. Our many international members also share their experiences and expertise and afford Americans and Canadians unique perspectives and approaches from all over the world. With the internet, exchanges happen in minutes: new ideas, methods and resources are available on-line, and ASGS members are reaping the benefits.

The ultimate goal of the ASGS is to provide the information necessary for our profession to maintain the highest level of excellence.

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The American Scientific Glassblowers Society

"The contributions of glass to human progress can be assessed… by the fact that without glass, science would be blind."

Glass, The Miracle Maker
By C. J. Phillip

Scientific Glassblowing

Glass and scientific advances have gone hand-in-hand throughout history. For centuries the knowledge and art of scientific glassblowers have been integral to the development of chemical, pharmaceutical, electronic and physics research. Some notable examples include Galileo's thermometer, Edison's light bulb, and the vacuum tubes of early radio, TV and computers. The qualities of glass and the skills of those who fashion it have contributed more recently to the advances in industries and research in fiber optics, lasers, atomic and subatomic particles, communications and semiconductors.

While basic hand skills, lathes and torches are still indispensable in modern glass shops, computer assisted furnaces, diamond grinding and lapping machines, even lasers and ultra-sonic mills for precision shaping and boring have found their way into our realm. More and more shops are adding ISO certification to their list of qualifications. Fortune 500 companies, major universities and research institutes throughout the world rely on professional scientific glassblowers who have found the ASGS to be a crucial resource.

The ASGS Organization

Founded in 1952 and incorporated in 1954, the American Scientific Glassblowers Society is a professional, nonprofit organization of scientific glassblowers and suppliers associated with the field. The objectives of the Society are to further the education of its membership through the gathering, promotion, and dissemination of technical and scientific information concerning all aspects of scientific glassblowing.

The ASGS comprises approximately 650 members and affiliate members. Regional Sections offer local members an opportunity to meet with other glassblowers in their area.

Activities & Benefits

- **LOCAL SECTION MEETINGS** throughout the U.S. and Canada with instructional programs and workshops and where suppliers exhibit their glassware and equipment.
- **AN ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM** with seminars, workshops, technical papers and posters underscores the Society's dedication to the education of its members. The symposium provides an excellent venue for networking with colleagues and for equipment manufacturers and suppliers to display their products and services.
- **THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION *FUSION*** contains technical articles (mostly written by members), references and abstracts from other publications, book reviews, new product information, local section reports and announcements, committee reports, and information about health and safety concerns. *Fusion* is an excellent source for vendor information with ads of goods and services (specifically related to scientific glassblowing). Classified ads for used equipment and surplus glass, as well as employment opportunities round out the offerings. A *Fusion* subscription is a member benefit but is also available to non-members and institutes by subscription.
- **THE ASGS *PROCEEDINGS*** contains the technical papers from each symposium. This is free to all members.

- **AN ON-LINE DISCUSSION GROUP** for technical queries makes the expertise of hundreds of professionals with many years of combined experience available to members, often in a matter of minutes.
- **AN EXTENSIVE COLLECTION OF VIDEOS** which document various methods and techniques of scientific glassblowing. These instructive videos, which range from basic skills appropriate for our Junior members to unusual techniques needed for complicated assemblies, can be borrowed by members.
- **THE CUMULATIVE INDEX,** a biblography of all ASGS publications, is a collection of over 5000 article citations of interest to scientific glassblowers. This is available to members in a printed or CD format.
- **MENTOR PROGRAMS** for Junior members.

Visit our web site:
www.asgs-glass.org
for information about upcoming symposia, regional section meetings, section directors and committee listings.