

## **Minutes of Stained and Fused Glass Club Virtual Board Meeting, 15-17 January 2020 1/19/2020**

Participating Club Board Members: Jo Anne Bowman, President; Sue Watkins, Vice President; Debbie Brown, Treasurer; Lisa Schulz, Secretary and Nancy Jarvis, Studio Manager

**Precipitating Event:** Jo Anne received an email from a club member asking that an email about upcoming classes at Wild Desert Glass be forwarded through the Club to all club members. The Stained and Fused Glass Club Board met virtually to arrive at appropriate language to accompany that forwarded message and others like it, so that a disclaimer could be immediately put in place to resolve inevitable objections questioning the appropriateness of the Club or its members acting as apparent publicity agents for a commercial business. The Board resolved to quell the confusion between authorized positions of the Club and personal endorsements by club members once and for all, while making it clear that any club member is welcome to act on their own behalf as an individual to promote opportunities in the glass community for our club members to evaluate and enjoy.

**Background:** Several Club members questioned whether recent emails clearly endorsing products of a commercial enterprise represented an official conflict of interest because they were issued by a club member and to the club membership. The Board convened via virtual conferences from Wednesday January 15th through Friday January 17th to reach appropriate language to establish a Club commitment to official impartiality with respect to offerings by commercial businesses without discouraging individuals from acting on their own to endorse and promote the products and services (such as glass classes) of any businesses they personally choose to support.

**Discussion:** In the interest of fairness and transparency, the Board resolved to arrive at explicit language in the form of a concise, standard disclaimer to accompany all promotional communications sent through the Club from now on to avoid further perception of official conflicts of interest and intentional bias.

### **Considerations:**

- The Club has a standing tradition of sharing studio glass-related community information through announcements and flyers without any accompanying disclaimers. We provide new members with names of stores where they can purchase glass, and we encourage members to share what they have learned and made in outside classes with other members.
- Club announcements about glass sales were previously sent out to membership through the Club and from the President without the intention of endorsing any one business, but also without specific wording to establish that sharing such information with club members did not constitute a Club endorsement.

**Resolution:** The Board arrived at a disclaimer with the following wording to accompany all written announcements issued through the Club to its members regarding opportunities from commercial businesses.

“The following information is being passed on to inform you of outside opportunities available in the glass community which you may evaluate on your own. The SCOV Stained and Fused Glass Club does not book classes for commercial business, nor does it endorse or represent any particular commercial business interest.”

The Board resolved to adopt and immediately apply this disclaimer to all communications sent through the Club promoting products and services of SW Art Glass, Tucson Stained Glass, Wild Desert Glass, and any other outside commercial business.