

## Message From the President



Hello Members,

I hope you are all enjoying the fall season and getting ready to snuggle up for winter.

This past quarter has seen several changes in the USGF. Most of these changes took place in order that the current group of volunteers could better direct their energies toward the production of the Quarterly which is the main purpose of the USGF. I regret that we have lost some of our supporters but very pleased to announce that we have gained others.

I would like to welcome Ameena Lessner to the position of Vice President and Betty Wimberly as our new Secretary. My deepest thanks to both of you for your willingness to step forward and contribute to the USGF.

The Quarterly is a reflection of the entire membership of the USGF. Since the election last January I have made numerous requests for volunteers and materials to contribute to the Quarterly. Response to those requests has come from a very small group of individuals. As a result, the contents and subject matter found in the Quarterly are a reflection of those people and their particular interests. If the Quarterly is to retain the interest of all members and provide materials appropriate for a wide range of readers we need the involvement of a much larger segment of the membership. Once again I am asking for volunteers to contribute to the Quarterly to write, research, proofread, design, etc.

The USGF cannot survive by the efforts of only a handful of people. Many members have expressed a desire for the Quarterly to continue and many support it with their advertising dollars. We each have a way that we might help, if you do not fancy yourself an author or artist, perhaps you might consider another avenue to offer support.

The cost to produce and mail the Quarterly is quite high. As you can see from the financial reports, membership dues do not even come close to paying for the benefits that each member receives annually. The BOD has made every effort to keep costs down and has offered advertising rates to enable a larger number of members to participate. Currently we have a raffle fund drive to try to make up for some of the shortfall. Unfortunately we have sold only a few tickets. The raffle is a way for each member to affordably contribute to the USGF and help to ensure its continuation. Please purchase a raffle ticket and show your support for the USGF.

As most of you are aware I have resigned my position as the President/Co-Editor of the USGF. While I have enjoyed many aspects of my work on the magazine and with the members over the last 10 months, the demands of this endeavor require more time than I am able to commit.

I had hoped that given some framework for team effort more members would volunteer their time and talents to produce the Quarterly. I never intended to be the editor of the magazine but as no person was willing to accept the position and Diana and Tinell were willing to join the board as Co-Editors only, I assumed the remaining tasks required to produce the Q. These tasks along with those expected of me as President have become more than is possible to fit into my hectic schedule. As a result other areas of my life have suffered and I can no longer continue this work.

In parting I am attempting to complete what I started and leave the board with the information needed to move successfully into a new membership year. I have presented a detailed financial statement showing the breakdown of club expenditures. I realize that not everyone has an eye for numbers so I will simply say that the USGF cannot continue on its current course without going broke in the near future. A number of factors have converged to make what used to be "business as usual" impossible with current membership levels and ad income. In essence; membership dues falls very short of paying for each member's benefit and the advertising dollars that might supplement dues are completely used up by the complimentary judge's copies. I have prepared a survey so that each member can rate their priorities for 2009 and beyond. Please complete and return the surveys ASAP so that the board is clearly aware of your wishes for the future of the USGF.

As I write this I feel a pang of regret as I have very much enjoyed many parts of this work and expect that many members will feel that I let them down. My deepest apologies to those who have supported my presidency and the USGF over the past 10 months. Many thanks to all who have enabled the USGF to continue for another year and may it endure for many more.

Sincerely,

Elise Scafani

Soon to be former President/Co-Editor



P.S. Here is a little something I designed while putting the calendar together. I hope you are able to enjoy viewing it as much as I enjoyed creating it. ~ Elise :-)