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# Newsletter

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April 2014—Year 4—Edition 1—STGAA.ORG



## A Note from the STGAA President

### Aimee Blair

Thanks for joining us for another STGAA newsletter. I want to first thank everyone that have continued to support us throughout the year. We really appreciate it because without your help we wouldn't have been able to give out 2 more scholarships in 2013.

This years newsletter's theme is learning from past lessons to move forward. Because STGAA is a very young organization we are still trying out different ideas and seeing what works and what doesn't. We tried having a fall event in the Albany area one year, it worked out but ended up preventing some people from being able to attend. So we moved it back to the Oswego area which seemed to work out better in the end.

Another change that we made this past year was in our scholarship application. We decided to open up the scholarship to give more STG members an opportunity to apply by expanding the criteria to include Freshmen and Sophomores. This seemed to have a positive response from the members of STG and we hope we can continue to make improvements to this program.

Our hurdle that we are still currently having issues with is active membership. We do have a few more people helping us out with our committees, but we are still not where we would like to be at. I hope through more time and changes we can continue to grow in this area. It would be great to see in the future our plans for a mentorship program to finally be off the ground

and maybe expand our scholarship program to help even more students. But right now we are working with what we have and will continue to do so.

In closing I do want to remind alumni that we are going to be nearing the end of this current term for our board of directors. So if you are interested in running for a board of director position or if you just want to make sure you get your voice heard, then be sure to make sure your membership status is up to date. In order to be a voting member or run for a board of directors position you need to have paid this years membership dues. If you are unsure of your membership status or if you have any questions about anything then feel free to contact any board of director. We always want to hear from you!

## Looking Back to Move Forward

### Pete Sterpe Jr.



The STGAA is like a lot of the things we've built together. Arcon, Humans vs. Zombies, and all of the STG's committees and groups started as great ideas. Like each of those ideas, they took a lot of work to get them where they are today. The same can be said about the STGAA. Some great alumni have worked really hard to get us to where we are today.

Now we are at the point where we have provided some scholarships and had some events. That's great, but it is the minimum of what our potential is as an organization. Let's do what we've done before with STG, build on what we've done to move forward.

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## My Biased Opinion — David Blair

I have been told by Pete Sterpe Jr. that this year's newsletter theme is "looking back to find lessons for moving forward."

Would it surprise you that I learned more from STG than from all of my SUNY Oswego classes combined? The Story Tellers' Guild was a brilliant melting pot of philosophies, ideas, and methodologies.

Members had different ways of approaching problems, describing concepts, and they came with unique perspectives and backgrounds. We were all socially united behind roleplaying games, but we came from every different department and facet with plenty of knowledge to provide one another.

From Drew Urbanek, I learned the phrase "Confrontation brings opportunity". From Bret Gillan, the design of "Less is more". The risks and rewards of

experimentation, the frustration and expertise of herding cats... I have learned many things from STG and it's membership. The key was listening to what others had to say.

Different games have different rules and instructions for achieving their end goal of telling a story, creating a fair and balanced environment, and giving everyone a chance to have fun. The Dungeon Masters, Game Masters, and Narrators of STG were all of this and more.

They came with a passion! They wanted you to love this game that they loved, and they wanted to immerse you so far into the story that you believed it could be real. They would tell you why they championed the system, what about it reached out to them, and what they would carry with them to the next game that came along.

These conversations were true nuggets of wisdom. If someone in STG was passionate about something I

wanted to know why. There was something worth keeping there. Was it a simpler way of resolving conflict? A preferred way to speed up a process? A fun method vs. a boring one? The best character creation process ever?

No one at my office gives a damn about Non-Deterministic Finite Automata, or the Evolution of Jazz & Rock, but they do praise me when I can skillfully craft a user-interface that not only looks good, but is easy to use. They love it when I take the time to listen to their ideas and concerns, and help them craft a solution.

And if you've ever succeeded in keeping a group of diverse players invested in a four hour game session, then you will have no problems in the real world when it comes to running a meeting. Know your audience, focus on their goals, and reward good players!

**Dicavi Fabula. Dices Fabula.**

*I have told my story.  
Now you shall tell yours.*

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Just like Arcon and everything else in the Story Tellers' Guild, the STGAA needs new people to come along and contribute to it for it to continue to be successful. Arcon has been passed from Archdeacon to Archdeacon, just as STG has had e-board after e-board. For the Alumni Association to continue what it does, and become a better organization, we need new blood.

Hopefully you are now asking yourself "How can I get involved?" There are many ways that you can become involved in running STGAA. We have Board of Directors positions that go up for vote every two years. We have three committees that need people to be involved in them to succeed.

In this newsletter I have included a guide to what our committees and positions are. I have also included information on how to get into one of these positions as well. We need your help to make this good idea become a thriving and useful part of the greater Story Tellers' Guild family. Let's build the STGAA into something amazing, just like we did with the STG.

## Ways to Get Involved

### Join the Board of Directors

Every two years we hold elections for our Board of Directors. We will be having another election this year! You can run for a position on our board as long as you have paid the minimum dues of \$10.

**President**—The leader of the organization. Set the direction of the STGAA. The current President is Aimee Blair.

**Vice-President**—Manages committees and backs up the President. The current VP is Pete Sterpe.

**Secretary**—Takes the minutes and manages the membership roster. The current Secretary is Lacey O'Connor.

**Treasurer**—Does all of the heavy lifting with the money. Maintains financial records and oversees fundraising. The current Treasurer is David Blair.

**Student Representative**—A member of the STG student organization in good standing who acts as our liaison. The current Student Rep is Kari Cramer.

If you'd like to run for a position on the Board of Directors in the election this year, please watch for our future e-mail detailing the nomination process! If you aren't sure if you are on our list be sure to register with us as a member. You can do this at ARCON every year, or by contacting a member of the Board of Directors.

### Join a Committee

We have three committees that further our goals as an organization. Talk to the Vice-President about joining committees! You can contact him by e-mail at psterpejr@gmail.com.

**Development**—The current committee head is Scott Charette. This committee runs and designs our programs and events. You should join this committee if you want to help us put together special events like Alumni Minicons, or mentorship programs, or any other ideas.

**Endowment**—The current committee head is Rob Kirker. This committee manages our scholarship program. You should join this committee if you want to help manage and improve how we help the current student members of the STG.

**Communication and Advancement**—The current committee head is Mike Virgo. This committee manages our online communications, our newsletter, and our other methods of communication. Join this committee if you'd like to help us get the word out about the STGAA.

Membership in a committee lets you get involved as little or as much as you'd like. We really need people who have new and exciting ideas to get involved with the committees so we can continue to develop and advance the STGAA.

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## Announcements

The STGAA is proud to welcome Mark Hawes as an honorary member. Mark has been involved in the Story Tellers' Guild for a several years and has contributed a great deal to the group's success. Honorary members are elected by the Board of Directors.

This year's scholarship winners were Douglas Johnson and Billy Ernest. They each received \$300 to help them with school expenses.

## Future Events

We would love to run another Alumni Minicon! If you have any ideas as to a location you'd like to see us put this together, please contact Scott Charette, who runs our events.

Another idea that has been floating around is for us to run a video game tournament. With the availability of online games, we could easily do something fun with Alumni and students both being able to get in on the action.

As noted before, elections will be happening this year.

We will be offering scholarships this coming year once again. If you'd like to give input on the process please get involved in our endowment committee. Contact Pete Sterpe to get involved in any committee.

If you have any other ideas for what STGAA can do, please get involved!

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## STGAA 2013 Expenses

2013 has been a chaotic year for finances. We had disputes with our bank about fees being processed against our account towards the end of summer, and again at the end of fall. After all of the bank fees and partial refunds, we were left with a deficit of 25.00 that the bank will not refund. We have decided to leave M&T Bank and find a new bank for the association.

Two 300.00 scholarships were awarded at the end of 2013 to William Earnest and Douglas Johnson. Arcon Booth Giveaways (flashlight keychains) were purchased which will cover giveaways for 2013 and 2014.

Due to the closing down of the PO Box, and not having a Fall event, we were able to save on some expenses.

<i>Category</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenses</i>	<i>Total</i>
2013 Membership Fees & Donations	\$780.75		
2013 Savings Account Interest	\$0.39		
2013 Operation Fees (Website, Bank, PO)		\$66.75	
2013 Arcon Booth & Giveaways		\$360.50	
2013 NYS Change of Address Fee		\$20.00	
2013 Summer Event Fees		\$48.48	
2013 Scholarship Grant		\$600.00	
2013 Disputed Bank Fees		\$25.00	
	<b>2013 Totals</b>	<b>\$781.14</b>	<b>\$1,120.73</b>
			<b>-\$339.59</b>
			<b>\$444.11</b>

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### STGAA Board of Directors:

Aimee Blair—President, Pete Sterpe—Vice President, Lacey O'Connor—Secretary, David Blair—Treasurer, Kari Cramer—Student Representative

### STGAA Committee Heads:

Development Committee—Scott Charette | Endowment Committee—Rob Kirker | Communication and Advancement Committee—Mike Virgo

This newsletter was produced and "edited" by Pete Sterpe, Jr. Any mistakes and typos are purely his fault and should be ignored.