



American Opal Society

ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO: P.O. Box 3895, Downey, California 90242

Monthly Newsletter

September 27, 1974

Meeting Dates:

October.....Thursday, October 3, 1974

November.....Thursday, November 14, 1974

Time: 7:30 P.M.

Place: Downey Moose Lodge 663

12741 S. Bellflower (Second Floor), Downey, California

September Meetings:

The September meeting was devoted almost entirely to appraisal of opal jewelry and stones which are to be sold out of the AOS sales booth. There is much work involved in the appraisals and those members having items to sell at the annual show owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Elmer Reed, John Hall, Don Hudson, and all the others who give so freely of their time, talent, and effort in this work.

These people continued this work after the monthly director's meeting held last night, in spite of the fact they had already participated in conducting the official business of the Society during the Director's meeting. I cannot express my appreciation deeply enough to these and other dedicated people who are performing their duties so diligently, yet so quietly.

On the other hand there are others who seem to be lagging in promised commitments to the Society. The following opinions are strictly my own, and do not have the endorsement of any other director of the Society. I regret that I must bring it up, but it has to be done in due fairness to all the other members of the Society who are carrying their share of the load.

During the August Director's meeting we had two representatives of the Redondo Beach Chapter present to protect the interests of that chapter in so far as the arrangements being made to allot a percentage of the proceeds of our annual show to the Redondo Beach Chapter. It has been the practice in the past to divert a certain percentage of our profits to that chapter in return for their ticket sales activities.

However, due to the new procedure this year of eliminating the advance ticket sales, the mechanics of apportioning a part of this revenue to the Redondo Chapter no longer exists and the two representatives were present to endeavor to obtain a share of the show revenue through other means.

After due debate, it was decided and voted upon to permit the Redondo Chapter to have a stipulated percentage of the show profits, predicated on the members of that chapter

offering their assistance as volunteers at the show. Further, due to the lack of representation of the Redondo Beach Chapter at the past Director's meetings, they agreed that (a) a member of the Redondo Beach Chapter who is a member of the Charter Chapter Board of Directors would attend the Director's meetings to assist in conducting Society business, and (b) if that person would be unable to attend, that person would appoint a delegate from that chapter to attend, and that delegate would have a proxy vote for the absent Director, and (c) the Redondo Beach Chapter would demonstrate their faith, as a starter, by providing the Directors and show committees with the name of a volunteer who would be in charge of accepting donations of jewelry and other articles which are to be used as prizes at the drawings.

Last night, at the Director's meeting, we had NO representation from the Redondo chapter, and no name has been forwarded as Donations Chairman.

Individually, as you all know, the members of the Redondo Beach chapter are fine people and we count them as tried and true friends, but collectively they seem to be letting the Charter Chapter assume a disproportionate share of the load in the affairs of the Society.

Bill Judd has very graciously consented to act as Donations Chairman, in spite of the fact that, as we all know, he and Della are already overwhelmed with other responsibilities in connection with the Society.

Accordingly, I strongly feel that the Redondo Beach members who attended the August Director's meeting abrogated their responsibilities in not upholding their verbal commitments and it is no longer incumbent upon the Charter Chapter to honor its obligation to divert any share of the show proceeds to the Redondo Chapter--unless those members present themselves at the October general meeting and offer their services as volunteers just as we of the Charter Chapter are offering ours.

My object apologies to those Charter Chapter, Redondo Beach Chapter, and Associate members who do lend their support, for being forced to read a bulletin beginning on such a discordant note.

In line with the need for support, we desperately need additional volunteers for ticket sales at the entrance on both Saturday and Sunday. The work is not hard and you meet the most interesting people. As you know, we have opal lovers coming from all over the world and I consider it both an honor and a privilege to serve them in any way I can to make their visit a memorable and a pleasant one. I have volunteered for this work on Saturday--won't you please join me? Please give your name to Ruth Wilson, who will deeply appreciate your help..as we all will.

We also need a few volunteers to assist at the dealers booths to replace these worthies when they give their presentations in the Seminar. Again, this work is enjoyable and your efforts would be an immense help.

Another area which screams for attention is the need for stalwart volunteers to set up and drape the 60 dealers tables beginning at 6 P.M. Friday. With enough volunteers the job can be completed in two hours. Those of you who volunteered last year know that it can be quite enjoyable.

We could continue ad infinitum, ad nauseum about the need for volunteers and services at the show. Suffice it for me to say **THIS IS YOUR SHOW!** Please help as best you can.

In Memorium:

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of one of our Charter members, Jim Bennett of Long Beach, who died Sunday, September 22nd. Burial was at Cypress Forest Lawn, on Thursday. Our sincere condolences are extended to Mrs. Bennett. Flowers were sent in behalf of the Society.

Item:

AOS President Ross Stambler read a letter from AOS Director Carole Gibson, in which she expressed, with deepest regret, her decision to resign her position as Director due to pressing personal reasons. She will stay on as a member, of course, but she felt obliged to make the decision because she was not able to attend the Director's meetings as often as she felt she should.

We all hate to see her leave. We may welcome her aboard again in the future when the pressures which forced her resignation have been alleviated.

There was already one vacancy existing and this created a second. President Ross Stambler recommended Clyde Doan, our Society Treasurer, to fill the vacancy left by Frank Cunningham, and that Leonard Bishop, our Program Chairman, be appointed to fill the vacancy created by Carole's resignation.

These recommendations received unanimous approval of the Board of Directors and these two gentlemen were welcomed to the Board.

Congratulations, Clyde and Leonard. You have both worked long and hard in behalf of the Society and you both deserve this recognition and honor.

Item:

The book "In Search of Opal" by Archie Kalokerinos is available to anybody who would like to read it. Please contact your friendly local librarian at the next general meeting, Thursday, October 3rd. I will have it with me.

Did you remember that our next general meeting will be advanced one week to October 3rd, so that it will not interfere with the arrangements for our show? Those members who find themselves sitting on the curb outside a vacant Moose Lodge the following Thursday will be those guilty of the cardinal sin of not religiously reading the monthly newsletter.

Item:

Bill Butcher, Associate Member of White Plains, New York, called one night last week to reserve a couple of seats to the seminar and to ask about the best bet for hotel or motel accommodations.

My apologies to our Associate Members for not publishing a few phone numbers of Charter Members who may be contacted for this or any other type of information. I don't know how Bill ever received my number, but I was glad to be of help.

For those of you coming from distant lands, planets, or what have you, the following people may be called for assistance before or after you arrive, if you need information about accommodations, transportation, restaurants, etc.

Ross Stambler, 213-0X3-6898 (Res.)
213-941-0224 (Bus.)

Bill Judd, 213-923-4643 (Res.)

Marv Wilson, 213-921-4898 (Res.)
213-864-1564 (Bus.)

Vick Mayo, 714-644-0788 (Res.)
714-979-0220 (Bus.)

We have people coming to the seminar from all over the country. We will have the opportunity to meet more of our Associate Members than we ever had before. We are all excited about it and are looking forward to meeting our fellow "opatholics".

It is said cosmetics were used extensively during the middle ages--and are still used extensively during the middle ages.

Vick Mayo, Editor.

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