

THINGS IN MOTION...

All things are in motion and nothing is at rest ... you cannot go into the same (river) twice. —Heraclitus (540?-480?) B.C.

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HAIL TO THE NEW

President Arie Koelewyn has announced that as tiny steps toward attracting new members, he will support efforts to allow web journals fully into the organization and laureate competitions, make the conventions less organizational and more fun—and anything else that will add interest and excitement. To our new President I say “Well done!”

With no disrespect to any prior President, I applaud Arie’s expressing his willingness to step up to the plate and begin exploring several ways to perhaps bring NAPA into the present. A new approach toward conventions does not necessarily mean a fruit-basket turnover in our traditional business activities, however we need activity in other areas also—in order to break up long periods of parliamentary procedures that hold little interest for members whose aims fall outside the political arena. There have been interesting tours and demonstrations in the conventions that I have attended; the key seems to be finding a way for necessary business to be conducted in less time or in a more interesting way. I am confident that those who have been active in NAPA business over the years can recommend changes in procedures that will give us painless improvements in the allocation of convention time. I urge those veterans of NAPA to share their ideas with Arie now, in time for next year’s convention

As for web journals (e-journals), my position is well known, as is the opposition of a number of senior members. I do not intend to re-state my case since my e-journals on the NAPA web site are there for the viewing, but I doubt very

much that the acceptance of e-journals will ever diminish the importance of either letterpress printing or the monthly bundle. Potential new members will most certainly expect to find web association with almost any hobby, including our own, and may well find it an easy way to become actively involved as members of NAPA. Isn’t that what we want?

Concerning laureate awards, there might be merit in establishing a publication specifically for laureate-winning entries in the various categories, with perhaps new categories being designated. Again, is it logical to assume that by adding other categories we deny value and recognition to our current laureate awards? Of course not; the aim is to widen the scope of our awards, not to change or diminish them.

There should be continuing discussions on the other matters covered by President McQueen’s report. By discussion I do not mean a knock-down, drag-out fight—I mean an on-going and civil exchange of ideas pertinent to such options as holding contiguous conventions with AAPA. In addition, is it wise to slam the door and refuse absolutely to allow any approach toward selecting a permanent convention site? If we cannot allow ourselves the right and the courtesy to explore and discover the benefits of whatever options are presented to us, then we do certainly deserve the reputation of being an ultra conservative and stodgy group!

We have the perfect platform for airing our views—our NAPA journals. What better way to present opinions and ideas, and at the same time make the monthly bundles vastly more interesting? Isn’t opinions expressed pro and con more interesting than old jokes? Here is a chance to practice *ajay* in the best way, so why don’t we do it?

In summation, President Koelewyn has taken a giant step forward and I congratulate him for his clarity of vision and perception of amateur journalism’s likely future direction. Rather than standing adamantly on tradition and shrinking steadily, NAPA should be leading the way by embracing new technology and finding ways to apply it for the benefit of the organization and the hobby. #

--Hugh Singleton