Chairman’s Column: Focus on Federations
by Tom Fortunato, Chairman

I probably don’t have to tell you that it’s a tough world out there when it comes to running a stamp club. So whenever you can get a helping hand I’m sure you take advantage of it.

This issue of the CAC Newsletter features articles from a number of federations across the United States. These organizations play an important role in many ways. Many organize stamp shows that simply couldn’t be run by an individual club. Our federation in New York publishes an outstanding bimonthly publication in full color, The Stamp Insider, which rivals Scott’s Stamp Monthly with its mix of postal history articles and pages devoted for each of the thirty clubs making up the group. Federations also allow talent and expertise to be shared — such as speakers, philatelic judges, etc.

Let me thank those federation presidents and officers who answered my call for articles explaining what these groups are all about. Perhaps it will encourage other clubs to collectively gather for helping keep our hobby healthy and strong.

October — National Stamp Collecting Month!

October was National Stamp Collecting Month in the United States and in several other countries around the world. We know several APS Chapters held special events to celebrate, and we want to know about them! Contact CAC Chairman Tom Fortunato with details about your event and/or pictures, and you may read about them in the next newsletter! You may mail him at stamptmf@frontiernet.net.

It’s Time To Pay Your Dues

More than ½ of all Chapters qualified for free dues in 2009 by meeting the eligibility requirements and filing their annual report by the July 31st deadline.

Renewal notices for all other chapters have recently been mailed. Chapter dues are the same as for an individual member with payment due by December

2009 APS Dues Rate:
U.S. Chapter $45
Canadian Chapter $48
Foreign Chapter $55

Don’t miss out on any of the Chapter benefits!
APS Chapter Activities Committee

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• Further Information — The CAC Newsletter is published three times a year and is part of the Chapter Activities Committee of the American Philatelic Society. Further information on the Chapter Activities Committee or on Chapter club membership in the APS is available from the Committee members listed on this page or from the APS, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823.

• Address Changes — Any address changes should be sent to APS Headquarters at the address above or phone 814-933-3803, or fax 814-933-6128. Please do not send address changes to committee members.

• Reprinting Policy — Individuals or Chapters are welcome to reprint material from the CAC Newsletter, with proper credit given to the source.

• Subscribe to the CACN — The CACN is now a digital publication. It will be posted on the CAC website at www.stamps.org/cac and anyone in your club with an e-mail address can sign up to receive the “CACN-eblast” that will be sent out as soon as the updated CACN is posted. Encourage fellow club members to sign up today so that your club can keep up on current news, offers, ideas and more. To subscribe simply send an e-mail to: cacnews@stamps.org requesting to be added to the CACN e-blast list.
Nominations of candidates for election to the board of directors of the American Philatelic Society for the 2009-2011 term can be submitted beginning December 1. Nominations close March 31, 2009.

Elective officers of the Society include the president, three vice presidents, a secretary, a treasurer, and four directors-at-large. APS members also elect one member for the Library’s Board of Trustees.

Any APS member in good standing, age 18 or older is eligible to be a candidate for any office except that of president.

A candidate for the presidency must have served previously on the board of directors of the Society to have gained some knowledge of the Society’s operations.

Candidates for vice president are nominated and voted for as a unit. Because the board of vice presidents is charged with review of applicants for membership in the APS and is the disciplinary body of the Society, it generally must meet on a monthly basis. Thus, vice presidents are required to live within 200 miles of each other or must agree to meet at least once every 60 days at their own expense.

Nominations may be made in two ways: by APS chapters, signed by both the chapter’s president and secretary, and by petition, signed by at least ten APS members.

Nominations must be seconded by ten or more chapters, by ten or more seconding endorsements each signed by ten or more members who are not members of a nominating or seconding chapter, or by a combination of ten chapters and such seconding endorsements.

All nominations and seconding endorsements must be sent directly to the APS Headquarters, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823, to be received by March 31.


**Women Exhibitors Festival for Philatelic Women**

The new APS Affiliate, Women Exhibitors (WE), will be hosting a Festival for Philatelic Women at the American Philatelic Center, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania from May 28–31, 2009.

This event will offer seminars, workshops, and demonstrations to help women, from beginner to advanced, to learn more about collecting and exhibiting. WE is currently soliciting ideas from possible attendees as to what sort of subjects will be of interest. It is anticipated that there will be programs that will appeal to every level of collector and exhibitor, as well as wonderful fellowship opportunities.

There will be time built into the schedule to learn how to research at the American Philatelic Research Library, and to check out the sales books.

Exhibit frames will be set up so anyone working on a new exhibit, or wanting help with a current one, can get feedback. Many of the planning committee members are experienced judges and top level exhibitors, so there will be plenty of high quality advice available.

The cost to attend the Festival will be $85. This includes all activities, as well as lunch and dinner for each day. Travel and Hotel expenses are not included.

WE would like to thank our sponsors from the dealer community, who have been so generous with their support — Charles Deaton, Elwyn and Ann Doubleday, James Lee, Lincolnway Stamps, Beijco of Florida, Greg Sutherland. And, John Wright, Michael Mead, The Cover Connection, Triple S, Crown & Eagle Stamps and Coins, Robert Sazama, Doug Weiss, and William Hatton.

For a brochure or more information contact: Women Exhibitors, 7277 Sparta Road, Sebring, FL 33875. E-mail: WEfestival@comcast.net.

**WE (Women Exhibitors) is open to all, but philately is explored from a woman’s point of view.**

**Hotchner Stamp Club Idea CD Available**

John Hotchner, a well-known and long-time writer, sent the CAC a few hundred of his “Stamp Club Idea Trading Post” columns that were published between 1977–1995 in Stamp Collector. There are 400 articles subdivided into twenty-two categories covering subjects from attendance to youth.

The articles may be used for ideas and information to enhance membership drives, and to find innovative activities for meeting programs. They may be viewed on CD by individual collectors or reproduced in chapter newsletters with proper credit given. All files are HTML documents or GIFs, so they are compatible on any computer system.

You may order the CD by sending your request with $3 postpaid to United States addresses or $4 foreign to Hotchner CD, 28 Amberwood Place, Rochester, NY14262-4166. Make checks or money orders payable to Tom Fortunato, and allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.
Belonging to a federation of stamp clubs has always been advantageous. As an APS Chapter, your club receives many benefits... not the least of which is this newsletter. Chapters also get a listing on the APS website that alerts collectors to clubs near them. I know our club has gotten several new members as a result of this listing.

Many federations have newsletters and websites that provide member clubs with extra exposure and additional information about what their and other nearby clubs and societies are doing. Some federations sponsor stamp exhibits, dealer bourses, banquets, and other philatelic events throughout the year. Often they recognize deserving collectors with awards and certificates.

The now defunct National Federation of Stamp Clubs, Inc., provided its members with a series of informational handbooks that provided clubs and club members useful information. In 1936 they published a handbook on Suggestions for Local Clubs, Regional Meetings and National Activities. Written and published by H.L. Lindquist, a 1979 APS Hall of Fame inductee, the 32-page booklet provides guidance and suggests activities that could be used at the local, regional and national levels.

Some of the suggestions to make local club meetings more interesting include:

**The Question Box** — Club members write their questions on an index card and place them in a box. At the club meeting, questions are pulled and answered by club members or are forwarded to someone outside the club who can answer it.

I would think this would be a great opportunity for the advanced collectors to mentor less knowledgeable members. These questions and answers also could be published in the club newsletter for all to see.

**The Grab Bag** — Members bring in their duplicates and they are placed in a bag or a box. Then each member pulls out the same number of stamps they had originally put in. Items can then be kept or traded. Stamps could be either on or off paper.

A packet of stamps with some duplication could be provided to members and others to get them started. These could be given away at stamp shows, swap meets, and other places. Inside each packet put an invitation to come trade the duplicates, along with when and where the club meets.

Of course, all of these activities should be brought to the attention of potential members and local media. The APS provides chapters with a list of APS members who live in your area. The names are on mailing labels so that a flyer can be sent to them inviting them to attend. You might also want to include a membership application so they can join your club. If you would like to have a list of your local print and broadcast media let me know. E-mail me at donschilling@att.net.

---

**Promoting Your Stamp Club: Federations Offer Clubs Additional Exposure**

by Don Schilling, Vice Chairman

Mark your calendar now for ....

**AMERISTAMP EXPO/TEXPEX 2009**

February 20–22 • Arlington, Texas

- Dealers
- Exhibits
- Societies
- Seminars
- Society Meetings
- Youth Activities
- and much more

For more information contact:
American Philatelic Society
100 Match Factory Place
Bellefonte, PA 16823
Phone: 814-933-3803 ext. 207 or 217
E-mail: stampshow@stamps.org
Website: www.stamps.org/ameristamp
The Federation of New York Philatelic Societies was founded March 17, 1940, as the Federation of Central New York Philatelic Societies. It originally consisted of various stamp clubs in the central part of New York State. As clubs from other parts of the state joined the federation and the former Niagara Frontier Federation of Stamp Clubs was absorbed five years ago, it has become a statewide organization. Expansion has crossed state boundaries with the recent inclusion of the Connecticut Cover Club.

With approximately 900 members belonging to one or more of twenty-eight separate organizations, the federation has clubs in various states of strength. While some are thriving with numerous members participating in frequent and active meetings, others seem to be in an ongoing struggle just to continue to stay in existence. The Steuben Stamp Club of Canisteo disbanded in December 2007.

Through its attractive and informative 76-page bimonthly journal, the full-color Stamp Insider, the federation provides members of the various clubs with insights of the activities of other clubs as well as stories that can be of interest to both new and longtime collectors. The press run of approximately 1,900 copies per issue allows for distribution at stamp shows. Sample copies are available from the Federation of New York Philatelic Societies, 1105 Union Street, Schenectady, NY 12308-2805. Subscriptions for non-federation members are $7.50 per year, while federation clubs provide the publication to their members free of charge.

Communications are also maintained through the federation’s website, www.nystampclubs.org. All member clubs have their own Internet presence through a gateway at www.nystampclubs.org/club_pages/club_page.html. Four organizations also maintain separate sites: Empire State Postal History Society (www.esphs.org), Rochester Philatelic Association (www.rpastamps.org), Syracuse Stamp Club (www.syracusestampclub.org), and Western Monroe Philatelic Society (http://members.aol.com/gtmuz/wmps.html).

The federation runs a Speakers Bureau for clubs interested in live presentations. The ten members of the Speakers Bureau are experienced collectors who are all volunteers. A representative of a member club may contact any speaker directly to determine availability for presenting a program for that club.

The federation also accredits judges for member shows. Maris Tirums of Albany coordinates this program.

Various federation member clubs sponsor philatelic shows. These include GlenPex and ClifPex by the Adirondack Stamp; Post Card & Ephemera Club of Glens Falls; Buffalo and a fall bourse sponsored by Buffalo Stamp Club; Stepex sponsored by Elmira Stamp Club; Olepex by the Olean Area Stamp Club (which was recently cancelled); Ropex by Rochester Philatelic Association; the biennial SyrapeX by Syracuse Stamp Club; and ValLeyPex by Valley of Buffalo Family Life Stamp Club.

Next year, the Federation is sponsoring StampExpo 400 at the Empire State Plaza in commemoration of the Hudson–Fulton–Champlain Quadricentennial (www.stampexpo400.org).

Other member clubs are:
- American Topical Association New York Chapter No. 3
- Chenango Valley Stamp Club of Hamilton
- Dutchess Philatelic Society of Poughkeepsie
- Finger Lakes Stamp Club of Geneva
- Fort Orange Stamp Club of Albany
- Fort Stanwix Stamp Club of Rome
- Fulton Stamp Club
- Ithaca Philatelic Society
- Leatherstocking Stamp Club of Cooperstown
- North Country Stamp Club of Plattsburgh
- Oswego Stamp Club
- Putnam Philatelic Society of Carmel
- St. Lawrence International Stamp Club of Massena, NY
- Cornwall, Ontario
- Schenectady Stamp Club
- Staten Island Philatelic Society
- Tri-County Stamp Club of Sidney
- Uncle Sam Stamp Club of Troy
- Greater Utica Stamp Club.

Federation of New York Philatelic Societies
by Ronald K. Ratchford, Federation Secretary
The Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs (WFSC) is the nation’s oldest successful regional confederation for the philatelic hobby. It dates to 1932, when nine clubs of stamp collectors formed a federation for mutual aid and cooperation.

Today the WFSC consists of twenty-nine clubs from all over Wisconsin and into Illinois and Michigan and a total of 830 collectors, including nineteen at-large members. The number represents an increase of seventeen collectors over 2007.

The objectives of the federation today are essentially the same as when the organization was founded: foster and help organize stamp clubs in and near the state of Wisconsin; cultivate a feeling of mutual friendship and fraternity among philatelists; acquire and disseminate a knowledge of philately; encourage individuals and organizations to locate and preserve postal records and materials for future reference and research; promote and encourage the study of history, geography, and human cultures through philatelic knowledge and research; encourage, sponsor, and introduce the educational aspects of philately among young people; and assist the members of the WFSC in acquiring and disposing of stamps by gift, purchase, or in any other legitimate way.

The objectives are achieved by the sharing of ideas, pooling of talent and equipment, doing things that individual clubs alone cannot do, providing centralized services and speaking in a unified voice on behalf of an identifiable constituency.

This “Wisconsin Idea” in philately — a spirit of fraternalism and cooperation and officers who serve as guides in an all-absorbing and all-embracing hobby — has proved to be long-lasting. The WFSC has found its principles emulated in other states, and the Wisconsin federation remains one of the largest and most active in the hobby.

The challenges today are to maintain and increase membership in stamp clubs, generate enthusiasm for the interesting variety within the hobby, and foster a spirit of volunteerism so that collectors will share their talents and experiences with others.

Among the services offered by the WFSC are the following:

• Across the Fence Post, the bulletin of the federation, published ten times a year, that includes a calendar of club shows and offers a sharing of ideas for programs and club activities through a regular column.

• An internet website, www.WFSC-stamps.org, that provides electronic links to federation officers, member clubs, and the newsletter, along with a variety of archived material.

• The annual WiscoPex stamp show, held at a different site each year, at which delegates from member clubs convene and collectors have a chance to exhibit their collections in an awards competition.

• Blue Book guide to staging a stamp show.

• Wisconsin Philatelic Hall of Fame, which honors a maximum of three individuals per year for special achievement in philately. Honored members are invited to a reunion approximately every five years.

• Dealer Recognition Award annually.

• Speakers Bureau of experienced collectors ready to share their hobby.

• Vice presidents dedicated to youth and clubs in seven geographic regions.

• Publicity and promotion of member clubs and the stamp-collecting hobby at a national level, including the suggestion of Wisconsin subjects for consideration in the program of the United States Postal Service.

State and federal recognition of the federation as a non-profit, educational entity has paid off in several ways. For
Southwest Philatelic Foundation
by Tom Koch, TEXPEX Chairman

The Southwest Philatelic Foundation (SWPF) was founded in Dallas, Texas, in the early 1990s to operate the annual World Series of Philately show (WSP) known as TEXPEX. Previously, different clubs at different locations around Texas had presented TEXPEX, signifying the annual state meeting of the Texas Philatelic Association (TPA).

The SWPF consists of a core of members from the Collectors Club of Dallas (15 members) who serve as the administrative, organizing and funding unit of the show. The Mid-Cities Stamp Club (120 members) contributes volunteer workers and a few committee members as does the American First Day Cover Society Sawyer Chapter No. 56.

The committee coordinates the show’s youth area with the Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society (63 members). It works with the TPA (500 members) in scheduling its general meeting and its foundation meeting. SWPF works with the American Philatelic Society, the WSP sanctioning entity.

The TPA is a financial sponsor of the show and provides the exhibition medals along with special annual awards. In addition to the Mid-Cities Club and the TPA, the American First Day Cover Society Sawyer Chapter No. 56 (25 members), shares its mailing list each year for direct mail promotions. The AFDCS, TPA, Collectors Club and Texas Postal History Society organize seminars at the show.

The SWPF has worked with the national American Topical Association office in Arlington, Texas, by providing exhibit frames for several national shows. Its members often make special presentations about stamp collecting and postal history on visits to other north Texas stamp clubs.

The foundation does not produce combined publications other than the TEXPEX Magazine that serves as the show program.

Problems of late have been a lack of interest by national dealers to travel to mid-level but high-budget World Series shows, whether it is because of the onerous restrictions of air travel after September 11, 2001, the proliferation of the eBay online market, or the current gasoline prices. Fresh dealer stock also seems to be a problem.

While several stamp clubs are involved, many have aging memberships and manpower is often considerably short of the volunteer workforce that is needed to operate smoothly. Interest in stamp show volunteer work does not seem to be increasing among able-bodied middle-aged collectors.

The SWPF is contracted at its current hotel through 2010 with the TPA and national societies booked through 2013. The TEXPEX website is http://www.texasphilatelic.org/texpex.html

Wisconsin Federation continued from page 6
example, officers are allowed certain tax advantages for their expenses in pursuit of federation business, and a lottery license allows the federation to conduct auctions and raffles that create interest at stamp shows and add money to federation coffers.

Over the years, Wisconsin has produced a number of collectors who have become prominent in national philately. Additionally, the WFSC has offered some interesting projects and activities for their membership: a philatelic trivia contest that served as a program for club meetings; a national cover exchange program to facilitate trading of duplicate first day and commemorative covers; “summer happenings” that promoted the hobby with exhibits, covers, and cancels to tie in with a community event; the publishing of a Wisconsin on Stamps book, a year-long 75th anniversary celebration conducted at three different state stamp shows; and, most recently, a bus “field trip” to Bellefonte to visit the APC and attend the dedication of the Mary Ann Owens Thematic Reference Collection.

The Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs has a long, successful history, and its tenets remain in place to assure more years of service to philately.

Chapter Input
All APS chapters are invited to send your thoughts, ideas, and articles for inclusion in the CAC Newsletter. These may go directly to Jane Fohn, 10325 Little Sugar Creek, Converse, TX 78109-2409; or e-mail janekfohn@sbcglobal.net.

Looking For News Items
The CAC is featured three times a year in a special column in The American Philatelist. This is a chance for your chapter to spotlight people and events for an international readership.

Send your information to Tom Fortunato, CAC Chairman, 28 Amberwood Place, Rochester, NY 14626-4166; or e-mail: stamptmf@frontiernet.net.
My Role as VP Youth Division
by MaryAnn Bowman, Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs

I have been the Vice-President of the Youth Division for the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs for many years. I see my role as twofold. I act as a resource person and I serve by example.

A resource person can wear many hats. In addition to offering support and encouragement to adults hoping to guide children to the enjoyment of our hobby, it is important to be able to offer these leaders the tools they need to be successful. That might mean providing stamps and other philatelic material. I accept donations of material and act as a clearing-house dispensing materials as needed and if available.

Offering advice such as how to start a youth club or suggesting lessons are a part of the role of a resource person. Thinking of interesting hands-on activities and projects to accompany a lesson will not only enrich the participants but also make the leader look good in the eyes of the young collector.

Moderating panels and group discussions related to solving problems and concerns of adult leaders as well as sharing activities that worked well can be another way to support the local clubs and their out reach programs to youth.

It means keeping abreast of the other groups and societies that offer youth materials and sharing that information — whether it is the availability of grant money, the publication of new literature, or whatever else might come your way. It also means staying current with educational trends and philatelic news. Interesting challenges include thinking of ways to integrate the stamp hobby with school units, community celebrations, and new issues.

A role model for other leaders serves by example. That would include such things as implementing youth tables and youth areas at local, regional, and state shows. It could include attending community events aimed at children and setting up a table to introduce the hobby. You may be surprised to find parents’ interests rekindled, which in turn could open the door for them to share the hobby with their own children. And if you have volunteer and financial support, consider sponsoring a stamp show just for kids.

Demonstrating and/or presenting lessons to groups are another way to help other leaders. Writing a column in newsletters, club bulletins, and society journals reaches others who may not yet be a youth club advisor but may have aspirations of becoming one. And still to be explored is how we can use a computer and the Internet to engage youth in stamp collecting.

Mentoring youth and encouraging their participation in exhibiting at stamps shows is just one more way that we can make a difference in the hobby. You don’t have to be an exhibitor yourself to help a new exhibitor. Providing perspective, helping them find material to exhibit, and “holding their hand” as they work through the exhibiting process will reap rewards not only for the child but also for the leader who has advised and supported the young collector through the procedure.

Do I do all of these things every year? No, my role changes and evolves to meet the ever-changing collector population. My role is to be a “cheerleader” for the hobby — to support, encourage, and motivate.

Give me an “S”! Give me a “T”! Give me an “A”! Give me an “M”! Give me a “P”! Give me an “S”! What does it spell? STAMPS!!

APS & APRL Holiday Schedule

The holiday season is rapidly approaching. When you are planning your travels please note that the American Philatelic Center will be closed:
- Thursday, November 27, and Friday, November 28, 2008
- Thursday, December 25, and Friday, December 26, 2008
- Thursday, January 1, 2009

The American Philatelic Society and American Philatelic Research Library will maintain their usual hours — 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. EST — on the remaining days of those weeks.

The American Philatelic Center staff wishes all APS members and their families the happiest of holiday seasons.
Newsletter Competition Update

by Jane King Fohn, Manager, Newsletter Competition

A giant Texas “Great work!” to all the editors who entered their publications in the 2007 APS CAC Newsletter Competition. The APS chapter newsletter editors have received their APS award certificates, judges’ critiques, and “General Remarks on Newsletters.” The purpose of this Competition is to acknowledge editors’ hard work, to publicize it within the philatelic community, and to assist the editor in improving the product.

2007 Awards. Please refer to Fred Baumann’s article with the newsletter competition award levels starting on this page. If your chapter or federation has never taken advantage of this competition, I encourage your editor to do so.

2007 Judges Provide Feedback. Three APS-accredited judges judged the 2007 publications. They were Charles Peterson, John Hotchner, and Patricia Walker — all three are APS-accredited literature judges. Not only did they carefully critique each newsletter, but they also wrote the “General Remarks on Newsletters” with comments that apply to multiple entries. These remarks appear on pages 11–12 of this CAC.

2007 Entries Available for Viewing. The publications in this year’s Competition are available for your chapter’s examination. You may request the CAC Newsletter Competition Circuit. It includes single-page and multi-page publications from clubs both large and small. Contact Jane Fohn, 10325 Little Sugar Creek, Converse, TX 78109-2409; e-mail janekfohn@sbcglobal.net. Your chapter’s only expense is the priority mail flat-rate box to return the circuit to me.

2008 Newsletter Competition Jury Selected. A jury has been selected for the 2008 CAC Newsletter Competition. Serving are Timothy Bartshe (Golden, CO), Douglas Kelsey (Tucson, AZ), and Stephen Schumann (Hayward, CA). All three are well-known APS-accredited literature judges. Their biographies will appear in the next CAC.

2008 Prospectus/Entry Forms Available. The 2008 prospectus/entry form appears on page 13 and is available on CAC website. The newsletter entry form has been revised. Therefore I suggest that you ensure that you are using the latest one. We are requiring that Three (3) copies of the last three (3) issues of 2008 must accompany each entry form. The last issues of the year will give the 2008 jury the opportunity to see suggestions implemented after the 2007 publications were critiqued. Deadline for entries is January 15, 2009.

You are welcome to contact me with questions or for further information about the Newsletter Mail Circuit or the 2008 Newsletter Competition.

~ 2007 Newsletter Competition Awards ~

by Fred Baumann, APS Public Relations Manager

The American Philatelic Society’s Chapter Activities Committee (CAC) has announced the awards in its 2007 Newsletter Competition. The 26 newsletters submitted by APS chapters in the competition were on display at StampShow 2008 August 14-17 at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, Connecticut.

The purpose of the annual CAC competition is to spotlight stamp club and federation newsletter editors, acknowledge their hard work on behalf of philately, and publicize it within the philatelic community. In addition to the awards themselves, each submission receives a judges’ critique on newsletter content and format, with suggestions for possible improvements.

The 2007 newsletters were judged by a panel of three APS-accredited literature judges who are experienced editors and writers: John Hotchner, Patricia Stillwell Walker, and Charles Peterson.

In Class I for Single-Page publications, a Vermeil award went to the Long Beach Stamp Club for Driftwood, edited by Lloyd Baumann of Huntington Beach, California. A Silver-Bronze award was received by the Thames Stamp Club for its Thames Stamp Club Newsletter, edited by Tony Bruno of East Lyme, Connecticut.

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In Class II for Multi-Page publications, ten different club journals garnered Gold awards in the competition.


Recognized with Class II Silver awards were: the Calgary Philatelic Society’s Calgary Philatelist, edited by Dale Speirs of Calgary, Alberta, Canada; the Chattanooga Stamp Club for The Chattanooga Stamp Chronicle, edited by Willis Monk of Old Fort, Tennessee; the Huntsville Philatelic Club’s Huntsville Philatelic Club Newsletter, edited by Arthur J. Cole of Huntsville, Alabama; and the South Miami Stamp Club’s South Miami Stamp Club Newsletter, edited by Enrique Setaro of Miami, Florida.

The following are comments that the CAC Newsletter Competition jury found applied to multiple entries. Not all entries have the problems noted, but we felt that all newsletter editors might benefit from the thoughts expressed. The comments are not presented in any special order.

— Charles Peterson, Patricia Stilwell Walker, John Hotchner; June 2008

**Black borders.** Neatly and consistently cut thin-margin black backing is useful behind stamps to show off the perforations, but it makes covers look like mourning covers. Avoid it.

**Print.** Small, dense, print is unfriendly to older collectors. Since a high percentage of stamp club members are usually older rather than younger, at least 12-point print is desirable; along with short paragraphs, decent margins, and double columns. All of this will make your features more inviting.

**Headers/footers.** These should be the same on each page, and should include at least the name of the journal, the month and year of issue, and page number. It is not desirable to include volume and issue number as they do not tell a reader, or someone tearing out and storing an article, what the date was.

**Contact points.** Most clubs do a good job of listing officers, but many list only a club post office box as a contact point. If you are using your journal (and you should) as a hook at nearby stamp shows, craft fairs, as a give-away at local stamp stores, etc., it is essential that there be a phone number or e-mail address for at least one officer who can answer questions about meeting times, dates, places, etc.

**How To Join.** How to join information is essential for the same reasons. Every issue should have a box saying that visitors are welcome, we hope you will join, and that annual dues are $X, which can be paid at a meeting, or sent in to (name and address).

**Recognition.** Worker and Member recognition are essential elements in encouraging members to be active in club activities, to volunteer for leadership positions, and even to keep membership renewals up. Member articles about their own collections, want ads, and new finds and philatelic experiences should be encouraged. Features or interviews about officers and activity chairs, senior members, mentors, etc., are also welcome. Avoid thanking “All who assisted” — mention the names, and bold the names to make them stand out.

**Archival records.** Remember that club newsletters are archival records of the club and its people. People will look at these issues twenty years from now to get a sense of what was going on and who was who. For this reason, be sure to identify people in photographs.

**Editor’s burden.** The job of the editor is to edit, not to do all the writing. General appeals or articles and photos are not usually very successful. The secret is to find out the collecting interest(s) of individual members, then personally ask for a short contribution on that interest. Subjects might include: how the collector got interested in that area; a favorite cover; what the key items of a strong collection should be; different approaches to collecting that country/topic; new finds; national societies they belong to; a favorite new issue; a story behind the stamp, who nurtured their interest; who helped them along the way, etc. “No” is not an acceptable answer. The editor’s goal is to get a commitment, and the next question should be “When?”

**Boxes.** Everything does not need to be boxed. Use boxes sparingly and, when used, allow the contents to breathe. Don’t jam the text and avoid thick lines.

**Personal messages.** A brief message from the president and/or the editor is desirable in each issue, to make recipients think that their own input is seriously wanted.

**Photographs.** With the easy availability of digital cameras, recruiting two or three members to be official club photographers can result in at least one photo of club members — at regular meetings as well as special events — in each issue.

**Table of Contents.** Clubs with newsletters of four or more pages benefit from having a simple table of contents so that members can get to what most interests them rapidly.

**Fonts.** Serifed fonts are easier to read. Please do not use a different font for every article and headline. This looks unprofessional and even sloppy.

**Meeting Reports.** Long meeting reports are not a good use of space. The shorter the newsletter, the less space should be devoted to prior meetings. Space is better used to encourage involvement on current and projected activities, to encourage through praise and recognition, to educate about stamps/philately, and to present resources to help members enjoy their hobby.

**Responsibility.** Articles/features should be signed by the author.

**Meeting notices.** Meeting notices too often say just that a meeting will take place on such-and-such a date. Including the title of a presentation, an expected activity, etc.,
Observations continued from page 11 might encourage people to attend. And be sure to include the location of the meeting, and starting time.

Masthead. The masthead should contain a mention that the club is an APS Chapter Member.

Nearby Philatelic Events. A calendar of scheduled philatelic events within a reasonable drive is a desirable service to members.

Use of space. Resist the temptation to fill every corner of every page, unless it can be done with something attractive and meaningful. White space is not always bad; it can highlight especially important content.

Local content. Resist the temptation to put information in your newsletter that is easily available from the philatelic press, e.g., new issues lists, USPS press releases, etc. Members’ articles about their own collections is much preferable. Think through the purpose of a club newsletter — encouragement to participate in local events and activities, and encouragement to get deeper into the hobby, and to try new collecting areas.

What To Do with Exhibit Frames?

The San Antonio Philatelic Association has ceased holding stamp shows. This is because the membership is aging and not able — time-wise or physically able — to handle the heavy displays involved.

Now the question is, what does SAPA do with the exhibit frames? We have advertised them in the CACN, but no takers. They are 15-page frames that have received excellent care and upkeep. Other than being 15-pagers, they were used joined together with one leg between two frames — there are not enough legs to sell them separately. With the frame leg shortage, donating them to libraries, schools, day cares, churches, craft groups, or the like does not seem to be an option.

SAPA has investigated recycling the aluminum. One place will accept the aluminum for sixty cents per pound if everything is taken off that is not aluminum. Another says they will accept the frames that are not stripped down for twenty cents per pound. Neither addresses what to do with the Plexiglas fronts or storage cartons. The waste company will pick them up for a price. My city will pick them up free on bulk-trash day.

There are probably other clubs storing unused frames, while other clubs have managed to find homes for theirs. What are your suggestions as to what to do with half of a garage full of exhibit frames? Send suggestions to Jane Fohn, SAPA President, 10325 Little Sugar Creek, Converse, TX 78109-2409; or email janekfohn@sbcglobal.net.

Happy Anniversary!

Several stamp clubs are celebrating noteworthy anniversaries in 2008 as APS Chapters:

100 Years
Detroit Philatelic Society, Detroit, MI

50 Years
Lake County Philatelic Society, Grayslake, IL
Finger Lakes Stamp Club, Clyde, NY
Nashville Philatelic Society, Nashville, TN
Greater Eugene Stamp Society, Eugene, OR

25 Years
Kalamazoo Stamp Club, Kalamazoo, MI
Southwestern Michigan Stamp Club, St. Joseph, MI
German Philatelic Society, Carolinas Chapter 37, Alamance, NC
Germany Philatelic Society, Chap. 18, Menomonee Falls, WI
Northwoods Stamp & Coin Club, Rhinelander, WI

Tidewater Intl. Topics Society, Portsmouth, VA
MIPS/ATA, Saint Paul, MN
Whidbey Island Stamp Club, Oak Harbor, WA
Glacier Stamp Club, Kalispell, MT
Norman Stamp Club, Norman, OK

10 Years
Outer Banks Stamp Club, Kitty Hawk, NC
North Kingstown Senior Stamp Club, Narragansett, RI
Philatelic Club of Will County, Joliet, IL
Pioneer Valley Stamp Club, Springfield, MA
Boca Raton Stamp & Coin Club, Boca Raton, FL
Kentucky Stamp Club, Frankfort, KY
Paris Stamp Club, Paris, TX
British Virgin Islands Philatelic Society, St. Thomas, VI
2008 APS CAC NEWSLETTER COMPETITION

1. Deadline for receipt of all entries is January 15, 2009.

2. Entries must be sent to: APS Chapter Newsletter Competition
   Jane King Fohn, Manager
   10325 Little Sugar Creek
   Converse, TX 78109-2409

3. Entries must be submitted by the editor or an officer of the APS Chapter.

4. Submit the publication in the format that is distributed to the membership. If distributed in black and white copies, enter black and white: if distributed in color copies, send color.

5. Only newsletters published during 2008 are eligible for this Competition. Submit the three (3) most recent issues. Three (3) copies of each issue must accompany each entry form.

6. All entries will become the property of APS and will be donated to the APS for the American Philatelic Research Library and the CAC Newsletter Exchange.

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER CLASSES

CLASS I: Publications that are single-page (single- or double-sided).
CLASS II: Publications that have multiple pages.
CLASS III: Multiple-page publications from federations.

ENTRY FORM

2008 APS CHAPTER NEWSLETTER COMPETITION
TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY

APS Chapter Name: __________________________________________________ Chapter # __________________

Newsletter Title: _________________________________________________________________________________

Newsletter Class (check one): Single-Page (one or two sides) ☐ Multi-Page ☐ Federation ☐

Purpose (20-25 words describe the membership and how the publication is trying to serve the club):
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________

Editor’s Name: __________________________________________________________________________________

Address: _______________________________________________________________________________________

City: _____________________________ State: ____________ ZIP+4: __________________________

Telephone: __________________________ Email: ____________________________________________

Deadline for entries is January 15, 2009.
Three (3) copies of the last three (3) issues published must accompany each entry form.
Philatelic Gifts for the Holidays

Is there a stamp collector on your shopping list?
Or, would you like to find some philatelic treasures inside wrapping and bows!
Visit the APS Marketplace for some great gift ideas.

APS Stamp Ties
$14 to members
November/December only

Brass Letter Opener
with 3x Magnifier
$19.50

APS Sport Shirts
Navy and Tan now available
sizes $–2XL
$25

Featured Books

Fundamentals of Philately
$60 (APS $48)

The Liberty Series — $60 (APS $48)

Encyclopedia of United States and Stamp Collecting — $40 (APS $32)

Guide to Stamp Collecting — $19.95
100 Greatest Stamps — $29.95

Beginner Youth Kit
Collecting Stamps
$19.95

Shop Online! at www.stamps.org

Visit the APS website for a full list of available Specialty items and Publications.
Or call and we will send you the information.
American Philatelic Society • 814-933-3803 ext, 202