

## HOTEL SCAM ADVISORY: APS Stamp Show Guests

February 9, 2017

### PLEASE BE ADVISED:

The American Philatelic Society (APS) has received several complaints from members regarding calls or emails received from a third party, indicating that the APS Stamp Show hotel block is full and soliciting a room reservation through the caller's travel agency. When asked, the caller cannot typically identify the show hotel, and has no knowledge of our event.

This third party is **NOT** authorized by the APS to solicit room reservations on behalf of the APS. This is a form of "Housing Pirating". These 'housing pirates' or 'bandits' are companies that phone, email, or fax convention attendees, claiming to offer room reservation services for hotels near a convention. They may falsely claim to be affiliated with the APS.

Do not respond to any unsolicited calls or emails from a third party offering hotel reservations. Unless you have initiated the communication, please do not provide anyone with your personal information, especially your credit card number. If you provide your credit card information to one of these companies, your card may be charged and there is no guarantee you will have a room upon your arrival in Richmond.

### APS AUTHORIZED LODGING

At this time, the only authorized block of rooms is being held at the **Marriott Richmond** at 500 East Broad Street. Reservations may be placed by calling (800) 228-9290, or by clicking this direct link to [Book a Room](#). Overflow hotels may be booked at a later date. If you are seeking alternate hotels, please contact the **Richmond Region Tourism** office at (804) 783-7450, or visit their website at [www.VisitRichmondVa.com](http://www.VisitRichmondVa.com).

### REPORTING FRAUD

If contacted by someone asking if you need a room at a Stamp Show, or misrepresenting themselves as a representative of the APS, please share details with the APS to help us make a case against the inquiring organization.

- Get as much information as you can, such as the:
  - Name of the company
  - Name of the person calling
  - Company address
  - Email address
  - Telephone number
  - Hotel availability / Rates they propose
- Request information in writing

The American Philatelic Society is **NOT** affiliated with the following company, whom we believe is responsible for the complaints to date:

**National Travel Associates**  
**1 (877) 595-ROOM (7666)**  
**[www.nationaltravelassociates.com](http://www.nationaltravelassociates.com)**  
**Business License: NV20111324251**  
**Entity Number: E0274712011-2**

This company, based in Nevada, may appear legitimate – having both a website and social media pages online, but it is **not** authorized to make room reservations for any APS Stamp Show. Several complaints are on file about this firm with the Better Business Bureau.