



Volunteers Key to the Society

As President Saadi wrote last month, the American Philatelic Society has not escaped the effects of the economy. A year ago we had forty-two employees. Today we have only thirty-five. But, thanks to a host of volunteers, we are managing to maintain the same member services.



Richard Nakles and former APS employee Dennis Gilson were honored by the Board for their volunteer service nearly two years ago. Dennis, also a staff member for the Virtual Stamp Club, expertizes for us, has been a tremendous asset at many APS shows, and often helps us prepare for events at the American Philatelic Center. Richard has cultivated his own volunteers to help with donation processing: Michael O'Traynor travels from Vermont to help a few weeks each year, and local members Jerry Gill and Mike Magyar help on a regular basis. And Mike's wife Becky has helped with Youth Activities and in promoting the Society's presence on Facebook. In addition to volunteering at APS shows, Mike Lampson has helped in the social media realm by creating an APS group on LinkedIn.

Former Executive Director Bob Lamb continues to help with an inventory of the APS Reference Collection. Mail Room Manager Ilene Barner's sister Ruth is in as often as three days a week to help. Youth Coordinator Janet Houser's husband Ronnie is a constant help cutting stamps from envelopes and making packets for kids. He and their two

sons, Zech and Norman, also help at our shows. Director of Education Gretchen Moody's daughter Hannah has volunteered her services numerous times. Joe and MaryAnn Bell travel about ninety miles each way from the Johnstown area to help make youth packets. Leigh Meeker has been helping us for seven or eight years, ever since her son was introduced to stamp collecting through the local youth stamp club.

Show Director Dana Guyer's brother Shane provided great assistance at our Arlington, Texas show this past February and we are expecting his help again in Pittsburgh. And former Director of Sales Gordon Wrenn still provides invaluable volunteer assistance with the AP.

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You don't have to live in Central Pennsylvania to volunteer. We have always been heavily dependent on volunteers to help with our winter and summer shows, but our recent budget cuts have made us even more dependent on volunteers to staff APS booths at World Series of Philately Shows. Our thanks to Joann and Kurt Lenz, Dan Walker, and Michael Dixon who have helped this spring. Joann and Kurt even wrote a



On a recent trip to the APC the Cumberland Valley Philatelic Society presented a donation to Interim Executive Director Ken Martin. From left to right: Richard Sprankle, Quinn Witherspoon, Ken Martin, Bernard Lodge, and Paul Kolva.

guide to help others staff APS booths. If you are interested in this opportunity, we would love to hear from you!

Members also are critical to spreading the joys of our hobby. In March, when the play *Mauritius* came to Cincinnati, past president Janet Klug spoke about stamp collecting in conjunction with the performance. Philadelphia area member Bill Schultz offers a three-session course titled "The Wonders of Philately" at a local college. President Wade Saadi is writing an article for a publication for train collectors that showcases postage stamps. Stamp collecting would certainly benefit from additional similar efforts from our talented and inventive members

Upcoming volunteer projects at the American Philatelic Center: Bill Schultz has offered to utilize his exhibiting expertise to put together an exhibit on Bellefonte postal history for display in the APC. Board member David Straight also is putting together an exhibit to complement the Headsville Post Office, the tiny nineteenth-century "general store" on loan from the Smithsonian Institute that now serves the APC as a contract post office.

A number of individuals, such as Stan Fairchild, review StampStore items for us from their home computers. Stan and Kenmore Stamp Company have graciously offered us the use of content they have developed to improve the information for beginning collectors on our revamped website, which should be live by STAMPSHOW in August. Jack Harwood, affiliate representative for the Postal Note Society and president of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group, recently has been working to develop the next generation of APS members in the Sarasota, Florida area.

Many other members volunteer their services as translators, estate advisors, and mentors. A number of you have developed YouTube videos with connections to the hobby or added philatelic connections to Wikipedia entries. Content for our website can be developed from wherever you live. We would love to have a member develop a YouTube video or movie for new member recruitment. And, as we work on developing new

content for the website, we could benefit from the advice of a member with intellectual property rights expertise.

Of course, you can volunteer for the hobby without directly providing support to the APS. Efforts at the local level to cultivate a neighbor kid's interest in stamp collecting and to make welcome visitors to your local stamp club are invaluable. However, we would like to make available a list of specific APS volunteer opportunities for any interested member. For example, in the future we should have a template available so that members may index periodicals for us from their homes. And in 2010 we will borrow an idea from another affiliate, the Postmark Collectors Club, and host a volunteer work week at the American Philatelic Center from July 26–30. We'll provide more details in the future, but wanted to announce the dates now so you can add them to your calendar.

Many of our dedicated volunteers also provide financial support. Three have recently made a recurring monthly commitment to the Society or Library. Our thanks to Joe Crosby, active in the Classics Society and the force behind the OKPEX show; to Steve Schumann, current chair of our International Committee and Filatelic Fiesta; and to Ken Tretin, literature judge as well as editor of the *Congress Book* and the journal of the American Revenue Association.

A few other members have taken advantage of current regulations that allow many individuals over age 70 to donate up to \$100,000 from their IRA and avoid payment of any taxes. Library Board member Roger Brody and APS Board member Joann Lenz and her husband Kurt have both recently made long-term pledges directly from their IRA funds.

Great News!

Centre County, Pennsylvania, twice recently has recognized the value of the APS and APRL. First, we received a grant of \$7,950 from the Convention and Visitors Bureau to promote Classics 2009 and the Postal History Symposium, which will be held at the American Philatelic Center this fall from October 30 through November 1. Second, in honor of the WE (Women Exhibitors) Festival,

the County Commissioners declared the week of May 24–30 Women Stamp Collectors Week.

We also owe many thanks for the \$18,000 raised through member donations, which allowed us to select three youth collectors for our first Young Philatelic Leaders Fellowship awards. We look forward to introducing them to the membership at STAMPSHOW in Pittsburgh this August. In a creative move, a substantial portion of this money was raised by members selling items on eBay and designating all or a portion of the proceeds to the Society through MissionFish.

San Diego Library Relocates

Philately is blessed with great scholarship. Much of it is available through the American Philatelic Research Library, but several other specialized philatelic libraries exist around the country that provide more convenient access for many of our members. Among these is the San Diego Philatelic Library, which has recently relocated and will have an open house at its new location, 330 West Felicita Avenue, Suite A3, Escondido, CA 92025 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, July 11, 2009.

Information on several other philatelic libraries — including the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library (Denver, CO), the Northwest Philatelic Library (Portland, OR), the Postal History Foundation Library (Tucson, AZ), the Wineburgh Philatelic Library (Dallas, TX), and the Collectors Club Library (New York, NY) — is available on our website. And we would be glad to add information to the webpage on any other philatelic libraries available to the public within the United States.

Thank You

This issue includes a significant amount of information on our August 6–9 STAMPSHOW in Pittsburgh. We hope to have the opportunity to meet and thank many of you personally during the show, as well as to recognize the second year of Nicholas Carter Volunteer Award winners!