

APS General Membership Meeting

9:00 a.m ., August 26, 2006

Rosemont, Illinois

*** Denotes motion and board action (for searches)

Call to order: President, Janet Klug, 9:00 a.m.

APS President Janet Klug introduces the APS Board: Chair of the Board of Vice Presidents Ada Prill, Vice President, George Fekete; Vice President Al Parsons; Secretary, Wayne Youngblood; Treasurer, Dr. Nick Carter; Directors at Large, Dr. John Flannery; Peter Martin, Wade Saadi, David Straight; Past President, Peter McCann; General Counsel, Virginia Eisenstein.

APRL President Ken Grant introduces the APRL Board of Trustees: Roger Schnell, Charlie Peterson, Roger Brody, Ken Lawrence, David Straight, Peter Martin.

Executive Director, Peter Mastrangelo introduces the APS staff present: Ken Martin, Deputy Executive Director; Barb Boal, Editor; Kim Kowalczyk, Director of Education; Janet Houser, Youth Coordinator; Gini Horn, Librarian; Dana Guyer, Director of Shows & Exhibits; Wendy Masorti, Director of Membership Administration; Mercer Bristow, Director of Expertizing.

Thanks to Show Organizers

Janet Klug: Thanks to all the volunteers and show organizers including Compex, Chicagopex and all Chicago area clubs.

Presentation of 25 & 50 Year Awards

Twenty-one 25-year members were in attendance to accept their certificates and pins. No 50-year members were in attendance.

Kehr Award

Klug: The Kehr Award is to honor those who have provided enduring contributions that help guarantee the future of philately. Nancy Clark was recognized as the latest recipient..

President's Report (Janet Klug)

Klug: "The APS Board of Directors met on Tuesday evening and Wednesday for a total of seven hours and discussed the following:

- “Received reports from the Executive Director and Society Attorney.
- “Wade Saadi reviewed the methods we will soon be taking to reinforce our relationships with our nearly 600 chapters to help recruiting.
- “David Straight reported on a joint project conducted in partnership with the National Postal Museum, the APRL and the APS. The Blount Symposium will draw together historians, scholars, academics and philatelists to present papers on diverse aspects on postal history. It will be held November 3-4, 2006, at the National Postal Museum [Washington, D.C.]. Twenty-two papers will be presented on an intriguing and diverse selection of topics. The symposium is open to the public. It will be an annual event that will alternate between the National Postal Museum and the American Philatelic Center. Next year’s symposium will take place at the American Philatelic Center October 21-22, 2007.
- “Passed a proposal made by Peter McCann to provide an application for those who wish to seek election to the APS Board of Directors. This application should help prospective candidates formulate their reasons for running and their qualifications and will be shared with members through the chapter mailings and on the APS website.
- “Passed a proposal made by Peter Martin to establish a Publications Committee. The committee’s duties will be to review and recommend literature to the public by the APS that will generate sufficient sales to cover all costs and provide revenue for the APS.
- “Approved Arlington, Texas, for 2010 AmeriStamp Expo.
- “Approved Columbus, Ohio, for 2011 StampShow.
- “Nick Carter presented a proposal for recognition awards to honor philatelic leadership and volunteers at the local, regional and national levels. This proposal was remanded to the staff to devise an implementation plan.
- “Vapex was granted a bye for 2006.
- “Okpex was granted permission for a two-day show instead of the mandated three-day show for 2006. They expect to have a three-day show in 2007.
- “Received and reviewed annual reports from the committees.

“In a Joint Meeting of the APRL and APS Boards:

- “Both boards approved renaming the joint finance committee to the ‘Finance and Audit Committee.’

“2006 is a banner year for philately. The extraordinary success of Washington 2006 proved what many of us believed to be true that stamp collecting is thriving. Let’s thank Michael Dixon the President of Washington 2006. Let’s also thank Gordon Morison and Steve Luster for their hard work as well.”

Vice President’s Report (Ada Prill)

Prill: “The Board of Vice Presidents is the disciplinary body of the American Philatelic Society. We normally have six meetings in a year, but this year we only had four.

“Throughout the year we heard a total of 17 complaints and ruled on two membership applications. We rejected one application and accepted the reinstatement of a previously expelled member. The 17 complaints resulted in 12 expulsions, one complaint dismissal, one probation, two published reprimands and one un-published reprimand. Six cases were appealed and we were upheld on four of them. The cases were mostly about money ranging from .75 to \$360,000.”

Secretary’s Report (Wayne Youngblood)

Youngblood: “My job as secretary is to document, report and get the word out to the APS membership what is happening at board meetings, which has already been summarized by Janet. Despite the fact that I am secretary, there is no way I could do my job well without Wendy Masorti, who acts as back-up typist but also records and transcribes all meetings so that we are able to provide you with full transcripts to report on the board meetings.”

Treasurer’s Report (Nick Carter)

Carter: “I would like to thank Rick Banks at APS headquarters. Finances are in good shape. A year ago we were concerned about balanced budgets. That is something of the past, as we now work on the principle of a balanced budget. It looks like we may have a surplus this year. Your board will meet Oct. 19, 2006, in Bellefonte to consider the 2007 budget, and I am sure that it will also be balanced. I am very pleased with the state of affairs on the financial side.

“A year ago we moved our financial investments from PNC Bank to M&T Bank and we are pleased with the new arrangements. M&T is a more responsive investment management group. We do not yet have enough experience to assess their performance. Janet mentioned that when the joint board met, we agreed to change the name of the Finance Committee to the Finance and Audit Committee. The audit is very important and the committee will become more involved with supervising the audit. The 2005 Audit will appear on our website soon and our Form 990 will also be available soon.

“The bottom line on our finances is that we continue to lose members. Every time we lose a member we lose \$20. We are now losing somewhat less than 1,000 year, but we need to reverse that trend. We need to go out and recruit more members.”

Society Attorney’s Report (Virginia Eisenstein)

Eisenstein: “There is currently no litigation. I have begun to work with our new Executive Director, Peter Mastrangelo, and I would like to report that it is very impressive. He has reviewed all of the major contracts that the Society is involved in. I’m looking forward to upcoming projects.”

Klug: Yesterday in the joint meeting of the APS Board of Directors and APRL Trustees a resolution of appreciation for Peter Mastrangelo was passed for the speed for which he has learned not only the complex new job with a good size staff and thousands of members to serve, but also the jargon, culture and passion of stamp collecting.

Executive Director's Report (Peter Mastrangelo)

Mastrangelo: "I would like to thank the board, our staff and our members for the warm welcome and also for the patience, guidance, and advice as I move forward.

"I would like to give some highlights of the report that I gave to the Board.

- **Staff Reorganization** – "We have had a staff reorganization. All major membership functions report to the new Deputy Executive Director Ken Martin, including Education, Expertizing, Shows, Sales and Membership Administration. Internet Sales is now part of the Sales Division. Reporting directly to me are the Library, Editorial and Internal Operations, which includes finances and information technology. Wendy Masorti, who was promoted to Director of Membership Administration, will continue to handle the complaints department, and will continue to assistance with Board meetings, etc. By making these changes it was important for me to look at the organization and take advantage of cross-training opportunities, staff expertise and volunteer assets within the whole organization so that we can continue to improve services.
- **Headsville Post Office** – "We have continued the work that Bob Lamb started on relocating the Headsville Post Office to the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte. The post office is currently being dismantled at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. This facility will be utilized as a post office that will allow us to postmark our own mail. It is our goal to raise \$350,000 to make this happen. Over the course of the next few weeks and months you will see more information about this in the *American Philatelist* and in your mailbox. The Campaign for Philately has raised \$2.6, which has enabled us to complete the first three phases in the restoration of the APC.
- **New Website** – "In October or November this year we are going to beta test a new website that should go live by the beginning of 2007. Highlights of the new site include: a members'-only area, APS mall, StampStore shopping cart and interface with eBay. There will be more on this soon.
- **Membership** - "As of July 31, 2006, our membership stands at 43,385 members. This is up 958 members net from a low point earlier this year of 42,427. During that time period, 1,098 new members came in and we lost 90 members -- 70 of which were due to death. As we look at the membership recruiting during Washington 2006, this show, etc. over this month and next month, we are going to be adding approximately 475 new members to the rolls and we anticipate that we are going to break the 45,000 member barrier in the first quarter of 2007."

New Business

Donation

Jackie Alton of with World Columbian Stamp Expo presented \$2,500 to the APS for the Bud & Dodie Hennig Room.

APS eBay Listing Review Program (Frank Sente, APS eBay Review Coordinator)

Sente: “As many of you know the APS has been working with eBay to help improve the overall trading safety within the eBay Stamps category. The program began in 2003, in response to complaints about the growing number of faked and misidentified stamps being offered on its site. eBay established a committee of eBay-user volunteers called the Stamp Community Watch (SCW).

“The SCW considers philatelic listings it finds, or that others submit to it with questions. Items that its members agree may be misdescribed or not genuine are referred to the APS for further review and, if appropriate, we then contact the sellers.

“If, in the opinion of the APS, the previous reviewers have made a case with a high degree of certainty that the item is misdescribed, a ‘Question to Seller’ message is sent informing the seller what is believed wrong with the item listed, and what corrective action is requested. A seller is normally given 24 hours to correct the problem. If appropriate action is not taken, the APS informs eBay Trust and Safety, who may choose to remove the listing.

“Our primary objectives are to help eBay remove true fraudsters from the site and to protect eBay customers -- many of whom are APS members -- from buying misidentified material. While we have helped eBay remove some nefarious fraudsters from their site, most of the problems we see are inadvertent misdescriptions and failures to recognize altered stamps -- not intentional fraud.

“Our secondary mission is education. Whenever possible, in an attempt to educate sellers about fakes and altered items, we provide links where additional information about an item questioned may be found in our messages to sellers. And we often help obvious novice sellers find a stamp club in their area, where they can obtain local assistance.

“In the past 12 months we have reviewed 2,743 items and taken action in 2,192 cases or roughly 80%. My former colleague, Mercer Bristow, APS Director of Expertizing, has been particularly helpful in recommending experts to assist in the review of specialized material. And I’d like to thank the staff at the APRL -- especially Ellen Peachey -- who has been particularly helpful in providing published resource material.

“If you are an eBay user, you too can assist in this program by reporting any errant listings you see to the SCW committee for their action via this direct link:
<http://www.ebay.com/scw>.”

Klug: Wishes a Happy Birthday to the APS. We celebrate our 120th Birthday on Sept. 14th !! In celebration cake and punch is available at the rear of the room.

Questions from the Floor.

David Zemer: Questioned offering APS memberships on eBay.

Mastrangelo: We have tried this with not much success. However, we will revisit this idea. We are working with eBay on various ways of promoting the APS and the hobby.

Motion to adjourn is traditionally presented by the member present with lowest APS number. Bud Hennig, APS No. 23754 adjourned the meeting. Punch and cake were enjoyed by membership in attendance.