

APS General Membership Meeting

9:00 a.m ., Saturday, August 11, 2007

Portland, Oregon

*** 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 George Fekete, Vice President, Ada Prill; 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.

Ken Grant: Before introducing the Library Trustees, I wanted to report that through the efforts of Roger Schnell we now have established a new level of patron "Daniel W. Vooyoys Fellow." Daniel Vooyoys was the original editor of the *Philatelic Literature Review* in 1942 and in 1967 he chaired the committee to explore the establishment of our library, he was president of the APS in the early 1970s and he was president of the American Philatelic Research Library until 1978 at the time of his death. His personal library became the core of the APRL, really the foundation of our library and we decided at our meeting yesterday that individuals who contribute \$5,000 to the APRL would become "Daniel W. Vooyoys Fellows" and we would inscribe their name in a plaque at the library.

APRL President Ken Grant introduces the APRL Board of Trustees: The current members are: Herb Trenchard, Roger Schnell, Roger Brody, Peter Martin, Dan Walker, David Straight, Ken Lawrence, Charlie Peterson. Two members leaving the Board are David Straight and Ken Lawrence. Two new members of the APRL Board are Rob Haeseler and Jack Flannery. Charlie Peterson was re-elected as a Trustee.

Executive Director, Peter Mastrangelo introduces the APS staff present: Deputy Executive Director, Ken Martin; Controller, Rick Banks; Education Director, Gretchen Moody; Youth & Education Programs Coordinator, Janet Houser; Director of Library Services, Gini Horn; Director of Shows & Exhibitions, Dana Guyer; Assistant to Shows & Exhibitions, Barb Johnson; Director of Membership Administration, Wendy Masorti; Public Relations, Fred Baumann; Library Services, Ellen Peachey.

Thanks to Show Organizers

Janet Klug: Thanks to Len Lukens the local committee chairman, the Oregon Stamp Society, the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs, and all the volunteers who assisted with the show.

Presentation of 25 & 50 Year Awards

Twenty-five 25-year members were in attendance to accept their certificates and pins. Three 50-year members were in attendance.

President's Report (Janet Klug)

Klug: The APS Board of Directors met on Wednesday, August 8, for a total of nine hours.

We received reports from our Society Attorney Virginia Eisenstein, our Executive Director Peter Mastrangelo, and our Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance and Audit Committee, Nick Carter; all of who will be reporting to you at this meeting. We also received a report from our Dealer Representative Jim Dempsey, who is here at the show. Jim gave us a "dealer's take" on what areas in philately are "hot" right now (Russia). Jim also expressed concern about the change in dates of our winter show Ameristamp Expo, which moved from March to January so as not to conflict with the Mega Show in New York City that weekend.

Chairman of the Membership Recruiting Committee Wade Saadi reported on an effort he initiated to have board members contact APS chapters to encourage and assist them. Our chapters are the public face of philately in their area. While not all chapters were contacted, it is a worthy project and one I hope the new administration will continue.

Peter Martin, chairman of the Publications Committee, reported to the board about the work his committee is doing to review manuscripts for possible publication by the APS.

The board approved a document retention policy, which will be implemented by staff. This is the final piece of Sarbanes-Oxley recommendations for non-profit corporations.

We heard a report from Simon Codrington of Hugh Wood Insurance, which runs the APS stamp insurance program. Simon explained the improvements that have been made to customer service. For more information, visit the Hugh Wood Insurance booth at this show.

The Board approved a dues increase for next year. This will be a \$10 increase that was recommended by the Finance Committee to stabilize the finances of the Society by balancing the budget.

We ratified a redraft of the APS Election Guidelines and Policies that were actually approved by the Board in 2004, but were not incorporated into our published guidelines and policies in the 2005 or 2007 elections.

Our 30 APS-accredited national shows are expected to be held every year. The board gave Texpex permission to skip its show in 2009 because the dates were too close to the APS winter show – Ameristamp Expo – that will be held in nearby Arlington, Texas.

The board approved a request from our committee that accredits national exhibitions and judges to accept picture postcard exhibits as a new class, eligible to compete for national medals at our World Series of Philately shows. The guidelines and score sheet for this new exhibit class are available on our website at www.stamps.org.

The board approved a minor revision to our Rules for Shows that will permit shows to accept more than two exhibits from one exhibitor, once the 160-frame minimum has been met.

Two new affiliates were approved by the board. We welcome the Ephemera Society of America and the Poster Stamp Collectors Club as new affiliates.

The board approved my appointment of Jack Flannery to the American Philatelic Research Library Board of Trustees. The APRL Trustees swore him in yesterday and then promptly elected Jack to be treasurer. Congratulations, Jack.

Vice President George Fekete presented two proclamations of recognition to volunteers who serve the APS: Richard Nakles and Dennis Gilson. These recognitions were approved by the board to recognize great work they do that benefits all of the Society.

Vice President's Report (George Fekete)

Fekete: The APS Board of Vice Presidents is composed of three members: Ada Prill, Alan Parsons and myself, George Fekete. As chairman of the Board of Vice Presidents, the APS Bylaws require that I report on our activities during the past year.

Complaints are initially filed with the Complaints Manager, Wendy Masorti. Before forwarding a complaint to the Board of Vice Presidents, Wendy works with the parties in an effort to get them to resolve their issue and, in many cases, is successful. Virginia Eisenstein, the Society Attorney, provides legal advice when necessary. Without the outstanding support of Wendy and Ginny, our job would be much, much more difficult. Words can hardly express how much we rely on Wendy and Ginny. Thank you both! As the disciplinary body of the Society, we rule on membership applications, when requested, and discipline members, subject to appeal to the Appeals Tribunal. We meet roughly every two months to hear complaints.

During the past year we heard 26 complaints. We dismissed six complaints, expelled 12 people, levied two published reprimands and placed six people on probation. We also rejected four applications for membership and accepted one. Six of our decisions were appealed and all were upheld.

Secretary's Report (Wayne Youngblood)

Youngblood: It is my job to take and maintain accurate minutes of APS meetings and present them for board approval. I could not, however, accomplish these duties without the considerable help of Wendy Masorti, who records meetings and transcribes them.

Treasurer's Report (Nick Carter)

Carter: I also serve on the Finance and Audit Committee. Over the past year we have done a number of things. We are now Sarbanes-Oxley compliant, with the passage of the document retention policy.

We also discussed and recommended a dues increase. In 2006 we ran a deficit of about \$46,000, we knew we were going to do this as it was a transition year with hiring the new Executive Director and created the position of Deputy Executive Director, Ken Martin. So 2006 was the transition year. 2007 is almost back in balance.

Society Attorney's Report (Virginia Eisenstein)

Eisenstein: In the last six months I reviewed and suggested revisions to proposed contracts, including the survey research firm, which is conducting the membership survey. I assisted administration with contract interpretation and in general handled the legal matters of the Society. Part of my job is to give advice to those in office who ask for it including the staff and the board.

Executive Director's Report (Peter Mastrangelo)

Mastrangelo: Our membership as of July 31st stands at 42,510. We have started getting in some raw data results from the membership survey. We randomly selected 1,000 members to send the survey, over 500 were returned. We also surveyed former members so that we could get an idea of what they thought about the APS, as well as non-members. This way we can compare results as we make decisions about membership recruitment, membership services, and promotion of the hobby. We should have our final report in October and we will then report to you in the *AP*.

We also have been upgrading our technology at the APS and APRL. We just finished the installation of our new software to upgrade our membership database. The library now has new search software. This is available on our current website. Our biggest challenge over the last year is our new website which we hope to launch shortly. It is a very robust system that can better connect us with our members and collectors who frequent the internet. Along with the website, *The American Philatelist* is a major tool for education and information sharing.

We are continuing in our development of the American Philatelic Center as finances allow. Present construction activities are on schedule, new tenant space will be finished by January of 2008 and the Gordon and Mary Morrison Pavilion, which will house the Headsville Post Office, will be dedicated this October during Aerophilately 2007.

For 2006 the Campaign for Philately experienced the second highest results in annual giving in our history. So far 2007 is running ahead of last year. As we have received over \$300,000 from 1,500 contributors. We plan two fundraising opportunities each year, once in the spring, and later with our dues renewal. Periodically you will see advertising in *The AP*.

Advertising revenue in *The American Philatelist* is up for the year. A new monthly column has been introduced called "In the Know" – its primary purpose is to keep members informed about how to use APS and APRL services.

Expertizing continues to offer valuable services to those members who are interested in authentication. Average turn-around time is 42 days, compared to our 90 days advertised turn around time. Expertizing will examine and evaluate more than 6,000 items this year. We are looking for new members of the Expertizing Committee especially in the areas of British Commonwealth, French Colonies, Italy and Colonies, and the Middle East.

Circuit Sales has seen an increase in the number of sales books and circulation and an increase in new book value. Sales in May, June, and July are up. While circuits sales seems to be holding its own, we have also been trying to adapt to a conversion in digital imaging over microfilm which we have been using. And at the same time we are trying to offset postage costs by reducing box weights.

This has been a very good year for StampStore, with record submissions and sales throughout almost every month in the first part of this year. For the first six months of 2007, submissions have increased 36%, sales have increased 22% and orders posted 18% increase. There are more than 260,000 items on inventory.

In October the APS will host for the first time, Aerophilately 2007, October 19-21. As well as to be immediately followed with the second annual Postal History Symposium on October 21 and 22nd co-sponsored with the Smithsonian National Postal Museum. This is the first time a world series of philately event will be held at the American Philatelic Center by an APS affiliate, the American Airmail Society. And, this will be the first time APS hosts the annual Postal History Symposium that alternates between the NPM and the APS. Watch for information on these two events.

New Business:

Klug: Presents certificates to those going off the Board to thank them for their service: Peter Martin, Jack Flannery, Al Parsons, George Fekete, Ada Prill, Peter McCann.

President Klug's Outgoing Speech:

I don't know if you have received your August issue of *The American Philatelist* yet, but it contains my final president's column. I thank numerous people in that column. I won't bore you by reading it to you now, but many of the people I thank are sitting in this room and I do want to express my appreciation to them and to you. I especially think we should take note of the fact that Immediate Past President Peter McCann is going off the board as I take his place as immediate past president. Peter has served 14 years on the board and deserves our thanks.

Four years ago at Stampshow in Columbus, Ohio, I stood before you, a newly sworn-in president. My knees were knocking a little bit, if you want to know the truth. I told you how, in preparation for taking on the responsibility of the APS presidency I had read the history of the Society that was published serially in *The American Philatelist* during our 100th anniversary year in 1986.

I read about the Society's challenges from 30, 50 and even 80 years ago. The concerns were over things like declining membership, the struggle to operate within the constraint of a tight budget, and an aggressive building program were all there documented from all those years ago. It is amazing how history keeps repeating itself. Within that history are accounts of controversies over issues both great and small.

I said then, and I say again, one final time – only today my knees are not knocking together – Our Society has weathered all these crises and learned from mistakes, grown, and evolved into what it is today – the greatest philatelic organization in the world.

A year ago a plea went out to the membership to support the next phase of development of the American Philatelic Center, the Gordon and Mary Morison Pavilion that will house the historic Headsville Post Office. Many generous members came forward with pledges and I'm pleased to say this phase will be dedicated in October. As my last official act as president, I'd like to present my pledge payment.

And so it is time.

If the incoming board will please stand and come forward as I call your names.

Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you the incoming board for 2007-2009

Directors-at-Large Michael Dixon, Joann Lenz, Bob Odenweller, Denise Stotts
Treasurer Dan Walker
Secretary Wayne Youngblood

Vice Presidents Wade Saadi, Steven Rod and David Straight
Immediate past president, Janet Klug
President Nicholas Carter

Officers were sworn in by Gordon Morison.

New President Nick Carter:

Carter: Thanks to Janet Klug for her service, she is extraordinary, one of the giants of the APS! I hope I can be half as effective as she has been.

Peter Mastrangelo presents Janet with a gift.

Carter: I would like to personally congratulate the 25- & 50- year members who received their awards today. You are what makes the hobby and Society great.

I am a third-generation philatelist, my parents both collected stamps, my grandparents collected stamps. I specialize in British Colonial Africa. My grandmother designed 1905 Olive Blossoms stamps, which have been my favorite stamps and a focus of my collecting British Empire.

Thank you for the privilege of serving the APS. I want to share with you my vision for the future of the APS. First and most important, we are a hobby. The APS has supported our hobby for more than 120 years by meeting its member's needs. In the past year I have emphasized two things, first getting the word out about the services the APS provides to its members, and secondly, the increasing need to move to digital access.

My vision for the APS is all about you. However, I need your help in spreading the joy of philately. Each of you is excited about your collection – share that excitement. Share it with other collectors, share it with your neighbors, and share it with your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. You will find that the joy is infectious.

Questions from the Floor.

A member suggested - the best way to spread membership is to give free membership to young person. He recommended we give a 3-month trial membership to anyone who is 18-21.

Another member expressed dismay with the \$10 increase in dues. The board members explained that the increase was necessary and explained a little more about the dues transition fund, for which full details will be forthcoming and available on the website.

Another member – stated that he was a 25-year past member. He quit the APS because he did not receive a free 25-year member pin because he did not attend a meeting to receive it. He feels he should have automatically received one in the mail rather than have to pay \$9 for one. A pin was presented to him. The staff explained that the pins are part of presentation at a show, otherwise members pay for them. We will look into changing this policy. This will be on the October board agenda.

A 25-year member presented the idea of “take a commemorative stamp to the post office day” to give other collectors.

A member stated that APS has traditionally supported USPS, feels high number of stamps kills interest. APS supporting that supports people losing interest. Need to reverse that position (take a harder line with USPS).

Another member gave positive suggestion for future of APS..teleconferencing and emails etc. to be able to elect board of vice presidents from all over the country.

Member questioned what are the plans to prevent future mud slinging in future elections?

Carter: We passed - in 2004 - election ethics. Due to an oversight they were not incorporated into our election documents. We just ratified these guidelines and documentation has been put in place.

Motion to adjourn is traditionally presented by the member present with lowest APS number. John Birkinbine, APS No. 34632, adjourned the meeting.