

News from the American Philatelic Center Home of the American Philatelic Society and American Philatelic Research Library

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Women Exhibitors Join the APS

Women Exhibitors (WE) — an organization readily available to all collectors through the Internet — was welcomed as American Philatelic Society Affiliate Nos. 260 by the APS Board of Directors at a Friday, May 9, meeting at the American Philatelic Center.

Organized in 2007, Women Exhibitors has 82 members, 54 of whom are APS members. The group was founded to provide a vehicle through which women exhibitors can encourage each other through sharing information, ideas, experience, advice, problems, and solutions. The group does so through seminars, its quarterly online newsletter *WE think* (edited by founding member and APS Past President Janet Klug), and through one-on-one mentoring of exhibitors. Acknowledging that philately in general and exhibiting in particular have long been predominantly male pastimes, WE gives women a rallying point for mutual support and a clearing house of shared observations and hard-won expertise to extend the enjoyment of the world's greatest hobby to many who in the past might have hesitated to take part.

WE has meetings twice yearly at STAMPSHOW and AMERISTAMP EXPO. Summaries of programs and workshops held at these shows are shared through the newsletter and other communications. In addition, satellite meetings are held at national, regional, and local shows. Leaders of the satellite meetings discuss issues and share information from other meetings.

WE is open to all, but philately is explored from a woman's point of view. Annual dues are just \$5, and both the WE website and its online newsletters are hosted at <http://www.aape.org/Weweb.asp>

The American Philatelic Society is delighted to welcome this fine organization to its family of affiliates. To learn more about the APS, visit www.stamps.org

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WE think

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF WOMEN EXHIBITORS

At AmeriStamp Expo 2008, Charlotte, North Carolina WE hosted a panel discussion led by Pat Walker Moderator, with Charles Verge and Darrell Ertzberger, panelists. All have been judging for 18 to 20 years. Darrell is a thematic specialist. All are qualified Chief Judges.

Interacting with Judges

Introduction - given by Pat Walker
Judging Logistics, and when during the process judges interact with exhibitors.

Judges are selected in advance – 6 months or more before a show. Show committees make an effort to include judges who are familiar with a specialty if a specialist society is meeting at their show. As an exhibitor you may ask a show who the judges are if that information is not published. Look at a show website to start with. A national show has 5 judges and up to 2 apprentices. Regional shows often have 3 judges and local shows may have 2.

Judges are given exhibit titles and title pages and synopsis pages in advance. Pay attention to dates specified on the prospectus. You don't want to miss your first chance to interact with the judges.

How much in advance you need to send your title and synopsis depends on the show. It is usually a minimum of 6 weeks, but often much earlier. Having these pages in advance allows judges to research your exhibit subject.

It is very important that the judges know what your exhibit is about. Cute titles and vague exhibit purpose statements are NOT A GOOD THING. A good set of references is a GOOD thing.

Should you communicate directly with the judges in advance? In general, no. If one of them happens to be a friend of yours, don't ask for an advance exhibit critique without letting your friend know you plan on exhibiting where he/she will be judging later in the year. If your judge friend gives you permission to send something – go for it, but respect an answer that "it wouldn't be fair."

Judges arrive at a show anywhere from before the frames go up to after the floor is closed on set-up day. Expect about 3 judges on average to be helping with the mounting or wandering the frames getting an idea of the exhibits quality. It's OK to talk to us during this time about your exhibit if solicited. However if a judge asks your advice about the subject matter in your exhibit because "you are knowledgeable in this area," make sure that judge knows the exhibit is yours. Sometimes the chief judge asks the jury to convene on set-up day – if that seems to be the case follow advice for "floor work" (see later).

After an organizational meeting (usually at breakfast on the first day of the show), judges work in teams to examine all the exhibits (exceptions APS AmeriStamp Expo and APS Stamp-Show); this process (referred to as "floor work") can take from 5 to 8 hours. During this time, please do not stand near any exhibit when the judges are working on it. Usually we will ask you to move temporarily. Do NOT try to interact with judges at this time unless specifically solicited to do so.

Once floor work is completed, the judging panel meets for "deliberations." This is when the awards are determined.

