

2013 Was a Good Year

I am pleased to report that financially 2013 was a good year for the APS and APRL. For the fourth consecutive year the APS/APRL budget was balanced according to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Both the APS and APRL operating budgets exceeded their bottom line goals and combined cash flow was positive.

The Society and Library also took in more than \$1 million in gift income, most of which is not included in the operating budget. We completed an additional phase of the new Library space without borrowing any additional funds and saw a 15% growth in submissions to our Expertizing Service.

The major factors in our financial success are strong tenant income and watching expenses very carefully. Unfortunately, membership is still dropping, although at the end of January the loss of paid members over the previous twelve months was the lowest it has been since 1998. Members can view our 2013 balance sheet and statement of activities at stamps.org. Choose "About APS" and then "Business and Finance."



The APS website is treasure trove of resource material for members, with about 1,000 unique pages. Many of these pages feature links to files that provide additional information. Among the most popular pages are the APS online StampStore; the dealer and club (chapter and affiliate) listings; the show calendar; the listing of U.S. new issues; beginner information; free downloadable album pages and cachets; and estate information. If you are having trouble finding information you can always use the search box at the upper right corner of the screen, send us a query via e-mail, or give us a call at 814-933-3803.

"My APS," the members-only section of the site, gives members the opportunity to read the *AP* online, manage their account, view specials just for members, read the bonus content,



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and much more. To visit the "Members-Only" section you will need to create a login (your e-mail address that is on file with us and a password is all you need).

Other frequently visited pages on our website include the Online Exhibits, Stamp YouTubes, Articles of Distinction, and the monthly feature "Forged or Genuine," all of which provide a wealth of knowledge. Each month we scan and add a small section of our fantastic Reference Collection to the online archives. In February, German Local Posts was added; January was U.S. Commemorative Plate Blocks; December was Liechtenstein; and November was U.S. Counterfeit and Altered Stamps. And don't forget about our Union Catalog project, spearheaded by the American Philatelic Research Library, which not only provides the listings of holdings from more than ten of the finest philatelic libraries, but also offers a growing number of the catalog entries that include direct links to digital content.

Last fall we offered to host simple websites for APS chapters for a small annual fee. We were concerned that demand could exceed our resources, but thus far the response has been light. A basic site for the Brattleboro Club is now live and at least one more should be live by the time you receive this issue of the magazine. For more information, chapters should contact Wendy Masorti at wendy@stamps.org.

We are pleased to have identified nineteen Boy Scout Stamp Collecting Merit Badge counselors from our membership. A subset of this group recently met by conference call, and we hope to share best practices and make materials available to help other members who wish to promote the hobby to Scouts.

With AMERISTAMP EXPO over, our focus turns to upcoming events at the American Philatelic Center: our June 15-20 Summer Seminar, the July 21-25 Volunteer Work Week, and the Eighth Postal History Symposium, which will be held September 12-14. Hartford, Connecticut, will be the host city for APS STAMPSHOW in August 21-24. We hope you are able to join us for one or more of these events.

The Postal History Symposium will be held in conjunction with AEROPHILATELY 2014, a national all-air mail philatelic exhibition with FIP recognition and worldwide participation

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hosted by the American Air Mail Society. The theme is "Development of Transoceanic Air Mail Service" and a call for papers for the symposium is available on the APS website.

In addition to symposium panels scheduled on Friday and Saturday, the weekend will include exhibits, a bourse, and three aerophilatelic talks (coordinated by the AAMS), as well as tours of the American Philatelic Center, a presentation on APRL resources related to air mail, and on Saturday evening a banquet featuring the symposium keynote speaker and AEROPHILATELY awards.

Thanks to Irv Miller for his special efforts to get to Atlanta in time to offer the *Detecting Damaged Altered and Repaired Stamps* "On-the-Road" course prior to the Southeast Stamp Expo. When Atlanta "shut down" because of ice and snow, Irv had to fly into Charlotte and drive from there, successfully navigating the highways around Atlanta to arrive in time. The Southeastern Stamp Expo had done a great job in promoting the course and we had fourteen students registered. Unfortunately, only about half of the students were able to duplicate Irv's success and make it to the course. Our thanks and congratulations to the Southeastern Stamp Expo on what we hear was an excellent show, including an APS town meeting led by Vice President Mick Zais and Librarian Tara Murray.

I also would like to thank two members for their recent cards. Library Trustee Don Heller found a postal card in an APS sales circuit from John Tiffany, our first president. The card now resides in the APS archives. Member Greg Dix sent us a postcard during a visit to Ghana. Thanks, Greg, we always appreciate hearing from our members.

About a year-and-a-half ago member Jim Boyles passed away. We appreciated his regular visits, enjoyed seeing his exhibit of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and were grateful for his years of efforts on the LANCOPEX show. The hobby is still benefitting from his generosity as our Library recently received his collection of philatelic literature.

We were recently saddened to learn of the January pass-



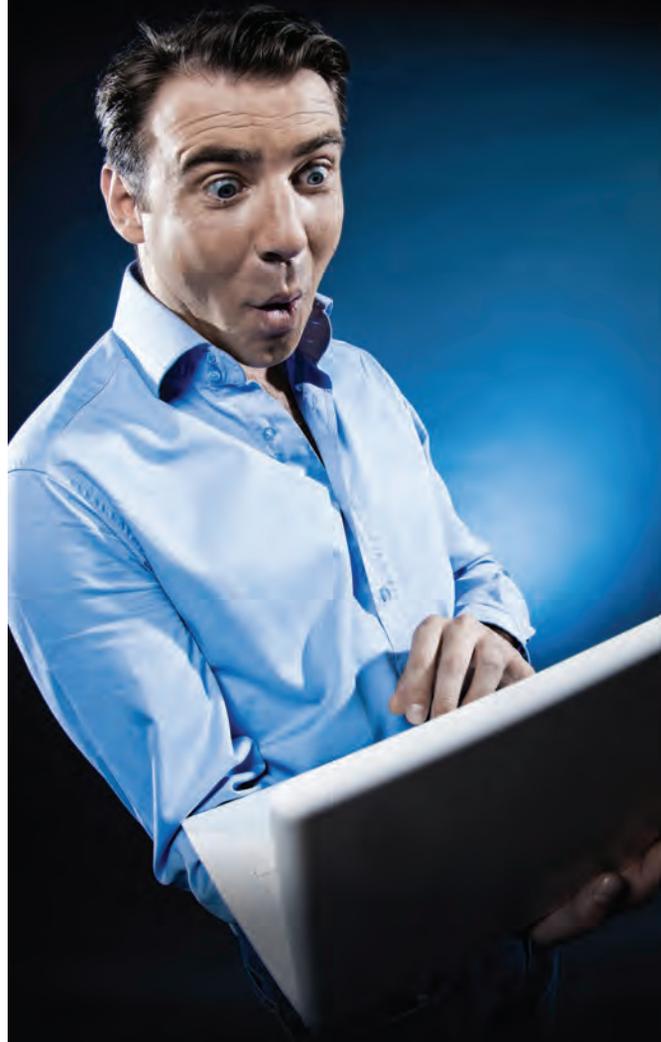
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ing of Dan Curtis, another friend of the hobby. Dan was a life long world class stamp collector, earning numerous awards and recognition for his collection and his revenue census work. He was a longtime member of the American Philatelic Society, the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, and the American Revenue Association. At the time of his death, he was a trustee of the Philatelic Foundation and serving on the Smithsonian National Postal Museum's Council of Philatelists.

Each such loss leaves a hole in the hobby.

Our thanks to Greg Allen who has recently become a seasonal volunteer helping us to convert APS slide programs to DVDs. These programs can make great additions to club meetings.

Finally, congratulations to Diversity Committee chair Ann Dunkin who was recently nominated by President Obama to be the Environmental Information for the Environmental Protection Agency's new Assistant Administrator.

Keep enjoying the blessings of our wonderful hobby!

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