



# Team Work and Competition

## Key Roles to a Successful Stamp Show

In last month's column I mentioned the importance of working with other philatelic organizations. We recently returned from a very successful AmeriStamp Expo in Riverside, California, where three other groups played a key role in the success of the show. The **American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors** not only provided many of the exhibit awards, its members also organized a team competition, in which fifty exhibitors in ten teams of five competed. One of the ten teams was an all-youth girls team. Bonus points available for new exhibits resulted in thirty-seven of the fifty exhibits being shown for the first time, while five of the fifty exhibitors were novices. It took a tie-breaker, but in the end the "Oldies but Goodies" team composed of Rich Drews, Tim Bartshe, Liz Hisey, Kathy Johnson, and Ron Leshner won the team competition. The popular event encouraged established collectors to attend.

The **United States Postal Service** and **National Stamp Dealers Association (NSDA)** provided major help to encourage attendance by less experienced collectors. With USPS support, we were able to mail postcards to 750,000 households in the vicinity of the show. One of the show attractions was "Stamps in Your Attic," which provided free collection reviews and was staffed primarily by NSDA members. The postcard mailing and Stamp Buddy booth for beginning collectors also helped us sign up more than thirty new APS members — the best February for member applicants in five years.

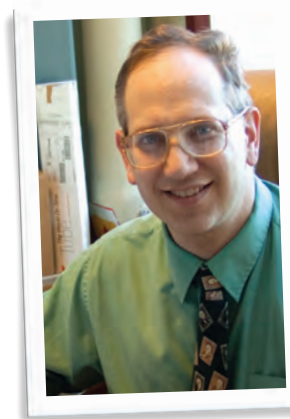
We look forward to working with many other philatelic organizations at our August 20–23 StampShow in Grand Rapids, Michigan. APS affiliates are encouraged to staff a booth to promote their organization, to offer an exhibit award, and to take advantage of free meeting and seminar space to talk about their specialties.

At AmeriStamp Expo coupon books and a free bag were given to APS members. We expect to have another coupon book and other exclusive benefits for APS members at StampShow. Information on the show is available from our website at [stamps.org/StampShow-SS](http://stamps.org/StampShow-SS). We hope you will be able to attend.

### Spellman Museum Symposium

For several years the APS and APRL have worked with the **Smithsonian National Postal Museum** to sponsor an annual Postal History Symposium. Our next Symposium won't be until 2016, but another group is helping to fill the void. The **Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History** will be offering its third one-day symposium prior to the Boston, Massachusetts, area Philatelic Show. The event is scheduled for Thursday, April 30, on the campus of Regis College in Weston, Massachusetts.

The theme of this year's Spellman symposium is "The Challenging 20th

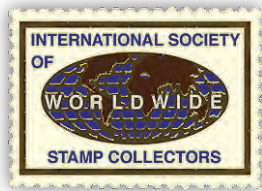


Stamps in Your Attic area at the AmeriStamp Expo 2015 show.

*"The postcard mailing and Stamp Buddy booth for beginning collectors also helped us sign up more than thirty new APS members."*

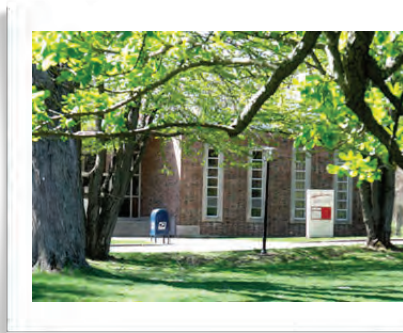
Century: Men, Machines and Modernization.” Presenters include Rodney Juell, “The Men Who Made the Stamps of the 1920s”; Edward Grabowski, “Philately and International Mail Order Fraud”; George S. Norton, “Technology in the Envelope: Use of Microfilm and Voice Recordings in the Mail During World War II”; and Roger S. Brody, “The Bureau Leaves the Field.”

The Spellman Museum’s galleries also will be open to the public. Admission to the symposium is free, but the museum asks that attendees register at [stamps.org/Spellman-Registration](http://stamps.org/Spellman-Registration).



**Youth Outreach**  
We also would like to thank the **International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors** (ISWSC) for its youth outreach.

During 2014 members sent out 1,519 packets of stamps to 232 individuals and 45 youth stamp clubs, schools, and boys/girls scout troops. The ISWSC is the only APS



Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History in Massachusetts.

affiliate I’m aware of that requests a donation of stamps — 250 worldwide commemorative stamps — as part of its member dues.

Donna Boggs, a teacher at the White Oak Academy in Leesville, South Carolina, was one of the beneficiaries of this generosity. She wrote, “I had a group of high school students in my French class roll their eyes at me when I asked if they had any interest in stamps. But once I brought out the stamps, their attitudes changed. They were fascinated and could not stop looking through them.” Student comments included:

“Ceylon? Is that a country?”

“Who are these people I never heard of on these U.S. stamps?”

“All Asian writing looks the same. How do you know which Asian country these stamps are from?”

Robert Cohen, a teacher at Francis Scott Key Elementary School in Philadelphia took advantage of the outreach efforts of both the APS and ISWSC. He wrote, “Thank you so much for the stamps. I used them with three classes of sixth graders yesterday. They used them

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in conjunction with lesson plans and worksheets from the APS. The students loved it. I believe that I actually recruited some new stamp collectors.”

### Adult Outreach

Although teachers today seem to have less flexibility in their curriculum, schools still offer a comparatively easy way to expose kids to postage stamps. Adults, however, especially those ages 50 and over, are better targets for building membership. Our Stamp Buddy Committee is creating presentations that members can give to retirement communities, historical groups, genealogical associations, etc.

We are willing to try to identify potential groups and make initial contacts, but we need volunteers to give the presentations. If you would be willing to help us out, please let us know by providing your name, contact information, and availability (weekdays, evenings, weekends, geographical area). Send an e-mail to me at [kpmartin@stamps.org](mailto:kpmartin@stamps.org) or call us at 814-933-3803.

### Show News and Volunteers

Congratulations to the **Seattle Philatelic Exhibition**, Seapex, which was recently approved by the APS board as a new national-level World Series of Philately stamp show. The first event as a WSP show will be September 11–13, 2015.

Speaking of shows, APS does not just need volunteers to help run its own winter and summer shows — we can use volunteers at most WSP shows. Our budget only allows us to send a staff representative to each WSP show every third year (although generous gifts by donors have allowed us to staff a few shows more frequently). We would welcome volunteers to staff an APS booth at other national shows. We also encourage WSP shows to have a Stamp Buddy booth to cater to beginning collectors, and we need volunteers to help with the staffing.

If you are not up to either of these, perhaps you could take photos and share them with us. We have begun posting more show photos on our Facebook page. We also seek photos from first-day ceremonies and other events. We’ve also expanded our boards on Pinterest. Check out [pinterest.com/source/stamps.org](http://pinterest.com/source/stamps.org) and like or repin favorite items.

### Jack Flannery

We recently learned of the passing of a former member of both our APS and APRL boards. Jack Flannery joined



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the APS in 1990 and attended about fifteen summer seminars, with the last being in 2013.

I spoke with him last year when I telephoned, concerned that he had not renewed his dues.

At that time he acknowledged he had health issues and would miss the Summer Seminar for the first time in many years, but he was hopeful that he could attend Volunteer Work Week or StampShow in Hartford.

Unfortunately, I don't believe he was able to make either of these events.

Jack was a director at large for the APS in 2003–2005

and served on the Library Board in 2007–2013, including serving as Treasurer for a portion of his Library term.

Like most of the hundreds of APS members listed in this special recognition issue of *The American Philatelist*, Jack loved stamp collecting and the APS.

Philately is a great hobby that benefits from the hard work and contributions of many selfless individuals.

Thank you all!



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