

# Minutes of the WFSC 2009 Annual Business Meeting

Sat. March 14, 2009, 1:00 p.m., Forest Hills Lodge, Rockford, IL.

Attendance: Nineteen people attended the meeting, including WFSC officers, committee members, seven club delegates and interested Wiscopex show attendees.

President Maurice Wozniak called the meeting to order and offered an invocation.

Roll Call: The roll call of the seven clubs represented was taken by acting secretary Judy Essig. A correction to fix a transcription error was made by Jim Byrne. His club name was corrected to read: Northwoods Philatelic Society, as listed in the monthly newsletter. President Maurice noted the attendance was down possibly due to the distance involved. Clubs must, however, make an attempt to attend these meetings.

Membership: Treasurer Chuck Green stated the membership is reduced from 2008 with a total paid membership of 706 (63 members and two clubs currently unpaid) giving us a total possible membership of 769. The membership last year at this time stood at 811. It was noted follow-ups have been sent to those individuals and clubs who remain unpaid.

2008 Minutes: The minutes from the 2008 Annual Meeting were unanimously approved as previously distributed following a motion by Jim Byrne seconded by Val Cook.

## Officer Reports

**President:** President Maurice Wozniak offered his perception of the state of the hobby as having a bright future. Although we moan about the graying of the hobby (the average age of a collector today remains at 67) we now have time for collecting when we can no longer play basketball. It is a hobby that requires us to use our mind, which is always good. He stated stamp collecting has traditionally thrived in periods of economic downturn. A million dollar U.S. stamp was sold recently. Hobbyists, in general however, are turning to on-line auctions looking for low-end to middle-range items. It was noted however, there are many individuals selling their collections. He asked are there fewer collectors? Perhaps, but there are fewer collectors in every popular field.

We must all make an effort to bring young people into the hobby and more clubs to the WFSC. It is time to expand. Volunteers, he noted, are people in positions who wish to share their enthusiasm of the hobby.

There has not been any interest in hosting subsequent Annual Meeting sites, and he would like to see a club come forward.

He offered two new projects:

A first day ceremony planned for the Mary Woodard Lasker definitive stamp on May 15th in Watertown, Wis.. There will be a display of Wisconsin stamps offered by Bob Mather.

The second concerns plans for an online stamp discussion group. The board is considering questions of liability with buying and selling on line before pursuing the discussion group.

**Vice-President:** Jim Stollenwerk stated he is willing to stand in for the president at any time. He is currently working on updating the Bluebook and the guidelines for committees and positions.

**Secretary:** Judy Essig has graciously accepted filing in the gap. Maurice officially appointed Judy as Secretary for the year - her position does not come up for vote until next year.

**Treasurer:** Chuck Green distributed copies of the balance sheet and the profit and loss statements for 2008. The year ended with no liabilities and assets of \$10,289.

The projected budget for 2009 was based on actual expenses for the previous year. It will have to be voted on at another date. The cost of the Across the Fence Post printing was reduced as we are requesting 450 copies rather than the current 500. The number of ATP issues does not match the membership as some members belong to more than one club and therefore take an issue from only one club. The monthly issue is available on line so some members are accessing that way. It was also noted the advertising income was reduced over the anticipated income. Apparently many publications are experiencing the same issue.

Copies of existing covers will be provided to Wayne

Youngblood to publish in *ATFP* and Steve Kluskins to offer for sale on the website.

A motion was made by Jim Byrne and Seconded by Jim Stollenwerk to accept the treasurer's report as noted. The vote was unanimous.

**Vice President - Youth:** MaryAnn Bowman was not present but provided the following report read by Maurice Wozniak: "2008 was a period of relative inactivity. I did write and receive two monetary grants to proceed with youth programs in the name of the WFSC. Specifically, I received monies to do another KIDSfest show at State Fair Park in Milwaukee. The free event will be held April 18th and 19th. In addition, I received grant monies to introduce the hobby to children that are hospitalized for extended periods of time. I am currently in the process of getting security clearance to work with those youth.

I continue to write youth columns for the APS Chapter Activity Newsletter and for the ATA's Topical Time.

I particularly want to thank those who continue to make donations to the youth program. Your support of youth philately is very much appreciated."

**Northeast Region VP:** Allan Marcus reported: The Green Bay Philatelic Society is doing well. The club puts on an annual "stamp camp" at the Green Bay Central Library. Mark Schroeder was instrumental in organizing the event and teaching the kids about stamps. He's been doing this for a number of years. Meetings are well attended. Many new members join after showing interest at a stamp show.

The Northwoods Philatelic Society of Iron Mountain, Mich., is an enthusiastic group. They have a membership of approximately 25-30 collectors. At least twenty or more members attend the monthly meetings. They also have an auction at every meeting along with a program.

The Outagamie Club of Appleton believes that stamp shows are the best way to interest the general public. Its annual show, Outapex, is always well attended. Dealers are surprised at the number of families who take part. Parents and teachers are becoming aware of the educational benefits of stamps.

**East Central VP: Vern Witt:** No Report. He was unable to attend due to health issues.

**Central Region VP:** Mike Lenard of Wausau Wisconsin Valley Stamp Club was recently appointed and reported: Bad weather and conflict of activities with stamp shows has hampered his plans to promote stamp collecting. His goals for 2009 are to promote collecting in his area.

**Southeast Region VP-1:** Art Schmitz reported: All clubs in his district have been visited at least once. Social and holiday events of the clubs have been enjoyed with clubs in and out of the immediate Milwaukee area.

Regrettably, the Belle City Club of Racine has ceased to exist and the Kenosha Stamp and Cover Club is also considering disbanding. Not one candidate showed up for the club's annual Boy Scout Merit Badge for stamp collecting training. The Polish-American Club is considering the possibility of terminating the organization by this time next

year. The North Shore Philatelic Society, although still functioning, is way down on member attendance. The good news is that the Northwestern Mutual Club is holding its own and ATA-Milwaukee Chapter 5, and the Wauwatosa Philatelic Society appear to be flourishing.

Art suggested the possibility of reshuffling some of the responsibilities in the Southeast region. It was noted it would take a change to the bylaws to reduce the number of vice presidents today which could not be acted on at this annual meeting. President Maurice agreed this might be a good idea to make things more equitable. It will be discussed at a later date.

**Southeast Region VP-2: Art Petri** - No report. He was unable to attend due to health issues.

**South Central Region VP: Art Gaffney reported:** The Waukesha County Philatelic Society attendance this year was in the range of 16 to 28 members, mostly in the mid 20s.

Four of the club members made the June 19-22, 2008 trip to APS Headquarters in Bellefonte, Pa. for the Mary Ann Owens Thematic Reference Collection Dedication.

**Southwest Region VP: Valerie Cook reported:** This year both the Rockford and Janesville Stamp Clubs participated in display frames at Chicagopex and received awards. Hats off to Gary Wentworth from the local Janesville Club for his efforts in putting it all together.

Maurice said Regional Vice Presidents are important to the WFSC as they provide the link from the clubs to the federation. They provide support to the hobby across the state. They are very appreciated by both the Federation and the individual clubs.

## Standing Committee Reports:

**Finance Committee:** Chuck Green stated there have been no meetings and he doesn't feel there have to be at this time. The Federation is "In the black. All is good." If any member has a question or there is a problem a meeting will be called.

**Publicity and Public Relations:** MaryAnn Bowman provided the following report read by Maurice.

"This past year I worked on a project to memorialize the late Mary Ann Owens, founder of the Waukesha County Philatelic Society and dear friend of Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs. I planned and organized a bus trip in June to Bellefonte, Pa. WFSC members attended the dedication ceremony for the Mary Ann Owens Thematic Reference section of the APRL.

The committee is currently looking for significant community events where we can promote the hobby by producing a cachet and cancel, provide displays and exhibits and work with area collectors as a service to the hobby. We seek your ideas for our participation."

**Karen Weigt provided the following report:** During the past year I sent several press releases touting our many exceptional Wisconsin Philatelists to: *Linn's Stamp News*, *Mekeel's and Stamp Magazine*, the *American Philatelist* and *Across the Fence Post*.

## Essig appointed WFSC Secretary

Judy Essig, of West Bend, Wis., has been appointed to fill a vacancy in the position of Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs secretary. Judy is a member of the Kettle Moraine Coin and Stamp Club (West Bend), where she serves as the club's secretary and newsletter editor. She collects red hats on stamps and has an exhibit titled *Chapeaux Rouge*. She's a retired employee of a financial institution and keeps busy with

many interests besides philately. These include gardening, quilting, knitting, reading and volunteering. She's the Washington County Home and Community organization's president and historian. We most heartily welcome Judy to the WFSC's official family and look forward to working with her!

We also thank Patricia Loehr, who held the position of WFSC secretary since 2006.



Judy Essig

I coordinated and staffed the WFSC society tables at last fall's Milxopex and today's Wiscopex. I also coordinated the WFSC Show Calendar and Registry and the annual show/bourse/club meeting information flier.

All in all the committee tries to keep the name of the WFSC visible throughout the country.

Maurice commented on the importance of listing the dates for upcoming local shows to prevent conflicts. The show dates should be coordinated through the committee.

**Judging Committee:** Roland Essig was recently appointed to chairman of the judging committee so there was no report. Karen Weigt requested an updated list of the Wisconsin Federation judges. Danpex is looking for judges to judge their show.

**Wisconsin Stamp Suggestion Committee:** Paul Schroeder was not present but provided the following report read by Maurice.

"I have received the files covering past committee activity. It is my plan to be active with this area this spring barring any health problems. I plan an article for our publication to bring members up to date."

**Committee on Exhibitions:** There was no report.

Maurice requested cooperation between the exhibitions and judging committees to encourage stamp exhibits. He will follow up on this.

**Bylaws Committee:** Karen Weigt provided the following report: "From time to time, I provided counsel with regard to various actions that might conflict with the WFSC bylaws. No formal action, however, was taken by the committee in the past year."

Special Committees / Projects and Other Appointees Reports

**Newsletter:** Wayne Youngblood - no report

Maurice stated he is doing a superb job.

**Advertising:** Dave Carney was not present but provided the following report read by Maurice Wozniak:

We have more advertisers than in the past years. He is running a year-long ad that will generate money for the WFSC if all customers just mention the advertisement. Two additional ads, (from Bob Voss and Roger Oswald), renewed for another year, and Wayne Youngblood is advertising. Anything the organization can do to promote buying from these advertisers would be appreciated.

**Editorial Advisory Council:** No Report

**Historian:** Verna Shackleton - Not present. No report

**Bluebook:** Jim Stollenwerk provided the following report: During the last year several efforts were started that continue to update the Bluebook stamp show guide. Maurice, MaryAnn and Jim worked on a proposal to the exhibition rules incorporating current trends.

During the January 2009 board meeting Greg Schmidt became a core member joining MaryAnn and Jim. The latest version of the Bluebook has been exchanged between the three of us which was a modified Word document.

Our intent is to have the Bluebook available to members on the WFSC website

**American Philatelic Society:** Chuck Green stated he has received requests for funds from several areas and would like the secretary to be the contact person. Maurice stated it will be determined at another time.

He stated the secretary's position had become a "central" until Karen Weigt moved on. Paul Schroeder took over some of the responsibilities at that time.

Karen Weigt indicated Larry Nix, a member of the Badger Stamp Club, has been nominated for American Philatelic Research Library Trustee and is extremely qualified for the library position.

**American Topical Association:** Bob Mather provided the following report: The WFSC is a member of the American Topical Association. The ATA has a new executive director as Ray Cartier has retired. The new director is Vera Felt of Illinois. Bob called her a "bright shining star" for the hobby.

He also noted APS has lost approximately 25% of their membership due to a substantial dues increase while ATA membership has remained relatively flat.

Some of the services available from ATA are: Checklists for your exhibits and CDs that are available as programs for your meetings.

Their annual convention will be held June 12, 13 and 14 in Dayton, Ohio. At this time the frames are filled and he has a full slate of dealers. The 2011 convention will be held in Milwaukee.

(The 2013 APS convention will also be in Milwaukee).

**Cover exchange Program:** MaryAnn Bowman reported:

Another successful cover exchange program was completed in 2008. Over 200 first day and commemorative covers were received from 15 participants. While the numbers were down, the quality was just as good. She expects to offer the program this fall in conjunction with National Stamp Collecting month.

**Wisconsin on Stamps:** No Report The position is currently open and will be a challenge for anyone interested.

**Awards Chairman:** No Report

**Webmaster:** Steve Kluskens was not present but offered a report read by Maurice.

The internet offers groups of fellow collectors someone to talk with and to learn more about stamps from. Clubs are encouraged to send updates to Steve to use in updating the Website. In 2008 page views to the WFSC website doubled from 30,000 to over 64,000. Steve's address is in the monthly newsletter. Individual clubs are requested to submit information to him.

**Speakers Bureau:** Karen Weigt reported: Unfortunately there haven't been any additions to the speaker listing in the past year. She offered a listing of the current speakers and encouraged others to share their knowledge with other clubs. She has forms available for anyone interested in joining.

**Old Business:** None

## New Business:

Bids were solicited by President Maurice Wozniak for hosting future conventions. The 2010 convention is scheduled for Oshkosh, Wis. There was no interest by any attending clubs in being the host site for future WISCOPEX event.

A motion was made by Jim Byrne to Designate WISCOPEX 2010 as a WFSC sponsored event and seconded by Bob Mather. It was unanimously approved.

Awards: Karen Weigt noted the hall of fame was instituted in 1976, and guidelines were written at that time. It was noted in the selection procedure that all nominations for Hall of Fame nominees must be sent to the secretary to be received by January 1st for selection at that year's convention. These guidelines have made it difficult for the current administration to deal with as the Federation has not had a permanent secretary. The committee has requested the nominations be mailed to the committee chairman instead. We would like to make this a permanent process.

Karen requested removing item #7 of the Selection Procedure which states: "This procedure may be amended by a vote of the majority of delegates at any meeting of the federation, or by a majority of all member clubs by a mail vote". Removing this clause would allow flexibility to the committee.

A motion to remove article #7 was made by Jim Byrne and seconded by Jim Stollenwerk. The vote was unanimous.

Hall of Fame - It was noted the members of this committee are: Art Schmitz, Verna Shackleton and Karen Weigt.

There are three members being considered for the 2009 Hall of Fame.

The first is President Maurice Wozniak who was excused from the meeting by vice president Jim Stollenwerk. Art Schmitz noted that Maurice's name was placed into nomination for the 2009 Hall of Fame by the Waukesha club. The members in attendance voted unanimously to accept him.

The second is Wallace Clelland whose name was placed into nomination by the Badger Stamp Club. The members in attendance voted unanimously to accept him.

The third is Claude Giralte whose name was placed posthumously into nomination by the Kettle Moraine Coin and Stamp Club. The members in attendance voted unanimously to accept him.

President Wozniak was welcomed back to the meeting.

## Election of Officers:

The Nominations Committee chairman is Allan Marcus. President Maurice Wozniak and Vice President Jim Stollenwerk were re-elected without opposition. The terms of Secretary and Treasurer will be open next year.

The office of South Central Region Vice President was vacated by Art Gaffney who chose instead to remain active on the Hall of Fame Committee.

All other officers were re-elected unanimously without opposition.

## Appointments:

Standing Committee on Exhibitions:

Allan Marcus was approved without opposition.

President Wozniak stated the board must work on the list of members.

Nominating Committee for 2010 Convention - No report

Hall of Fame Committee: A new committee was formed consisting of Verna Shackleton, Karen Weigt and Art Gaffney.

**Announcements:** None

## Closed Albums:

The following individuals were deceased in 2008:

Joe Ryan - Waukesha Philatelic Society

Dan Hammel - Jamesville Stamp Club

Anton Hencik - Waukesha Philatelic Society

Irene Breit-Kettle Moraine Coin and Stamp Club

Hilda Termack - Central Wisconsin Stamp Club

## Adjournment

A motion was made by Jim Byrne and seconded by Jim Stollenwerk to adjourn. The vote was unanimous.

*Respectfully Submitted - Judy Essig Acting Secretary.*

## Eastern Auctions announces club incentive program

Eastern Auctions of Bathurst, New Brunswick, Canada, is running a popular campaign aimed at fostering and encouraging local stamp clubs.

Initially, this program was limited to Stamp Clubs in Canada, but the firm is expanding it and including interested clubs in the United States. The purpose is twofold:

1) To introduce new customers to the regular Eastern Auctions mail sales.

2) To help local stamp clubs grow and prosper. How does the program work?

1) Stamp clubs enroll with Eastern Auctions, by providing the name and address of a member who is willing to act as club contact. Eastern will provide a Club ID number.

2) Stamp clubs provide the mailing address of any club member who would be a new Eastern Auctions mail sale bidder, and

who would like to begin receiving regular (usually every six weeks) free mail auction catalogs.

3) Stamp clubs will receive from Eastern Auctions a check for \$25.00 for each first-time successful bidder nominated by a stamp club.

Please NOTE: It is very important that bidders provide Eastern with their club's identification number. (Bids may be placed by email, regular mail or telephone.)

To get your club's unique identification number, please provide the information by email to Bill.Burden@easternauctions.com, or by regular mail to: Bill Burden, c/o Eastern Auctions, 130 Main St, Bathurst NB E2A 1A4 Canada.

For more information about the incentive program, or about Eastern auctions, please refer to the full-page advertisement that is found on Page 3.