

# ACROSS THE FENCE



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<http://www.WFSCstamps.org/>

## Newsletter of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs

American Philatelic Society Chapter #350, American Topical Association Chapter #107

### President's corner

#### We need help!

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

I have to be blunt: We need more volunteers.



It occurs to me that the need for sharing our talents is greater now than it was 75 years ago when the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs was formed by people who traveled the state and drummed up support for what was then a relatively new hobby.

Today we call stamp collecting the world's oldest hobby. Many say that it is a dying hobby – that its days are numbered – but I would argue that stamp collecting is as strong today as it was then.

Collecting specialties are more numerous than ever before, and varieties in any given issue challenge a host of collectors. Take the United States "Flag Over..." stamps, for instance. The avid specialist can build a whole satisfying collection with all the different die-cut and perforation differences, gum differences, dates, tagging and plate numbers, not to mention a parade of errors, freaks and oddities. You'll find as much challenge with some of today's common issues as the philatelist of decades ago found in the seemingly never-ending Washington-Franklin issues.

We have more specialty groups of collectors

than ever before, and each one has a bulletin or newsletter to communicate developments. Maybe we don't have as many general circulation publications as years ago, but we still have a handful, and we have many Internet sites with color images and interactive discussions.

I think we have more real collectors today than in the old days, when people who were accumulating stacks of new-issue stamps were called "collectors" instead of what they really were – "speculators."

What we're short of today is volunteers willing to share their love of this hobby with new collectors coming on board.

The lack of volunteers affects what the Federation can do. I've commented about this in this space before, but I wanted to bring to your attention some specific examples of how more volunteers would enable us to provide better service to the stamp-collecting community in Wisconsin.

It is with a degree of relief that I can report that Pat Loehr of Waukesha has stepped forward to answer our call to fill the shoes of Karen Weigt as WFSC secretary, and I have appointed her in an acting capacity, pending a board vote.

Will Pat hit the ground running and do everything that Karen used to do? No, she doesn't think so, and I think it would be unrealistic to think that she could do all that Karen did immediately. But she'll start to do typical secretarial



U.S. Scott No. 2039, Volunteerism Issue, 1983.

duties and – we hope – eventually make her own mark on the Federation.

Without a secretary for several months, frankly, we floundered. Because we had no one to complete paperwork and send out notices, I felt it necessary to cancel a scheduled fall

board meeting in Monroe. We have had to transfer some of the duties that the secretary used to do to other officers.

We are still not out of the woods. It may become necessary to split up the secretarial duties of the Federation. I think it's reasonable to say that without a functioning office the future of the WFSC is in question.

Another example: The Waukesha County Philatelic Society has stepped in with only six months to go to volunteer to plan and host WiscopeX '07, which typically would require a year or more of planning. The show will be held May 5 at Hamilton High School in Sussex. That's a one-day show, but planning so far indicates that it will offer a lot of excitement.

Without the club members stepping up to

President's Corner continued on Page 3

#### Inside this issue:

- 1...President's Corner
- 2...Clubs are Trump
- 3...WiscopeX 2007 plans
- 4...Joining With Juniors



# The Party Continues

## WISCOPEX '07

### May 5, 2007

## Clubs are Trump

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

When the **Badger Stamp Club** of Madison solicited dues renewals for 2006, it requested four pieces of data from members (age, years in the club, attendance at the club show, Danepex, and APS membership). Of the 101 club members, 73 returned data that was complete enough for analysis.

President Charles Shoemaker reported in a club newsletter the results of the survey and a brief analysis. Other clubs may find the following information, liberally borrowed from that report, interesting, if not instructive.

**Age of club members:** Among the responders, one member was under age 40, six in the age range 40-49, 14 between the ages of 50-59, 21 between 60-69, 17 ages 70-79, 13 between the ages of 80-89, and one member age 91.

If you were to graph those numbers, you would have a nice, narrow, bell-shaped curve. The mean (arithmetic average) age and the median (half-above and half-below) age are each 67, confirming the normal distribution of the data points.

**Years in the club:** The mean number of years of membership in the club is 11, but that number is skewed by several very long memberships, with the maximum at 54 years! So, the median value is lower (eight years), and 28 members (about one-third) have been in the club fewer than five years; those 28 recent members have average ages of 65, similar to the club overall. The 11 members who have been with BSC only two years or less average 72 years of age.

**Danepex attendance:** Forty-eight of the 73

responders regularly attend Danepex. They average 66 years of age, and have been in the club, on average, 13 years. The ones who do not regularly attend the show are of similar age, but are newer members with their tenure as members averaging eight years.

**APS membership:** A little over half (39) of the membership belongs to the American Philatelic Society. These members tend to be a little younger (63), more recent club members (10 years), and attend Danepex more often than those who are not APS members (age 70, club member 13 years).

### Interpreting the data

One has to be cautious in analyzing data that is not complete, Shoemaker said. But assuming that the non-responders are similar to the majority who did, a few observations can be made about the club.

The first is that stamp collecting appears to promote a long, healthy life. Consider that when the average BSC member was born in 1940, the average life expectancy was 62. Now (66 years later), that same person can expect to live another 18 years, to age 83! (Perhaps there's something in the gum we lick off hinges, Shoemaker suggested.)

Of perhaps more practical relevance is the data on years of membership in the club, he said, suggesting that many stamp clubs statewide and nationwide would envy both the size and the growth rate of the Madison club.

In part this reflects the proactive work undertaken by John Pare and others in personally contacting members and encouraging their con-

tinued participation in the club, Shoemaker said. Secondly, it would seem to validate the meeting programs "business model" of alternating lectures with numerous large auctions that members value.

Of particular note, about one-third of Badger Stamp Club members have joined within the past five years. Perhaps this is a result of the club's success in hosting its annual show, Danepex, where local collectors find out about the club.

It's especially worth noting that the 28 members who joined in the past five years are of average age 65 – similar to those already in the club. Growth has come not from new, young collectors, but from accreting others just like us who have been lurking in the community, Shoemaker said.

"If I were to advise the APS on a recruitment strategy, I would suggest to them that they place full-page ads in the AARP publications stating in large font, 'Come back to stamp collecting!'" he wrote. "That is not a strategy that would result in long-term, decades-long success, but it certainly has worked for our club in the short term, allowing us to build that critical mass of collectors that makes meetings, shows and auctions so successful."

Shoemaker closed with a call to continue what has been working so well, advice that would lead to success for any club.

While the numbers may be worthy of envy, he said, "we need everyone to be on the constant lookout for new members. If you know someone who collects but doesn't belong to our club or, perhaps, someone who collected years  
**Clubs are Trump continued on Page 3**

## Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs officers

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Wisc. Postal Hist. Soc.

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Kettle Moraine Coin & Stamp Club  
Manitowoc Phil. Soc.  
Oshkosh Phil. Soc.  
Sheboygan Stamp Club

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North Shore Phil. Soc. (Milw.)  
Northwestern Mutual Stamp Club  
Polish American Stamp Club  
Wauwatosa Phil. Soc.

### Art Petri

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(Chap. 18)  
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Wisconsin Valley Phil. Soc.

**Across the Fence Post** is the official publication of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs, Inc., a 501c3 non-profit organization. WFSC also is a life member of the APS (since 1953). For more information about WFSC, please contact the Central Office.

AFTP is published monthly September through April, and every other month May through August (10 issues per year). News of Wisconsin collectors, club news and gratis original philatelic features are welcomed. The editor accepts submissions in any format, but prefers email if possible. Editor reserves the right to make editorial changes to submitted copy.

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Submission deadlines for editorial and advertising materials are for the 1st of the month preceding month of publication (i.e. Jan. 1 for Feb. issue).

All show calendar information, along with all other editorial matter and listings, should be sent to: Wayne L. Youngblood, Editor AFTP, P.O. Box 111, Scandinavia WI 54977-0111. (youngblood@tds.net) phone: 715-467-4416.

Advertising material and payment should be sent to Dave Carney, Advertising Manager, AFTP, P.O. Box 55, Kimberly, WI 54136-0055. (dcarney@new.rr.com) phone: 920-687-9077. For a complete list of advertising rates and policies (display, classified and listings), request a copy from the advertising manager.



# Coming Attractions – Wiscopex 2007: Change is in the Air

By MaryAnn Bowman

The Waukesha County Philatelic Society will play host to Wiscopex 2007. Reserve the date of Saturday, May 5th for a continuation of the 75th anniversary celebration of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs. The event will take place at Hamilton High School in Sussex, Waukesha County. It is an event that you won't want to miss!

There are many changes planned. If you have attended previous Federation annual conventions and exhibitions, this one will be unlike any that you have attended. Perhaps the first change that you will note is that the show will be a one-day show; and plans are to squeeze as much as possible into those hours. The show will open at 9:30 a.m. The Wisconsin Postal History Society will meet at 9 a.m. Other plans include a small WFSC auction with the featured item being a Harley Davidson leather jacket. Ellis Bromberg will serve as auctioneer. You may recall reading about his role at the Milcopex/WFSC celebration luncheon – he was the hit of the day!

Exhibits, which are a traditional part of the WFSC annual convention, are again being solicited. However, we have added some new exhibiting avenues to allow EVERY Federation member an opportunity to share his or her philatelic collecting interests.

One-page (that's right, just one page!) exhibits that fit the "It's 1932 Again" theme is one of the new categories. The late Mary Ann Owens was instrumental in working with Federation members to develop and refine this new and one-time only exhibiting category. Specifically, this exhibiting category is to tell the story of the year 1932, the year of the founding of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs, through stamps, covers and other philatelic material. There are many options open to the collector. Showing material from a specific country or continent is one possibility. Any 1932 material that fits into your collecting interests, whether postal history, postal stationery, air mail, Christmas seals or others, would also make an interesting exhibit. For those who are topical and thematic oriented, choose a "happening" from 1932 and develop a one-page exhibit around that idea. For example, 1932 was an Olympic year. Or perhaps a birth

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Clubs are Trump, from page 2

ago and with a little encouragement might take up our hobby again, invite them to a club meeting.

"Knowing that it might be intimidating to walk into a room full of strangers, act as their host for the afternoon so they feel comfortable. Introduce them around so we can let them know that we would value their membership. Our club would be indebted to you for your efforts."

*Information for "Clubs Are Trump" is gathered from club newsletters. Please send newsletters to Maurice D. Wozniak, 1010 Berlin St., Waupaca WI 54981.*

or death of some famous person occurred in 1932 and a one-page exhibit could be developed. The possibilities are endless!

The idea of the one-page exhibit is to involve more Federation members in the annual convention and to provide an opportunity to experience the joys of exhibiting. Be creative! Have fun!

Each entry will consist of one 8 1/2- by 11-inch vertical page, which must be in a sheet protector. There will be a small entry fee to cover frame expenses. This fee is 75c, plus 25c for the WFSC celebration fund for a total of \$1 per page. All exhibitors will receive a gift valued at more than the entry fee.

Collecting picture postcards is another popular collecting area of philatelists. The American Philatelic Society has been developing criteria for judging picture postcards and has included them as a category for APS-Ameristamp Expo 2007 show. The Waukesha County Philatelic Society sees this as a possible way to involve more people in our hobby and will offer this as an exhibiting category. The details are being worked out and – at this point – it is undecided whether these exhibits are just for display or whether they will be judged. Watch for further details.

Do you have another hobby or interest of which you also happen to have a collection of stamps and/or covers that relate to it? If so, you are just the person we are looking for! At this year's Federation show, tables will be set up for collectors to show their non-philatelic hobby with additional support from their philatelic holdings. For example, rock and mineral specimens can be accompanied by a small display of philatelic items that show these items. A collector of model railroads might bring along various cars from their train sets and display along with examples of stamps and covers from their collection of "philatelic" trains. A collector of owl miniatures, the person who builds ships in

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President's Corner, from page 1

volunteer, we would have been in the embarrassing position of not having a state show in this 75th year of our existence. We'd have been celebrating a milestone on one hand and cringing in dismay on the other.

We continue to search for volunteers to serve on the Wisconsin Stamp Suggestion Committee. This committee of one or more people should look ahead several years to suggest Wisconsin (or neighboring states) subjects for the USPS stamp program and also develop promotional opportunities for stamps when they are announced.

We are all interested in Wisconsin-related stamps. We need someone to volunteer to harness that interest for the enjoyment of fellow collectors.

Finally, Wayne Youngblood's job situation may require us to replace him as editor of *Across the Fence Post*. Trying to earn a living

a bottle, the bug and insect collector, – anyone who has a collection that is supported by similar philatelic material is being asked to share his or her interests to show the public how the two hobbies can go hand-in hand.

This three-dimensional exhibiting idea requires no entry fee – just a two-hour time commitment on your part to sit at the table with your exhibit and share it with show visitors.

Youth will also have an opportunity to explore a new type of exhibit. See the "Joining with Juniors" column for further details.

There will also be "new faces" in the dealer area. In addition to those who make a living from being stamp dealers, it is recognized that our state has many club members who are "vest-pocket" dealers. They are being offered the opportunity to sell their materials. These dealers can set up for either the 9:30-12:30 time slot, or the 1:30-5:00 p.m. time slot. The cost to these part-time dealers will be \$20.

Even the traditional banquet will take on a new life. At the close of the show at 5 p.m., all federation members and their guests will be invited to the school's theater for entertainment and the awards ceremony (allowing the show committee to remove the exhibits from the frames, and for the dealers to pack up their materials). At approximately 6 p.m., a social hour gathering with pizza will follow. Those attending will receive a souvenir 75th anniversary WFSC mug. In keeping with the 75th anniversary theme, we expect to offer this all-you-can eat pizza buffet for \$7.50.

As you can see, there is a lot packed into this one-day event. Many new innovations have been added to help rejuvenate our hobby and create a new excitement about stamp collecting. Can you give one day of your time to support our hobby by attending the show and/or providing an exhibit?

For further details, contact MaryAnn Bowman, P.O. Box 1451, Waukesha, WI 53187.

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as a free-lance writer and editor may prove too challenging to allow him the luxury of a volunteer job in a field he loves. So he has asked that we look for a successor.

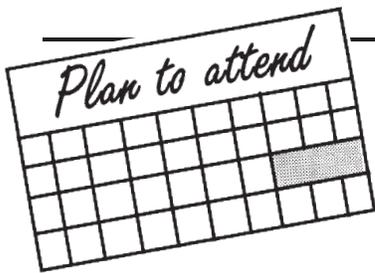
The importance of reaching out was brought home to me in a homily delivered by the pastor of my church.

After a detailed tour of the building for a group of children, he said, a priest asked them what they thought was the most important part of the church.

"The Exit sign," one girl replied. Surprised, the priest asked why she thought that.

"Because," she said, "you told us what we learn here we have to take outside the building and share it."

We stamp collectors must share the fun of our hobby also. Spreading the word makes philately more enjoyable in the long run. But if we remain selfish and don't volunteer, we all suffer.



## Show Calendar and Registry

List your show, bourse, auction or other event here!

Calendar listings are free for one WFSC member-club event per year. Classified advertising rates apply for all non-members and other events appearing in this section.

## 2007 WFSC show schedule\*

\*Some dates and details may be subject to change, and there will likely be additional listings.

### Feb. 11, 2007

**Annual Exhibition and Bourse  
Janesville Stamp Club**  
Holiday Inn Express  
3100 Wellington Place, Janesville, WI  
**Contact:** Gary Wentworth  
(608-756-1380) wnstamps@aol.com

### Feb. 18, 2007

**CENWISPEX '07  
Central Wisconsin Stamp Club**  
JADECO Stamp and Hobby,  
North Point Mall, 200 Division St.,  
Stevens Point, Wis.  
**Contact:** J.D. Manville, Box 845,  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
(715-341-5555) jadeco@charter.net

### March 10-11, 2007

**ROCKFORD '07  
Rockford Stamp Club**  
Forest Hills Lodge  
9500 Forest Hills Road, Rockford, IL  
**Contact:** Tim Wait, 1718 Northrock Ct.,  
Rockford, IL 61103 (815-670-5869)  
t.wait@insightBB.com

### March 17, 2007

**BAYPEX '07  
Green Bay Philatelic Society**  
Ramada Plaza Hotel, 2750 Ramada  
Way, Green Bay, WI.  
**Contact:** Gordy Lindner, 1002 Amberly  
Trail, Green Bay, WI 54311  
(920) 465-6692

### March 31, 2007

**OUTAPEX '07  
Outagamie Philatelic Society**  
Columbus Club, 2531 N. Richmond St.,  
Appleton, **10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**  
**Contact:** Al Marcus, Box 11, Appleton,  
WI 54912 (maram@tds.net)  
(920-725-0798)

### April 21, 2007

**DANEPEX '07  
Badger Stamp Club**  
Turners Hall, 3001 So. Stouten Road,  
Madison, WI  
**Contact:** John Pare, 405 Perimeter Rd.  
Mt. Horeb, WI 53572  
(608-437-5124)  
pare16@charter.net

### May 12, 2007

**Sheboygan Stamp and Coin Show  
Sheboygan Stamp Club**  
Municipal Building, 375 Buffalo St.,  
Sheboygan Falls, WI  
**Contact:** Barbara Stohl, Box 907,  
Sheboygan, WI 53082 (920-458-4883)

### June 16, 2007

**26th Annual Show and Bourse  
Northwoods Stamp and Coin Club**  
James Williams Middle School  
915, Acacia Lane, Rhinelander, WI  
**Contact:** Larry Marten, 3295 Hancock  
Lake Rd., Harshaw, WI 54529  
(715-282-5636) lfmarten@yahoo.com or  
Bill Julian (715-277-2692)

### June 23-24, 2007

**TRI-PEX Stamp Fair  
ATA Chapter 5 and North Shore  
Philatelic Society**  
St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall  
1435 So. 92nd St., West Allis, WI  
**Contact:** Robert Henak, NSPS, Box  
170832, Milwaukee, WI (414-351-1519)  
henak@execpc.com,  
www.MilwaukeePhilatelic.org

**Support Philately  
& WFSC members  
Use stamps  
Whenever possible!**

### James S. Ryan, 1925-2006

James S. Ryan passed away Nov. 27, 2006. He was an active member of the Oshkosh Philatelic Society for the past 20 years, joining after his retirement from a teaching career. Jim had an ency-

clopedic knowledge of U.S. stamps, winning many OPS quizzes. He enjoyed travel, usually taking one or two tours per year, and would then prepare an OPS program based on his travels.

## New exhibiting category offered for juniors at Wiscopex 2007

### Joining with Juniors

By MaryAnn Bowman

Change is in the air for youth collectors and exhibiting at Wiscopex 2007. The traditional frame exhibits are still being sought. In addition, a new exhibiting format will be offered on an experimental basis to Wisconsin youth.

The first-ever Wisconsin Federation 3-D creative exhibit competition for youth, ages 16 and under will be offered at the show. Adapted from ideas used at Stamp Camp USA in Milwaukee this past summer, the idea is for youth to create a three-dimensional piece of art and use appropriate philatelic material to represent a unified theme or idea.

This might be best understood by giving some examples or ideas of possible exhibiting formats. A 3-D cardboard birdhouse might be constructed and various kinds of bird stamps perched on or near the birdhouse. Flower stamps might be displayed in a garden. A shoebox turned into a room of an art museum with stamp paintings on the wall. Given a large mixture of stamps and a variety of art/craft materials, kids can usually come up

with ideas and a theme.

The rules are few and simple. Each exhibit must have a title. The exhibit must feature at least five or more different postage stamps or other philatelic material. A short descriptive paragraph of 25 words or fewer should accompany the display. Stamps must be mounted using appropriate protective mounts to prevent damage. Stamps and covers featured in the exhibit must directly reflect the overall exhibit theme or topic. The 3-D exhibit will be allotted table space no larger than 12 by 18 inches.

Exhibits may be brought directly to the show and must arrive before 10 a.m. If mailed, the exhibit must be constructed in such a way to withstand normal shipping and handling and any necessary set-up instructions should be included. Appropriate return postage and mailing container must also be provided for mail-in exhibits.

There is no entry fee and a form will be available soon as well as on the Federation Web site. Further information can be obtained by writing MaryAnn Bowman, P.O. Box 1451, Waukesha, WI 53187.

This would be a great activity for Federation

clubs to sponsor as an introduction to the hobby. Consider this hands-on activity for Scouts, 4-H, YMCA, home school groups, etc. Many are looking for program ideas and will jump at the opportunity to have you come. This would not take a large time commitment from any individual or club. Find a school, library, or some public building that would let you use their facility. Gather a large assortment of stamps and a variety of art and craft materials. Explain the project. Most youth can complete this project in one to two hours. To aid in the construction of their artwork, provide two-sided tape and/or a glue gun. An adult should handle the glue gun to prevent burned fingers.

This would also make a great introductory exhibiting activity if you have children, grandchildren or nieces and nephews as a way to successfully allow them to have fun and create an exhibit of their own. Think of how proud they would be to see their exhibit and to have their name announced at the Awards program.

This is an example of "phun" and philately for kids at its best. It can lead to a transition of more traditional page/frame exhibiting. What child can you encourage to try 3-D exhibiting?