

MINUTES OF THE 79th Annual Business Meeting of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs, Saturday April 10, 2010, 1:00 p.m., Valley Christian School Oshkosh, Wis.

Attendance: Attendees included WFSC officers, committee members, nine 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 clubs was taken by Vice President Jim Stollenwerk in the secretary's absence.

Membership: Paul Schroeder offered the following report in Chuck Green's absence. The membership total for 2010 is 769. We have a roster of 27 clubs with three reports pending. The current membership rate is \$1.50 per adult member with a club minimum of \$15 and a maximum of \$300. Member-at-large rate is \$10 annually.

2009 Minutes: Minutes from the 2009 Annual meeting, as printed in Across the Fence Post were unanimously approved.

Officers Reports

President: Maurice Wozniak noted that times are changing, and many historically popular pastimes, such as professional baseball, have had periods of relative decline. Currently, the USPS and APS are looking at long-range plans to survive downturns. Membership in APS has dropped from a high of 57,749 in 1993 to 38,000 today. Popularity affects our hobby only peripherally. If our interest is in finding and collecting stamps, covers, or other things philatelic, we can do it whether there are an average of 1,000 other stamp collectors per state or just 265 per state. Individual enjoyment of stamp collecting does not have to change – and as we learn more and take advantage of the wealth of education available to us it can be even more enjoyable.

Vice-President: Jim Stollenwerk reported that he stood ready to step in when needed.

Secretary – Judy Essig was not present.

Treasurer: In Chuck Green's absence, copies of the balance sheet and the profit and loss statements for 2009 were distributed by Paul Schroeder. They showed assets and liabilities of \$9,986.23 for the year 2009 and a loss of \$243.57 on income of \$2,270.77.

[It was learned after the close of Wiscopex 2010 that Chuck Green, who had been ill for some time, had died April 9 after passing relevant financial material to Paul Schroeder for presentation.]

Vice President – Youth: MaryAnn Bowman reported extensive activity.

Last April, she represented the Federation at Milwaukee's two-day KIDFEST. Youth were introduced to the hobby with displays and give-away philatelic material. I presented one program at the event.

In May she prepared more than 70 stamp collecting goodie bags for children at the Mary Lasker First Day event in Watertown.

This past fall she organized and arranged for the visit of Alex Haimann, a collections specialist from the National Postal Museum. He attended 21 classes in five Waukesha schools. Each presentation was geared toward the curriculum the students were studying. I accompanied him on all of the visits.

During October's National Stamp Collecting Month celebration, the WFSC was involved in a special stamp collecting promotion at the Appleton Children's Museum. Several WFSC members helped out. The museum's target audience, however, was a little too young to appreciate the hobby.

She writes about youth and stamp collecting for the APS and ATA. She has been instrumental in bringing about changes for the betterment of youth and philately. "Stepping stone" exhibits of four and eight pages are being experimented with on a national level.

Most recently, the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum has appointed her to their New Initiatives committee where she will be heading up an aggressive youth program that she wrote and presented to the committee last year.

She thanked the Federation members who donated philatelic material to her over the past year, saying their support of youth philately is appreciated.

Northeast Region VP: Allan Marcus reported the Green Bay Philatelic Society is doing well. Meetings are well attended, and new members have joined after showing interest at their annual stamp show, Baypex.

The Northwoods Philatelic Society of Iron Mountain, Mich., is an enthusiastic group of approximately 25-30 avid collectors. At least 20 members attend monthly meetings at which an auction at every meeting encourages attendance.

The Outagamie Club, of Appleton, holds a small auction at each meeting and sponsors an annual show. They believe stamp shows are the best way to interest the general public. The shows are always well attended and draw collectors from surrounding areas. Parents bring their kids, and teachers are becoming aware of the educational benefits of collecting in areas of geography, history and famous people."

East Central VP: Vern Witt said he had visited four clubs in his area and presented all pertinent information from WFSC to members present and had received no requests, complaints or messages to be presented to the annual meeting.

Central Region VP: Mike Lenard said he had made no personal visits to any of the Central Region clubs in 2009 although telephone contacts were made with each club.

The Northwoods Club of Rhinelander disbanded in 2009 but will have a stamp/coin show in 2010.

The Minocqua Stamp Club (approximately 20 members) will be encouraged to join the WFSC in the near future.

The remaining clubs in his region are all active with various programs. Most memberships have remained constant or increased slightly.

Southeast Region VP-1: Art Schmitz reported it has been an interesting and eventful period for the clubs of the southeast region, which had been represented by three vice presidents. After the death of one regional vice president and resignation of another, Schmitz added those clubs to his duties and visited all the clubs.

The North Shore club is trying a luncheon at a nice restaurant as a meeting place.

It was a thrill to see a large turnout at the Waukesha club meeting. An interesting gambit developed by Paul Zientak of the Northwestern Mutual Club is a philatelic quiz based on U.S. stamps with only a small segment of the stamp showing.

ATA Chapter 5 of Wauwatosa, Milwaukee and Waukesha clubs all seem to be doing well. However, although the Milwaukee Club has 130 members, there was a little more than 10% represented the evening he visited, and this seems to be true of most of our clubs, he said. It may be an idea to work up a log of the total membership of each club and the number of attendees at each meeting with an eye to finding ways to increase actual attendance, he suggested.

Southeast Region VP-2 – Temporarily Vacant

South Central Region VP: Temporarily Vacant

Southwest Region VP: Valerie Cook, in a submitted report, said that her Janesville club had a successful show, but attendance has been going down. The club has been viewing stamp info from A.P.S. thanks to Gary Wentworth, which has added greatly to meetings, she said.

The Rockford (Ill.) Stamp Club dropped out of the Federation. She has talked to the Badger Stamp Club and Monroe Stamp and Postcard Club, however, and both are doing fine.

Standing Committee Reports:
Finance Committee: No report.

Publicity and Public Relations: MaryAnn Bowman noted that the Mary Lasker First-Day event in Watertown was an opportunity for the Federation to showcase the hobby in a positive light in a small community. President Wozniak and MaryAnn planned and implemented the event. On the day of the event Bob Mather and Karen Weigt displayed exhibits of Wisconsin on stamps. Karen and her daughter Kiley designed the cachet cover. It was a very successful event.

As noted previously, MaryAnn arranged for Alex Haimann, the collections specialist from the National Postal Museum to talk at five Waukesha-area schools and accompanied him during his three-day trip. He was extremely well received.

The WFSC is looking forward to two important events in Wisconsin. In 2011, the National Topical Stamp Show will be held in Brookfield. In 2013, the APS Stampshow will be returning to Milwaukee after an absence of 16 years. Each of these shows will require Federation volunteers at the society table.

This summer the WFSC is sponsoring a bus trip to Americover in Oak Brook, IL on Saturday Aug. 7. Americover is the national exhibition and convention of the American First Day Cover Society. It offers a full bourse of dealers, many who do not usually attend Wisconsin shows. The bus will leave the Watertown Plank Road park and ride lot at 8:30 am and leave Illinois at 4 pm. The trip requires a minimum of 25 adults at \$30 each. Children's fare is \$10. This is not a money-making event but a service to Federation members. Rebates will be given if money collected exceeds the cost of the bus rental.

As always, your committee is looking for new ideas to promote the hobby.

Karen Weigt reiterated the information on the Mary Lasker event.

My biggest responsibility is to produce the annual show/bourse/club meeting information flier. Although it is distributed annually with the September issue of ATFP, it is continually updated throughout the year. The updates appear on the web site. Please be sure to let me know if your club changes its meeting place or time. I also need to know the date and location of your shows for coordinating the WFSC show calendar, the purpose of which is for publicity, and to avoid conflicting dates.

As usual, I coordinated and staffed WFSC society tables at last fall's Milcopex and today's Wiscopex. I produced the stamp wallets (stock cards) we were giving out at the show. They serve to keep the WFSC name up front and create goodwill among our membership.

Last summer, I somewhat grudgingly got an old job back -- something I used to do as WFSC secretary. That is, handle ordering name badges for our WFSC officers. In reality, though, it does fall into the realm of publicity and public relations. Our members can identify the WFSC officers, officers can take pride in their positions, and the name of the Federation is out there on their jackets.

As done in years past, immediately after Wiscopex 2010, I will prepare and send several press releases announcing actions taken at the event.

Judging Committee: Roland Essig said he mailed a questionnaire to all judges to update information. Several indicated they had not judged in a long time, which means we will have to do some retraining. I have also sent e-mails to those clubs hosting shows offering to assist with the assignment of judges for the shows but have not received responses. Based on the number of judges it would be ideal to have each of them judge at least once a year. This may create a financial burden on the clubs as they may need three judges at a show. The Federation may want to consider assisting the clubs.

Retraining of judges will require bringing them up to speed on the new categories and classifications as well as the rule changes. By following the APS judging manual an exhibitor will be prepared to exhibit beyond the state shows.

At present there are no apprentice judges, although one individual expressed interest.

Wisconsin Stamp Suggestion Committee: Paul Schroeder reported he had not been as active as planned. He said he hoped to send an article to the ATFP listing names and asking for suggestions. He pointed out that the USPS works at least three years in advance when developing its stamp issue program.

He offered these thoughts:

The pending issue is the Wisconsin flag – coil series set of six -- with a 2012 issue date.

Subject and Individuals Suggestions:

Chief Justice William Rehnquist, who died in 2005, was born and spent his early years in Wisconsin with later years in Arizona and Washington, D.C.

Pianist Walter Liberace

Gov. Robert M. LaFollette Sr.

Environmentalist Aldo Leopold

Hollywood People: Don Ameche, Orson Wells, Spencer Tracy, Pat O'Brien, Frederick March.

Wisconsin People: Rev. Claude Alouez, Helen Farnsworth Mears and Chief Oshkosh.

Committee on Exhibitions: No report.

Bylaws Committee: Karen Weigt noted that the Bylaws and Standing Rules are now posted on the WFSC web site. Other than handling the transmission of these documents to Steve Kluskens, our Webmaster, there was no other action taken by the committee.

Special Committees / Projects and Other Appointees Reports

Newsletter: No report

Advertising: No report

Editorial Advisory Council: MaryAnn Bowman noted that, in an attempt to tailor the content of the ATFP to meet the philatelic interests of the WFSC membership, a survey was developed and input was being sought at the show. She said there was some concern that the printing bills need to be offset by more advertising, but generating advertising won't happen without more input from readers.

Based on the results of the survey, the Council will attempt to solicit writers and articles to meet the philatelic interests of members.

Historian: Verna Shackleton brought the WFSC album to Wiscopes for visitors to see.

BLUEBOOK: Jim Stollenwerk reported on a continuing project to update the Bluebook, a guide to producing a stamp show, and make it available on the WFSC web site.

American Philatelic Society: No report.

American Topical Association: Bob Mather summarized forthcoming ATA shows, notably the 2011 show in Wisconsin.

Cover exchange Program: MaryAnn Bowman said the 2009 cover exchange was successful. Twenty individuals or groups submitted 180 commemorative covers and 170 first-day covers, which were exchanged at the rate of participants sending in 10 all alike and receiving eight different. The promotion is held during October, National Stamp Collecting Month.

Wisconsin on Stamps: No Report

Awards Chairman: No Report

Webmaster: Steve Kluskens

Website traffic was down 7% in 2009 from the previous year, the first time I've ever seen a drop for any website. The internet has matured into mainstream economy, so it will be subject to its ups and downs. Nonetheless, pages on the website were viewed over 60,000 times in 2009. The most significant news of the year is the site's rise to No. 4 on Google searches for stamp clubs -- Google being the dominant way people find things online. The site comes in No. 1 on searches for Wisconsin stamp dealers. These high rankings result from frequently updating the site with current information, such as schedules, events and club news.

Speakers Bureau: Karen Weigt reported two programs have been added to the listing, both from Badger Stamp Club members. Mike Lybarger's "Confessions of a Stamp Soaker" is a humorous presentation of his experiences as a part-time mail order dealer. A new name on the list is that of Joe Lutz, who gives a program on Barcelona Local Tax Stamps. Karen asked that others consider sharing their philatelic knowledge with fellow collectors.

She offered copies of the updated list to delegates for their clubs.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Awards:

Hall of Fame: Verna Shackleton observed that the nominating procedure for a candidate is posted on the WFSC website.

She noted that the Wisconsin Hall of Fame album has been upgraded to modern archival format and materials by Karen Weigt who also digitalized it.

The Hall of Fame committee offered one candidate for the Class of 2010. The Oshkosh Philatelic Society nominated the Rev. Augustine Serafini of Oshkosh and it was seconded by the Outagamie Philatelic Society and ATA Chapter 5. His printed biography was distributed to all the delegates at the meeting to save reading time. The nomination was unanimously accepted by the delegates.

[Fr. Serafini was presented with a certificate by President Maurice Wozniak, signifying his honor at a party following Wiscopex 2010.]

Dealer Recognition: Maurice Wozniak announced the selection by the WFSC board of Phil McCormick of Neenah the Dealer Recognition award.

[He also was presented with a certificate at the party after Wiscopex 2010.]

Election of Officers: The Nominations Committee chairman, Paul Schroeder, offered a slate of candidates for officer positions, including incumbents secretary, Judy Essig; vice president, youth division MaryAnn Bowman; and regional vice presidents Mike Lenard (Central), Allan Marcus (Northeast), Valerie Cook (Southwest), Vern Witt (East Central), and Arthur Schmitz (Southeast); and a new candidate for treasurer, Allen Vick. The slate was unanimously elected.

Appointments:

Standing Committee on Exhibitions: Allan Marcus reappointed.

Nominating Committee for 2011 Convention: Paul Schroeder, Allan Marcus and Brian Leidtke reappointed in accordance with WFSC bylaws.

Hall of Fame Committee: Darren Mueller appointed member, joining Karen Weigt, chairman, and Art Gaffney.

Newsletter Editor: Wayne Youngblood reappointed.

Announcements: None

Closed Albums:

The following individuals who died during 2009 were remembered after being mentioned by club delegates:

Art Petri – ATA Chapter 5, Milwaukee Philatelic Society

Cy Volk – Milwaukee Philatelic Society

Guenther Heller – Milwaukee Philatelic Society

Mary Einwick – Waukesha County Philatelic Society

Pat Brookman – Central Wisconsin Stamp Club

A Motion of Thanks: Jim Stollenwerk offered a resolution to thank the Wiscopex 2010 host club, the Oshkosh Philatelic Society, and delegates passed the resolution by acclamation.

Adjournment

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

Minutes amended by President Maurice in absence of Secretary.