

WE EXPRESSIONS

(WOMEN EXHIBITORS)

2008: Vol. 2-3

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: *To provide a vehicle through which women exhibitors can encourage each other through sharing information, ideas, experience, advice, problems, and solutions.*

Next Meeting: *STAMPSHOW*, Aug. 14-17, 2008, Hartford, Conn.

Next Workshop: *STAMPSHOW*, Aug. 14-17, 2008, Hartford, Conn.

Satellite Mtgs: *SOPEX*, April 5-6, 2008, Central Point, OR, Nancy Swan.

RMSS, Sat., May 17, 1 pm, Denver, CO, Dalene Thomas & Liz Hisey.

PIPEX, May 31, 2008, Seattle, WA, 12 noon, Ruth Caswell.

NAPEX, June 6-8, 2008; Tyson's Corner, VA; Sunday, June 8, 12 noon (bring lunch if you wish), Liz Hisey & Pat Stilwell-Walker.

NTSS, June 13-15, 2008; Portland, OR, Dalene Thomas.

COALPEX, June 14-15, 2008, Walnut Creek, CA, Sat., June 14, 2 pm; Vesma Grinfelds. (Critique at 3 pm, followed by meeting at frames.)

PNSE, Sept. 5-7, 2008, Valley Forge Convention Center, King of Prussia, PA; will include mini-seminar on The Basics of Exhibiting; time TBD; Barb Harrison.

Keeper's Korner:

If you have already paid your dues, go to paragraph 3. If you have not renewed your dues for the 2008 year, please do so as soon as possible. You may pay through PayPal, adding \$0.50 for bank fees; by sending dues statement attached to this newsletter; or by simply mailing a check to Liz Hisey, 7227 Sparta Rd., Sebring FL 33875 noting WE membership on the check.

The membership crew is reviewing the list of WE members. If you have not paid dues by May, it is likely that you may not receive future newsletters. Please let us know how WE may serve you. Are we meeting your needs? If not, tell any of the board members what you would like from WE.

The *Festival for Philatelic Women* flyer, which you will see at a show near you, is a luscious hot pink color. It will be hard to miss. It's also attached to this newsletter. Please take a minute and respond to what you would like at the *Festival*. You do have the date, May 28-31 already in your 2009 calendar. Right! Start your plans for attending now and plan on bringing friends with you. There will be something for all.

Wear your buttons! See you at the shows.

Ruth

*****UPCOMING SHOWS*****

SOPEX: WE will hold a satellite meeting (Nancy Swan) at SOPEX 2008 (Southern Oregon), being held at the Padgham Pavillion at EXPO in Central Point, OR, on April 5 & 6, 10-5:30 and 10-4. The WE Satellite meeting will probably be around noon on April 6. There will be 12-14 dealers.

INVITATION FROM COALPEX: COALPEX 2008 (June 14-15) in Walnut Creek, CA, will host a WE satellite meeting (Vesma Grinfelds). The exhibition will be restricted to women exhibitors who need not belong to WE. There are 50 frames available. In consideration of others who may wish to participate, it is suggested that exhibits be limited to 5 frames or less. Special awards are available for novice exhibitors and "brand new" exhibits. Previous WSP Gold Medal exhibits will be judged head-to-head in a "best of the best" competition; all others will compete for the usual five medal levels and other awards. APS accredited judges will provide written feedback to all who exhibit. For additional information, email David McNamee, COALPEX Show Chairman at dmcnamee@aol.com. ***NO ENTRY FEES.***

THIS MONTH'S TOPIC: What is your favorite Class or Division of exhibiting, and why? What do you see as specific advantages? Disadvantages?

(Kristin Patterson) My favorite exhibit class is Revenue for many reasons. First, I wanted to put together a "classic" exhibit which meant it would cover the period of the 19th century. If I had selected Postal History or stamps from that period, the cost would have been very high and some required pieces are hard if not impossible to come by, versus the less explored and many times less expensive revenue area which also has unlimited avenues. I chose to collect U.S. Playing Cards Tax Stamps since as a little girl I traded playing cards with other playground kids. This topic selection narrowed my collecting to a total of 51 stamps (not counting varieties). In my exhibit, I narrowed it to just 6 stamps (the 1862 U.S. First Issue Playing Cards Stamps).

The revenue area is also easily extended. For example, I again went back to my birth place (Wisconsin) and found a revenue topic that now extends my interests to bank checks and documents from the Civil War period with revenue stamps. I now wish I had paid more attention in my American history class. But it is not too late to learn and in the area of revenue there is no shortage of new information.

Speaking of information, I have learned so much not from philatelic books, but rather books about history. I have also learned a tremendous amount from past and present revenue collectors who have willingly shared their knowledge. And my discoveries have enlightened veteran revenue exhibitors.

The only disadvantage I have found (which I suspect would apply to all classes) is that others want the same material that I want. So there is competition for it, but it also means that I have multiple areas to search for these items.

(Carol Edholm) I started exhibiting in Display class. It was a great way to get my feet wet -- to learn how to exhibit, figure out what I had and needed, feel comfortable gathering that material for the exhibit, organizing the exhibit and getting comfortable working with mentors and judges and learning how to ask the right questions in improving the exhibit.

The disadvantage is there are *additional* rules for the other types of exhibiting. I have been working on my first Thematic class exhibit the past few years (along with my Display exhibit). It is almost a complete way of thinking in organizing the exhibit and what items I can or cannot put in it. Thank goodness, working with mentors and judges is still the same!

I'm thinking of a Postcard exhibit sometime in the future.....

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO ANSWER FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER: (Submitted by Jane K. Fohn) I have an old computer and use Microsoft Word 98, without all the bells and whistles of the office version. How can I set up an exhibit with what I have and eliminate the frustrations of Word? (Jane mentions that we've had articles about how to use sophisticated publishing systems, which are expensive and take a great deal of computer space. She has tried one, using two books, but had immediate trouble and no one available to give her some help. Does anyone have any suggestions about what she can do to produce good exhibit pages as easily as possible, on a smaller, older computer, and without spending a lot of money upgrading hardware or trying to learn a program that is complicated or takes a lot of memory space?)

HOLD THE DATE: WE is planning a unique event – The Festival for Philatelic Women! This four day event will be held **May 28 – 31, 2009** at the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. It is still in the early planning stages, but your Board is hard at work making plans to hold a spectacular event. There will be workshops for every level of collector and exhibitor, exhibits to learn from, time to use the American Philatelic Research Library, and lots of fellowship (or should we say “ladyship”?!).

The cost for enrollment is \$85 and this covers meals! (We've seen the preliminary menus – it's well worth it just for the food!) We will also be organizing a roommate match up service for those who would like to share a hotel room.

ATTACHED TO THIS NEWSLETTER is a **flyer with basic information** about the Festival next year which you can **easily print out**. It would be helpful if every WE member could print some copies to distribute to interested ladies at your local club meetings, shows, or wherever you may happen to see others who might want to come to the Festival. If you happen to have some colored paper it will make the flyers even more attractive, but white paper will be fine.

WE ARE ON THE MOVE: **WHO IS EXHIBITING WHERE????**

Please remember to click on the WHO attachment to read this impressive list, which is continuing to grow. Does your name appear?? Have you sent in shows recently entered??

WE MEMBERS ARE ACTIVE LOCALLY:

Our hobby is only one generation away from extinction. What can be done to ensure that young people will enter “the Hobby of Kings”? How can they find out what is so exciting about collecting those little bits of colored paper and those old, yellowed covers, with strange illustrations, and odd postmarks and cancels? Here is what WE member Carol Edholm has done.

“I've been working with youth and educators concerning the educational benefits of stamp collecting for over 15 years. I am Executive Director of Youth Stamp Collectors, based in Mountlake Terrace, Washington. I have a heavy volunteer schedule with the organization while my husband works to keep a roof over our head.

“We started our work with youth in 1993, gaining non-profit status in 1999. We do about 14 stamp shows a year in Washington, Oregon and California, setting up a youth area for young people up to 18 years of age and educators. Educators include public and private school teachers, home-school parents, scout and other youth group leaders, and stamp club and stamp show leaders who want a youth area in their programs. We conduct 3 Educator Workshops, one in each of the three states listed. We work with about 1,000 youth a year at the shows, and additional youth through the mail, including current members in Belgium, Canada, China and Ukraine. We work with over 100 educators at the shows and through the mail.

“Periodically, we conduct a *Basics of Stamp Collecting* workshop or class for the general public, youth, and families, and a more in-depth class for educators. We hold a periodic Boy Scout Stamp Collecting Merit Badge workshop; we will do our first California merit badge workshop in late April at WESTPEX. We also do other programs, depending on the show or event. This will be our 10th year doing the Youth Activities Program at WESTPEX.

“During the summer months, when our stamp show schedule is slow, we do fundraising and conduct a lot of business through the mail. All of our support is through philatelic and financial donations; our programs are active and keep us busy. If any WE member has time on her hands, we would love some volunteer help!”

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

- Jackie Alton, Chicago, IL.
- Diana Sadler, Manchester, MO. Diana was a stamp store dealer from 1977 to 1983, when she turned her efforts to antiques for the next 30 years while selling stamps from her home, while she collected U.S. orange stamps. Now she collects and exhibits V-Mail and communications during the war years.
- Charlene Walker, Edwardsville, IL. Charlene’s main area of interest is the Black Heritage collection. She began collecting in 1991 and exhibited for the first time (OFE) at St. Louis Stamp Expo '08.
- Carol Giles-Straight, St. Louis, MO.
- Patricia Schultz, of West Chester, PA, is not yet a collector or exhibitor, but is married to Bill Schultz, who is both a collector and judge. Patricia thinks it’s possible that the bug may bite her once she starts reading WE Expressions.

++++OTHER STUFF++++

IMPORTANT: Please inform editor immediately of any changes in e-mail address. Also, please keep up with your e-mail. Because of the time involved, your editor will NOT keep re-sending the newsletter to you if you have a full mailbox. If you have NOT received your newsletter by the last day of the month, contact Barb.

