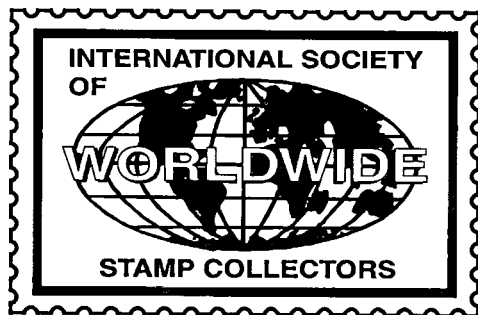


The Circuit



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The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

President's Column

by Joanne Berkowitz (#98)
ISWSC President

Greeting from your new president! I can't recall how long I've been a member of ISWSC but from my membership number (#98), it's been awhile. I have a picture of a group of us — including the first president and founder, Aubrey Dunne — at Pacific 97. With your help, this organization will continue to have many productive years.

And that gets me to "your help"... We are always looking for new ideas and volunteers. As I write this in early January, we need a replacement for Jim Gaul, who has ably run the sales circuit for many years. Ideally, this would be someone who has participated in the sales circuit and has some knowledge of how it works. If you are interested, get in touch with Jim or myself and we can fill you in on the details and time commitment.

Are you going to Washington 2006? I'll be there and would love to see as many of you as possible. The meeting date we were allotted is on the last day of the show and I will have left by then. But I am arriving on May 26th and will be in DC until June 2. Look for me at the show, leave a message at my hotel (Grand Hyatt Washington, 202-582-1234) or on the message board at the show. You can e-mail me and let me know you are coming and I'll look out for you, too. I will also be at Westpex in San Francisco and, of course, Sacapex here in my home town of Sacramento.

We are sharing a table with another group at Washington 2006 and need members to sit at the table. Can you volunteer an hour (or more) during your

time at the show? Let Terry Myers know if you can help.

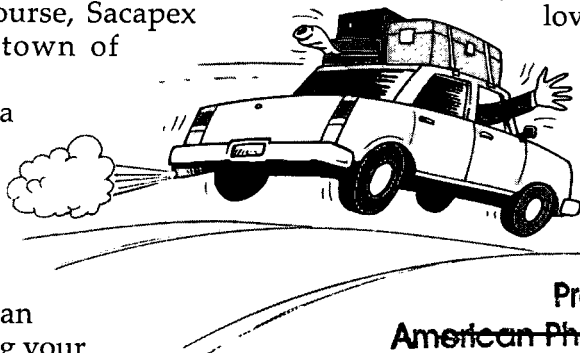
Do you belong to a local stamp club? Do your members know about us? Our best source of new members is word of mouth. Prospective members can access membership information through our web site or we will be happy to mail applications and information.

I used to belong to the swap circuits, but my collection "outgrew" the material offered. I still participate by setting aside duplicate stamps that I think would go well in the swap circuit and when I get a big enough batch, I send them to a swap circuit manager to include in the circuits. Consider doing this yourself if you have extra material that would be useful in a swap circuit.

Maybe you just have a good idea. Don't be afraid to send it along. Membership is always an issue and we often exhaust our store of ideas, so fresh ones are always appreciated. Do you correspond or trade with someone out of the country? Maybe they would be interested in joining or know of collectors who would be interested. Perhaps your foreign correspondents have a stamp club that would be willing to post our information.

Before you pick up a pen to complain that your circuits are too few or that your dues got lost, take a moment to remember that this is an entirely volunteer organization and everyone in it is doing it for the love of worldwide collecting. While we are not all professional organization people, we are all avid collectors in one way or another.

Running a "virtual" organization means each of us has to work a bit harder at staying connected. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at Washington 2006.



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Please remember that the Editor does not mail out The Circuit. If you have any questions about mail service of The Circuit, please contact Terry Myers. Thank you!

**DEADLINE FOR
THE NEXT
ISSUE:**

**MARCH 20,
2006**

Join Me at Washington 2006

by Tom Fortunato (#379)

An opportunity like this comes only once a decade. It's the World Series, Super Bowl, and the Olympics all rolled into one for stamp collectors. Unless you've been on another planet for the past few years, you'll know that I'm writing about Washington 2006, the international philatelic exhibition taking place May 27 to June 3 at the Washington DC Convention Center.

Planning for an event of this magnitude begins at least 10 years before taking place. Organizers of Washington 2006 have worked tirelessly through the years to make the show a reality. All are volunteers. I consider myself somewhat of a late-comer to the W2006 team, having been asked to head up media communications in 2001, helping with the exhibition's web site, press releases and other PR functions.

Why should you consider a visit to Washington 2006? There will be something for everyone at the show. Don't believe for a minute that this is only for the "rich and famous" of our hobby!

Sure, you'll see the gems of philately; one of a kind items worth ten of millions of dollars. I can never afford them, neither probably can you, but we can all enjoy them nevertheless. Many can be found in the Court of Honor, along with items from The Royal Philatelic Collection of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and other prominent collections. Others can be seen among the many frames of competitive exhibits where the world's best vie for medals, special prizes and the grand prizes. In all, over 60,000 pages of material will be on display under one roof.

How about uncovering a gem of your own? More than 200 dealers have taken out booths at the exhibition. Some are familiar names to people who attend national level shows in the U.S. Others come from the four corners of the Earth bringing material seldom seen here. Yes, they'll have expensive material with them, but you'll also find much more moderately priced items in their stock as well. Several official auctions are planned during W2006.

Don't forget that postal administrations and their agents will be in attendance selling new issues of their countries at face value. Many will be sponsoring first day ceremonies for their issues during the exhibition, including the U.S., Canada, United Nations, Israel,

Continued on page 4

Dues/Advertising Policy

Dues Information:

Single/Dealer/Club membership: \$12.00*

Youth membership (under 18): \$10.00*

Family membership (up to 4 persons in one residence): \$19.00*

*Plus 250 large commemoratives for the Youth Program or equiv. donation in US\$. Dues above are for one year and include six newsletters per year. You may sign up for three years at a time. For an application or further information send SASE or IRC to: ISWSC, PMB 210, 3308 Preston Road, Suite 350, Plano, TX 75903, USA. *There will be a \$2 per year discount if the renewal is received at least one month prior to the current expiration date.*

Advertising Policy:

For reasons of accountability, only members of the ISWSC, APS or ASDA may place ads. All ads dealing with philatelic concerns are acceptable. We reserve the right to edit out objectionable language. Advertisers are expected to respond to all inquiries, so be sure you can handle the responses before you offer to trade, buy or sell. If you have a bad result from answering an ad, contact the Editor. We will try to resolve the conflict.

Display Rates (Camera Ready*) per insertion:

Full page: \$75.00

Half page: \$40.00

Quarter page: \$20.00

Per column inch: \$5.00

Six repeat insertions of the same ad for the cost of five ads (one free). We will also offer a two-sided insertion for \$125 per issue.

*Camera Ready means ready to paste up or scan and print. Reductions and typesetting extra.

Classified Rates per insertion:

First 30 words, including name, address, and ZIP code are \$3. Additional words are 20 for \$1.

NOTE: State abbreviations = one word; "P.O. Box 1234" = two words; ZIP code = one word.

Make all checks payable to ISWSC in U.S. funds. Send text and payment for ads to the Editor. All addresses can be found on page 2.

Washington 2006

Continued from page 3

and Marshall Islands, just to name a few.

Kids should find plenty of fun things to do at Washington 2006. Two areas have been set aside for youth activities at the show.

The past comes alive in the historical Kids Zone. Join heroes of the past like Ben Franklin, Lewis and Clark, and Jamestown founders as they explain their role in America. Attend "story-telling with stamps" sessions, play Stamp Jeopardy, and read about modern-day heroes through letters written by youngsters taking part in a nationwide contest.

The U.S. Postal Service is sponsoring the Kidz Stamp Zone. Their area features computer kiosks, a 3-D exhibit depicting the "largest, fastest, loudest, longest, deepest" Wonders of America, a video explaining how stamps are made, and more.

Educational opportunities abound at Washington 2006. Nearly 80 societies covering a variety of specialties in the hobby will be

hosting seminars, lectures and membership meetings throughout the eight days of the show. This is a great way to learn about a possible new collecting interest.

The wealth of knowledge found among the pages of philatelic literature is staggering. Over 220 books, catalogs, and electronic works have been entered into competition, also vying for medals and awards. All can be viewed by the public in the literature area on the show's floor.

Washington 2006 starts on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend and runs for eight days. What a perfect opportunity for a family getaway!

Washington, DC is an easy city to get to. It's an easy day's drive for anyone within a 250 mile radius. Three regional airports, Reagan National, Dulles International, and Baltimore-

Washington International, offer hundreds of flights on many airlines. DC is a major hub of A m t r a k ' s national rail s y s t e m . Greyhound bus lines is another

transportation alternative to the nation's capital, with round-trip specials between Washington and New York City costing as little as \$40.

Seven hotels within a few blocks of the DC Convention Center, site of W2006, are offering discounted blocks of rooms while supplies last from \$110-\$169 per room per night. More economically priced hotels and motels can be found in the areas around the airports in the DC suburbs, which provide easy access to the Metro trains leading into the city and beyond.

Washington is home to hundreds of free museums and attractions. Heading the list are dozens of sites operated by the Smithsonian Institution. Take your pick of subjects from art, history, science, and space at museums right on The Mall itself. Don't forget the National Postal Museum

as well! All are surrounded by the many monuments and buildings familiar to people around the world; The White House, the Capitol, the Supreme Court, National Archives, Washington Monument, Jefferson Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, and others.

A mammoth event like Washington 2006 requires hundreds of volunteers before,

during and after show time to make it a success. Consider donating a few hours of your time and get an up close and personal experience in show operations. Help in the youth area, registration, administration, the library and reading room, with awards, working with computers, hospitality, and general "gophering" is all needed, as are translators. Volunteers will receive a very nice red polo shirt embroidered with the W2006 corporate logo as a souvenir while supplies last.

Breaking news about W2006 will happen right up until show time. Be among the first to know the latest information by signing up to receive email updates when press releases, updates and general news of interest is released.

Start making your travel arrangements now to attend Washington 2006! For full details, check out the exhibition's web site at <http://www.washington-2006.org>. There you'll find transportation and hotel reservation details, a complete schedule of events, listing of dealers and postal administrations, souvenir ordering form, volunteer sign up, and everything else that will convince you that this show is something not to be missed!

Planning on attending Washington 2006?

Contact Joanne Berkowitz with dates and times you are available to volunteer at the ISWSC table!

(See page 2 for contact info.)



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