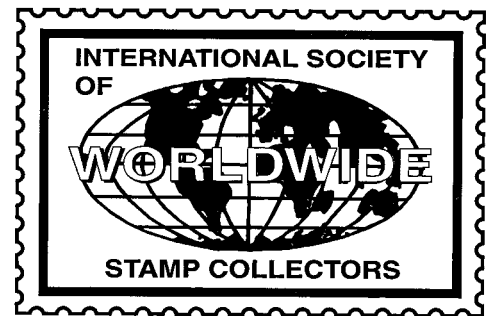


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The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

President's Column

by Randy Smith (#1111)
ISWSC President

Summer has arrived in the Midwest! As I'm writing this, my wife is busily preparing a meal for our first picnic of the summer. And my kids (ages 4 and 7) are busy asking me if I'm done writing this column yet as they know it has to be completed before we can go...

As usual, this newsletter is packed with articles. Of special note are the articles announcing the need for candidates for our upcoming elections and for an Election Chair, the testing of a proposed electronic version and distribution of the newsletter, notification of upcoming bylaw changes, and more. I encourage you to take time to read every article in the newsletter!

During the past month, I was forwarded a letter from an ISWSC member asking about ISWSC dues and Swap Circuit fees. Since this is a question I often hear, I thought it best to address these issues in my column, rather than writing directly to the member.

The first question raised was concerning the contribution of 250 stamps for the youth program. The ISWSC application states members are "expected" to support the youth program through an annual donation of stamps or an equivalent financial contribution. Our website indicates members are "required" to do this. Nowhere, however, does it state what is the financial equivalent of 250 stamps!

This question raised two thoughts in my mind. First, one of the guiding principles of our society is the encouragement of stamp collecting (usually targeted at youth) around the world. It is through this portion of your annual dues that we help make this goal a reality. Second, as frustrating as it may

be, we purposefully don't dictate a financial equivalent of 250 stamps! Our hope would be that you give what you can to help spread the joy of stamp collecting around the world – whether that be a few stamps, some supplies, a dollar or two, or something significantly more.

The second question raised was concerning fees associated with the Swap Circuit. Although the main comment was concerning confusion over the fee structure, I'd like to reiterate to all members that Swap Circuit fees are separate from dues charged to belong to the ISWSC.

ISWSC dues are charged annually to become (and remain!) a member of the ISWSC. These monies are used primarily to produce, print and mail *The Circuit*; cover administrative costs of operating the society; promote

the ISWSC; etc. Individuals must be a member of the ISWSC to participate in any of the ISWSC programs – sales circuits, the OMNI program, Swap Circuits, auctions, etc.

Swap Circuit fees, on the other hand, are annually charged only to those ISWSC members who choose to participate in the Swap Circuit program. (The word fee is deliberately used to help distinguish them from ISWSC dues.) These fees are used to cover all expenses of running the Swap Circuit program – no ISWSC dollars are used. Examples of Swap Circuit expenses include postage and supplies (glassines, envelopes, etc.) and the purchase of additional stamps to "sweeten" the circuit and replace damaged stamps.

Finally, the last question raised concerned finding the right place to send a question, submit ISWSC dues, etc. In each issue of *The Circuit* (except our

As always, I encourage you to contact me with questions or comments concerning the ISWSC. It is through your comments, ideas, and suggestions that we continue to improve as a society.

Continued on page 3

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*Phone or send your questions to
the appropriate volunteer. Please
include a self-addressed stamped
envelope or IRC for a reply.*

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*Represent the ISWSC, distribute stamps
to youth programs in their region.*

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*Please remember that the Editor does not
mail out The Circuit. If you have any
questions about your Circuit mail
service, please contact Randy Smith, Tom
Fortunato or Tony Zollo. Thank you!*

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DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE:
JULY 20, 2003

Bylaw Revisions to be Proposed

While preparing for the elections, the ISWSC Board recently re-read the bylaws and determined that they are in need of revision. (The current bylaws are available on our website at www.iswsc.org or a printed copy is available by writing to the ISWSC.)

The most notable revisions being considered are clarifying which positions are elected vs. appointed, who serves on the ISWSC Board, and the duties and responsibilities of those serving in elected or appointed positions.

During its meeting in July, the Board will discuss potential changes and make a recommendation to the membership. The proposed changes will then be published in the next newsletter and a ballot question will be included for you to vote on adopting the proposed changes.

If you have any questions or would like to make suggestions concerning revising the bylaws, please contact ISWSC President, Randy Smith (#1111).



President's Message

Continued from page 1

membership issue printed every other year), page 2 is dedicated to listing contact information for everyone involved in ISWSC leadership positions. Instead of taking space to repeat contact information in each article, the information is presented here for your reference.

In addition, most articles include the ISWSC membership number of the author (if applicable) and those referred to in the article. This number can then be used to find the individual's contact information in the membership issue and/or in the membership updates included in each edition of the newsletter.

If you can't find the contact information you are looking for, please contact either Tony Zollo (#856) or myself – either of us would be happy to help you!

As always, I encourage you to contact me with questions or comments concerning the ISWSC. It is through your comments, ideas, and suggestions that we continue to improve as a society.

Happy Stamping!



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, P.O. Box 150407, Lufkin TX 75915-0407, 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.

**Discounts for three or more insertions of same ad. Yearly display rates available. Write to ISWSC past president Tom Fortunato (see p. 2) for special rates.

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.

ISWSC Board Meeting

The following article is based on the ISWSC Board meeting minutes taken by ISWSC Secretary, Joanne Berkowitz (#98).

The ISWSC Board recently held its first e-mail meeting following the election of Ken Wills (#2150) and Rick Simpson (#1703). During the meeting, in which all Board members participated, the following items were discussed and/or action taken:

- The financial report for the first quarter of 2003 was reviewed.
- Membership statistics were reviewed, as were past recruitment techniques. The decline in membership appears to be over, with a slight increase in overall membership compared to one year ago.
- Tony Zollo (#856) was reappointed as Executive Director for 2003.
- Tom Fortunato (#379) was reappointed to the Executive Committee for 2003.
- Consensus was reached that the current bylaws are in need of revision and simplification. Randy Smith (#1111) will present proposed

revisions to the bylaws to the Board at their meeting in July. Following discussion and revision by the Board, the final proposed bylaws changes will then be presented to the membership for a vote on their adoption.

- A suggestion was made to create a new class of membership based on electronic distribution of The Circuit. A sample PDF version of the newsletter was reviewed, as were costs associated with printing and mailing The Circuit. It was agreed that ISWSC members would be sought to help test this potential delivery option prior to its adoption. (Editor's note: See related article on page X).
- The following positions will be on the ballot in November: President, Secretary, Vice President of Public Relations, and Vice President of Charitable Programs.
- Scheduled Board meetings will be held each quarter, with other meetings held as needed. The next scheduled meeting of the Board will be in early July.



Nominees for Elected Office Sought

One of the historical strengths of the ISWSC has been the number of members who have stepped forward to serve the society in various capacities. This strength must be relied upon again as nominees are now being sought for the following elected positions:

President

This person presides at all meetings of the ISWSC and its Board. He/she performs all duties incident to the office as described by Robert's Rules of Order and recommends such action as he/she believes will increase the effectiveness of the organization.

Secretary

This person keeps a permanent record of all society Board of Director proceedings, including Board meetings and votes. The Secretary also attests to all legal documents of the Society and performs other duties as requested by the Board and/or the Executive Director.

Vice-President for Public Relations

This person performs duties with respect to promoting the ISWSC, monitors and assists the ISWSC Regional Representatives, and is responsible

for securing an Elections Chairman

Vice-President for Charitable Programs

This person serves as Chairperson of the Youth Program and assumes other responsibilities as assigned by the Board. This person also serves in place of the President, should the President be absent or unable to serve.

The term of office for each position is two years with a maximum of two consecutive years in the same office. Individuals in these positions, along with two at-large directors elected in opposite years, comprise the ISWSC Board and are responsible for the oversight and management of the ISWSC.

Any member of the ISWSC is eligible to run for elected office. To express your interest in running for a position, to obtain more information, or to recommend a fellow member for an office, please contact Randy Smith (#1111), ISWSC President, or Tom Fortunato (#379), ISWSC Vice President for Public Relations. Nominations must be received by September 15, 2003.



ISWSC Helping Kids Around the World

Submitted by Mike Crump (#2126)
Vice President For Charitable Services

Hello, Deon: I have two packages on the way to you: One is mostly stamps and packets that you can distribute to the kids. There is also a little book on collecting. Also a second package containing publications from the U.S. and some bulk stamps on-paper. Good luck with the stamp proposal and let me know if I can be of help. — Mike

Hi Mike! We have just received the packages - and what a surprise! The kids are absolutely delighted!!! — and so am I! I am having a field day going through the publications, some of which I have never heard of before.

It is rather difficult to find the words to thank you for what you have done for us! All these goodies are very, very useful indeed!

I have hundreds of low value RSA stamps, mainly definitives, which may be of use for youth

programmes. Do let me know if you can use such material and I will send you some. All stamps are in good to fine used condition and quite attractive. Kids should like them.

The kids are doing very well with the stamps and learn a great deal as well. There has been a great deal of new interest and I think we are on to something good here.

I had a word with one of the teachers at school the other day. He said "Do you remember the days when most of us collected stamps? These days most of them 'collect' drugs." How true! When I was 15, I did not know that drugs could be anything else than headache tablets!

Thanks again and please let me know if I can do anything for you.

Best wishes,
Deon Botha (& Co.)



Whatzit?

by John D. Pruitt (#121)

One of our members sent in three 1916-18 Austrian stamps (two regular postage and one newspaper stamp) with the "Rzp.Polska" overprint illustrated. These stamps are not in Scott or Michel but have been identified with the help of Hank Bieniecki of the Polonus Philatelic Society. They are listed in the Barefoot Catalog of "Poland 1918 Locals."



Poland local

Poland proclaimed independence in November 1918, at the end of World War I. Much of the country used locally overprinted German and Austrian stamps until the central Polish postal system was operational. While more local in usage, they are comparable to the regional issues listed as Scott #11-77.

Their use was terminated in January 1919.

Rzp.Polska stands for "Rzeczpospolita Polska" (Polish Republic), which was also the name of the Polish Commonwealth (elective monarchy, with a strong nobility) which existed from 1572 until 1795, when the partitioning by Austria, Prussia and Russia was completed. The Austrian stamps bearing this

overprint were issued in Tarnow (in formerly Austrian Poland) on December 9, 1918. The overprints on the stamps are about the right size to be genuine, Bieniecki noted, but it would take expertization to make sure.

The Latvian example is typical of stamps that crop up in mixtures. It is not in Scott. I found a Latvian-English internet dictionary and was able to learn that "dzelzceli" means "railroad", and "laikrakst" means "newspaper". I could not find the other words. My guess is that these stamps were for newspapers carried by rail, but I would appreciate any reader's identification of these items.



Latvia unknown

If you have stamps that need identification, please send photos or photocopies to:

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