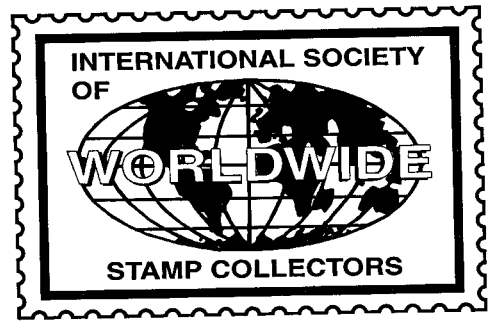


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The Circuit



Affiliate of: APS (#151) & ATA (#89)

November/December 2005 • Volume 23 No. 6

www.iswsc.org

The Official Journal of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

President's Column

by Randy Smith (#1111)
ISWSC President

As you may have figured out, this issue of the newsletter is running late. This was due somewhat purposefully, so that we could ensure we had candidates in place for each of the elected positions. I am pleased to report that we have obtained that goal! Many thanks to all who have stepped forward to volunteer for these important positions. (And thank you to all who expressed an interest in being the Elections Chair!)

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find statements for each of the candidates. Once you have read the statements, please take a few minutes to vote (using the enclosed postcard ballot), then affix a stamp and drop it in the mail. Every vote counts as we need at least 40 votes (as per our bylaws) for the election to be considered valid.

I'm pleased to announce **Richard Barnes** (#2425) has agreed to serve as the Whatzit? Coordinator, filling the void created by the passing of the former coordinator, John Pruitt. As I understand it, John had several "helpers" within the ISWSC that assisted him with identifying stamps from certain countries or reading certain languages. Unfortunately, I don't have any record of who those people are! A few have already come forward, but I'm sure Richard would love to hear from anyone willing to help him. If you can read a foreign language, have advanced knowledge of one or more countries, or just have some great reference books to help you identify stamps, please contact Richard if you'd be willing to help him. Richard's first column appears elsewhere in this issue.

In this issue, you'll also find an article introducing an experimental new program – Grab Bag. **Marvin Warner** (#248) came up with this idea and is willing to coordinate the program. Now all he needs is participants! Refer to his article to find out the details

of the program.

And don't forget about the contest we're running to see who can sponsor the most new members by May 1, 2006. A prize of a packet of stamps cataloging over \$250 awaits the winner. Contact **Terry Myers** (#856) for applications or visit our website at www.iswsc.org.

Until next time, participate in an ISWSC program, sign up a new member, and Happy Stamping!



Candidate Biographies

As a method of introducing themselves to the ISWSC membership, each candidate for elected office was asked to submit a short write-up. After reading the write-ups, please vote on the enclosed ballot (post card). To be valid, ballots must be postmarked by Jan 15, 2006 and received no later than Jan 31, 2006.

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Joanne Berkowitz (#98)
Candidate for President

I have been a stamp collector for nearly 50 years, beginning when my brother got bored with stamps and gave me his stamp collection. I have collected nearly continuously since then, except for a six year period in college and medical school. When I resumed collecting after graduation in 1972, I looked

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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.*

*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 Terry Myers. Thank you!*

**DEADLINE FOR THE
NEXT ISSUE:**

JANUARY 20, 2006

Candidate Biographies

Continued from page 1

at the stamps that were currently being issued (mostly the Trucial States) and decided I wasn't going to collect anything more modern than 1972. I have kept to that plan except for a few countries where I may collect up to 1980. I am in the process of transferring all my pre-1940 stamps to the Vintage Reproduction pages, a project that should carry me well into retirement.

I am an active member in the Sacramento Philatelic Society, a 25 year member of the American Philatelic Society, and a member of the Arabian Philatelic Association and the International Society for Portuguese Philately. My other hobbies include gardening and travel. In my workaday life, I am a physician specializing in Emergency Medicine and I co-own an urgent care center. I am currently planning to retire from full-time medicine as of January 1, 2006, although I will still continue to practice on a part-time basis.

When I saw the write-up in *Linn's* many years ago about the new ISWSC, I was delighted to know there were other worldwide collectors like me. I eagerly joined and took advantage of the various circuits and swaps available. I have been your secretary for the last few years, which mostly entails reminding people when their dues are expired. I had not considered running for president but was asked to run when no one else stepped forward.

This is a great organization, run entirely via Internet and mail, and my main goal is to keep it running, work on membership recruitment, and try to get as many of you as possible active in the various activities and opportunities available. We need to take advantage of any and all publicity we can get for our organization and each of us needs to spread the word. I would be honored to serve as your president.

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Alessandro Artini (#2451) Candidate for Secretary

My name is Alessandro Artini, and I am a new member of the ISWSC. While still a beginning collector, I continue to enjoy myself in adding used stamps to some albums. I have been doing that from more than seven years, now. Thinking to become

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.

Candidate Biographies

Continued from page 1

more involved into the ISWSC, I decided to offer some of my time. When I don't collect, I am mainly involved with computers and databases and, if there is a verb that could describe better what I do, it is "typing." I can be reached easily by both mail and email and I'm currently updating two websites, where philately is included.

As a past member of the Royal Mail Collectors Club, I remember the pleasant experience I had in simply exchanging used stamps with members and I am hoping to repeat the same experience with the ISWSC. Today, I am maintaining a membership in the APS, the AFDC, the Umpqua Valley Stamp Club and the Waltham Stamp Club. All this, while currently living in Italy. I am also a member of both a local club and a specialized philatelic society dedicated at the study of WWII.



Regi Ausmus (#2369) *Candidate for Vice President of Public Relations*

My name is Regi Ausmus, I am 52, and I live in La Verne, California. I am a career journalist who began working in the business at age nine as a paper route carrier. That was the same year I began collecting stamps, worldwide as well as U.S.

As a journalist, I have had the privilege of working for more than 20 years as a newspaper editor and report on both a daily and weekly newspaper chain in San Diego County, California. I received numerous awards for my writing and editing, including begin named Best Columnist by the California Newspaper Publishers Association, in 1984. Along the way, I have also had the opportunity to step outside newspapering and serve as media director for the International Student Services Department of Azusa Pacific University; as the chapter administrator for the San Diego County office of Mothers Against Drunk Driving; as communications and membership director for the Vista (California) Chamber of Commerce; and as an administrative assistant to a San Diego County supervisor. I am currently a freelance writer (and

musician), who has had work published in Linn's Stamp news, Global Stamp News, Mekeel's & Stamps, and U.S. Stamp News.

As a philatelist, I currently serve as Publicity Director for the United States Stamp Society, and will be working as a volunteer media docent at Washington 2006. In addition to the ISWSC, USSS and Washington 2006, I am also a member of the following stamp organizations: American Philatelic Society, American Philatelic Research Library, American Topical Association, American First Day Cover Society, Claude C. Ries (Southern California) Chapter #48 of the AFDCS, Collector of Religion on Stamps, Christmas Philatelic Club, Christmas Seal & Charity Stamp Society, Cinderella Stamp Club, Sports Philatelists International, Post Mark Collectors Club, Machine Cancel Society, Philatelic Music Club, Scandinavian Collectors Club, The Cartophilatelic Society, Postal History Society, Space Topics Study Unit, Americana Unit, Europa Study Unit, Journalists, Authors and Poets on Stamps Unit, Astronomy Study Unit; Cats on Stamps Study Unit; and the La Verne (California) Stamp Club. I have plans to join about two dozen more philatelic organizations after the first of the year.

I am big on networking and feel I could be of benefit to the ISWSC through my many and varied stamp affiliations. I would network not only with the various stamp clubs, but also with all the stamp media, both in this country and internationally. Not to mention the Internet. I have been a member of the ISWSC for the past five years and believe it is time to give some of my talent back to the organization. If elected, I will work to make sure that the ISWSC is written about and heard about across the philatelic spectrum. Thank you.



John Seidl (#1646) *Candidate for Vice President of Public Relations*

I am married, have a nine year-old son and currently work as a Partner for Kurt Salmon Associates, a retail industry consulting firm. I have a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration – Marketing and a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from the University of Montana. I have volunteer experience including serving on the Board of Directors of Lekotek of Georgia, a not for profit service for families

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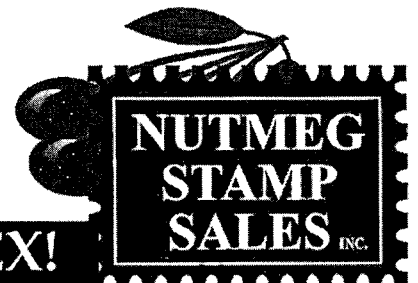
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