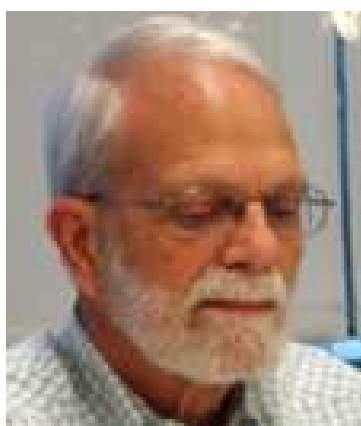


Last month we elected officers for the Year 2024. The usual names were re-elected - with Bill Schultz taking over for Ron Bruner who passed away on Christmas Day last year.

We also discussed the last Stamp Show held in Kenosha, selected topics for the early 2024 meetings and welcoming new members Glenn Winters and John and Gladys Martin.

This month, **Jim Bardo** has “volunteered” to talk about how the stamp collecting hobby is going from a dealer’s point of view - and will attempt to answer our questions pertaining to the hobby.



RON BRUNER – Born in 1942, he passed away on Christmas Day, 2023 at the age of eighty-one. Ron was a long-time member of our society and served as Vice-President from 2021 until his death.

Ron grew up on the northwest side in Chicago’s Galewood neighborhood, a large community split 50-50 between blue- and white-collar income families. Ron commenced stamp collecting in the mid-1950s. Ron did not recall anyone in particular as influencing his stamp collecting. He was fortunate in that his family received international letters and postcards from friends and neighbors. His parents let him tear off the stamps from family mail. From this start, Ron continued to center his collecting on postally used stamps.

As a teenager, Ron joined a stamp club sponsored by the Oak Park YMCA. The old Oak Park YMCA was on Oak Park Ave., just north of Lake St. - but the stamp club was at the “newer” Y (maybe built in early 50’s) on Marion St., just south of downtown. Ron did not remember if the stamp club had an official name. He later added other countries to his focus including **Spain, France and Asia**. Ron’s interest waned during his late teen years into his thirties when family and work dominated his attention. **Also, during that period, a story repeated all too many times happened. Ron’s mother cleaned his things and tossed out his stamp collection!**

After resuming stamp collecting, Ron joined the American Philatelic Society, headquartered in the old Match Factory in Bellefonte, PA. APS boasts of having members from 110 countries! Joining in 1982, Ron has since become an APS life member, indicating his dedication to this “hobby of kings” and presidents, like Franklin D. Roosevelt. Ron especially enjoyed receiving their sales circuits for many years. He did not become active in the society itself.

Meetings & Topics:

If Zoom available,
Dave will send an email prior to the meeting.

February 24						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

2-4 pm
Stamp Collecting
Jim Bardo

March 24						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

2:30-4:30 pm
Rasdale Auctions

April 24						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

2-4 pm
Microphilately
Chuck Skittino

(Continued page 2)

Next Meeting:
2-PM on Tuesday, 20 February 2024
Grayslake Library Any Changes will be posted
on: lcpshome.org



Officers:
Dave Schenkel / Tom Willer – Co-presidents
Bill Schultz - Vice President
Dave Sadler – Secretary
Gary Olson – Treasurer

While many collectors focused solely on the stamps of their home country, Ron moved in a different direction. From a friend and work colleague, he bought a German collection, including early German states, unified Germany and its colonies. He had been working for some time (probably in the late 1960s to early 1970s) when he made the purchase. This purchase energized his penchant for collecting ex-United States. Having done this, he later visited *Deutschland*, gaining further insight on his collection.

Like many collectors, Ron's philatelic interests continued to expand beyond his core collection.

This led to his starting to collect **Pitcairn Islands**, issuing stamps since 1940, and the Republic of Nauru in Micronesia, which began putting out stamps only in 1968 and with its philatelic office in distant New Zealand! He had a plan when he selected these two areas. Their stamps were relatively inexpensive and only a modest number had been issued. Deviating from his past, Ron decided to collect mint single stamps and souvenir sheets from these two countries due to the beauty of the stamp design and low cost.

His latest expansion his collection was include some postally-used covers and first-day covers.

Sometimes Ron faced a challenge in finding a good quality album. However, Palo Albums produced pages (including hingeless) for all of these Pacific islands. Ron had other options: Hagner or Prinz loose leaf stamp pages with 3-ring binders to house the islands of **Nauru, Niue, Norfolk, Pitcairn** and **Tokelau**. Both brands were great choices. Prinz pages were manufactured in Germany on acid-free paper.



In 2005, Ron reached out to fellow collectors and joined the venerable *Lake County Illinois Philatelic Society*, founded in 1933.

Ron shared his collecting expertise with society members in 2013 when he presented a program entitled, "*Pitcairn Islands - H.M.S. Bounty*." Here, Ron explained that the purpose of the 1780s H.M.S. *Bounty* voyage was to collect breadfruit trees from Tahiti for transplantation to the British West Indies.



As we all know, things went awry on the fateful voyage! Despite his collecting interest in these various islands, Ron commented: "*I have not been to any of the South Pacific islands, but never say never!*" This appears to be Ron's motivation: **keep collecting, learning and having fun!**

Article Contributed by Tom Willer

Future Meeting Topics:
May: *Bring a Stamp Album and tell us about it.*
June: *Club Stamp Swap Meet.*
If you have any other ideas for the remaining meetings – let us know.

February 24						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

Next Stamp Show

STAMPFEST 2024
February 24 - 25

**Saint Francis
 Lions Center
 3476 E Howard Ave
 St Francis WI**



This Month:
 20 February 1792
 The Postal Service Act, establishing the United States Post Office Department, is signed by United States President George Washington.

New Issue for February:

Feb 06

Feb 19

Feb 24

22 February 1732
 George Washington born

"Full Dress Ship"
 Once done to commemorate Washington's Birth