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Articles from members for this publication are welcomed!

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Latest RPA Life Members



Two RPA members were honored as life members on March 8 at Cerame's Ristorante at the annual RPA banquet.

In attendance and seen above is Ray Stone with a plaque for Frank Tritto, seated. Wintering in Florida was our second life recipient, Jim Sands, who picked up his award on his return at the RPA meeting on April 26.



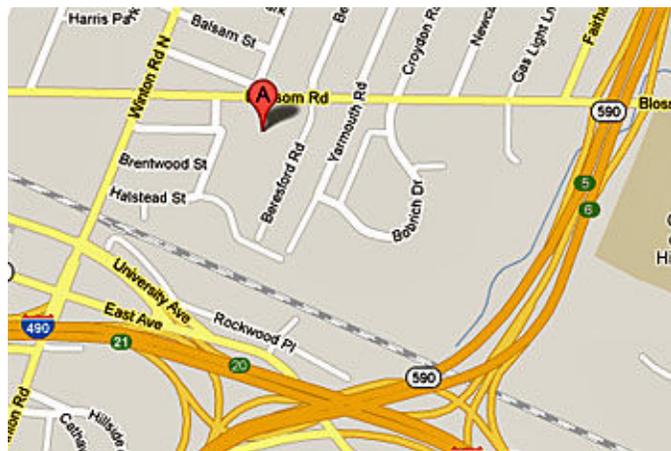
The 20 or so RPA banquet attendees are pictured above. The buffet dinner featuring roast beef, ham and pasta with meatballs was capped off with coffee and canolis.

Election Ballot in This Issue

This issue of Hinges & Tongs will also contain a ballot for the RPA Board seat for the July 1, 2012-June 30, 2015 three year term. Incumbent Chuck Schultz is running unopposed, but write-ins are allowed. As this issue is being distributed at ROPEX, members have the option of dropping them off at the RPA hospitality table, bringing it to an upcoming RPA meeting through the first June gathering, or mailing it to our PO box by 6/10.

Fall Meeting Venue Changes

Instead of meeting Thursday, September 20 and October 25, we will meet on September 22 and October 27—both on a Saturday—from 2 to 5 PM at the Brighton Reformed Church, 805 Blossom Road near the intersection of Winton and Blossom, conveniently off of I 490 or I-590. The facility is all on one level without steps.



We hope changing these two meetings on a one-time basis will allow those who usually cannot come on Thursday nights to attend!

Upcoming Live Auction

Everyone loves a live auction, and this year's rendition takes place during our first June meeting. Yes, that's also our Business Meeting, but that portion of the program will probably take no longer than 5 minutes!

The same rules apply as in auctions past. There is a strict limit of 5 lots entered per member, all of which should clearly describe the lot and give an absolute minimum bid. If any lot does not clear the minimum immediately, it will remain unsold. The lot owner will pay the 10% seller's premium with proceeds going to the club treasury.

100th Anniversary Plans



Just in case you've forgotten, March 2013 will mark the club's 100th anniversary of its founding. Here are just two events that are in the planning stages.

Well underway is ROPEX-NTSS 2013: Two Shows in One, May 17-19, a joint show hosted by the RPA and the American Topical Association. This is the first time such a venture has been tried, literally running two World Series of Philately national level stamp exhibitions at the same time under one roof. There will be two different sets of exhibits with two different judging panels, but sharing a bourse of what could be up to 52 dealer tables. And yes, it will all happen at our usual spot, Rink 1 of the Sports Centre at MCC!

We will have a 100th anniversary dinner, probably in March. Initial discussions are about holding it at Rick's Prime Rib House, but nothing is definite at this time.

What would you like to see the RPA plan for our 100th? An open forum on the topic at an April meeting showed interest in a possible mall even as we've held in years past. Would the main Post Office be agreeable to display a 2 or 4 frame exhibit that we could change monthly? How about a membership photo?

Speak with any of the officers about your ideas and suggestions.

63rd ATA Show in Pennsylvania

Lancaster, PA is probably best known to all of us as "Pennsylvania Dutch Country." But from June 22-24 it will turn into "topical central" as the American Topical Association hosts its yearly exhibition at the Lancaster Host Resort and Conference Center.

If you are planning to attend, please let the RPA officers know, as you will be our best ambassadors to talk up and promote our 2013 show with the attendees there!

See more info about NTSS 2012 on the ATA's web site at <http://americantopicalassn.org>.

Call for 2012-13 Meeting Subjects

Our new stamp season will be here before we know it. Time to start thinking about our next season's lineup of meetings.

We have been very fortunate that the majority of meetings this season and last were live presentations by members and non-members alike. We can always come up with electronic presentations of one kind or another, but live interaction is what most members prefer whenever possible.

So—what would you like to present to your fellow members? RPAers have a vast wealth of knowledge best shared! Let Tom Fortunato know your preference of dates and subject to put on the meeting schedule for the fall or winter.