



**P. O. Box 295, Midvale, UT 84047-2950**

**Spring 2024**

## Upcoming Events and Announcements

### Club Meetings

Location: Sons of Utah Pioneers bldg.  
3301 E. Louise Ave., Millcreek, UT 84109  
First and third Thursdays of each month @ 7:00 pm  
Club Website: [www.utahphilatelic.org](http://www.utahphilatelic.org)

### Club Officers

President: Steve Baldrige  
Vice-President: Craig Edwards  
Secretary: Judy Maxfield  
Treasurer: Dee Bird  
Board Members: Rick Leimbach, Bill Long, Vladimir Makarov, Steve McLaughlin, Rick Hendricks  
Newsletter Editor: Steve Baldrige (temporary)

### Upcoming Events

#### STAMP SHOWS FOR 2024

February 9-10  
May 17-18  
October 11-12

The UPS Board is still looking for a Newsletter editor. The job is simple, but does require a basic understanding of Word. If you would like to fill this important role, please contact Steve Baldrige.

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### President's Corner Steve Baldrige

At our recent board meeting the idea was raised that our club is descending into a group of "grumpy old white men." No one could disagree; we seem to be headed in that direction—the majority of our membership consists of males over the age of 60. However, in reading the philatelic literature out there I've noticed that we are not alone with this problem—it is trending across the US, and maybe around the world, as well. Philately is just not attracting the youth we need to keep the hobby alive for future generations. I can think of several reasons for this:

Social Media. If you were 14, what would you rather do—carry around a smartphone, where you can access the internet, play a myriad of games, take pictures, talk to your friends, etc. or look at little bits of paper that you may have to buy online? Millions of kids have made that decision, opting for the former.

USPS The Post Office isn't exactly helping with this trend. When I was a kid, I could walk into a post office with my hard-earned quarter, plunk it down and buy five stamps for a nickel apiece. Nowadays, if I want a good-looking commemorative, most of the time I have to buy the whole sheet, with stamps that I'll never use for postage and that will never increase in value. Not exactly an incentive to buy new stamps. If I just want a stamp to mail something, the clerk wants to sell me a definitive that is printed by the billions.

Mail Besides a Christmas card, when was the last time you wrote a letter, and put a stamp on it ? We don't do much of that these days—letters have largely been replaced by email and texting. The only mail I seem to get now is junk, and most of that comes as bulk mail—no stamp attached. The days of clipping stamps off of my mail are mostly gone, and that's how I got started. I do still write letters—quite often, actually—so somebody out there is getting a nice stamp showing a waterfall that they'll probably throw away.

There are certainly other reasons why we are not attracting kids to the hobby, but we are in fact doing something instead of just complaining about it. Virginia Lee has visited schools, telling classrooms about philately, and she, Sandi Locke and Pedro van Horssen have set up a Youth Corner at our shows over the past few years, actively encouraging collecting among kids by giving them free stamps and supplies. This is why I brought Virginia along when we were interviewed by Mary Dickson's Contact program on ch. 7 back in March. Virginia spoke eloquently about why kids should develop an interest in collecting stamps. How effective have we been? Who knows, but we aren't completely idle.

I've prepared some flyers that I'd like to distribute among the club membership, for you to post in places that permit public notices. You can copy them yourself, or I can continue to print them as the need arises. Look for them at our meetings.

However you do it, I'd like to encourage everyone to take a more active role in promoting the hobby of philately. You enjoy it, which is why we know that others will enjoy it as well.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

At our February 1<sup>st</sup> meeting our secretary/treasurer, Jack Wall, presented our annual treasurer's report. He then declared that he was resigning from his position as secretary/treasurer, owing to increasing demands on his time and increased responsibilities at home that made it difficult to carry the position. I then stated that I would be looking for candidates to fill Jack's shoes, not especially easy because the position requires a basic knowledge of spread sheets, in order to maintain Jack's system of

record-keeping.

In the two weeks following this meeting, I made the decision to divide the job into two different positions, in order to make the duties a little lighter. I contacted several people, and at our Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> meeting I nominated the following: Judy Maxfield for secretary, Dee Bird for treasurer, and Rick Hendricks as board member. All three names were seconded. I then asked for additional names to nominate. None were received, so I made a motion for the club to accept these three names as elected to the UPS board. This motion was approved unanimously.

Splitting the job into two positions meant that we now had an even number of members of the board, so I needed to elect another person as a board member in order to maintain an odd number of members, as stipulated by the club's constitution. The club's board now consists of nine members.

### **OTHER NEWS**

I was recently contacted by a writer for Utah Stories, a free monthly magazine that is distributed on magazine racks one sees around town. The writer wanted to do a story about philately in Utah, so he interviewed me, and later I was visited by a photographer. The story is scheduled to appear in the April edition of Utah Stories, so if you see one somewhere, pick it up to see what they had to say. I've been told that they will make copies available to us as a group.

Our next stamp show is scheduled for May 17-18. This one will include an opportunity for exhibits, which will be judged by those in attendance, and prizes will be awarded.

Finally, a heads-up: The decision has been made to increase dues by \$5, starting next year. Dues haven't been raised in quite some time, so this is intended to partially offset some of our increasing costs, such as paying rent for the SUP building where we meet. We didn't pay rent at the Sandy Senior Center, so this additional cost has been eating into our bank balance. Hopefully you will still find a great value for your annual dues.