

WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTORS CLUB



**Member: American Philatelic Society, Life Chapter #18 (1938)
American Topical Association, Chapter 55 (1978)**

CONSTITUTION

AND

BY-LAWS

March 7, 2010

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I – Name

The name of this club shall be the **Washington Stamp Collectors Club** (hereafter referred to as the Club). Formed on January 1, 2006, by combining the Washington Philatelic Society (1905) and the Collectors Club of Washington (1927).

ARTICLE II – Purposes

The purposes of this Club shall be to promote stamp collecting, disseminate philatelic knowledge among its members, cultivate social and philatelic-related interactions, and to do such things as may be necessary to carry out these purposes.

ARTICLE III – Members

Persons may be admitted to this Club by a majority vote of the members of the Club present at a regular meeting after the application is presented and dues are paid for the current year.

ARTICLE IV – Officers

SECTION 1. The officers of this Club shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Executive Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer, who shall be elected at the last meeting of January of each year. They shall serve from the date of his/her election until their successor is elected. The officers comprise the Executive Committee.

SECTION 2. The duties of the President, Vice-President, Executive Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer shall be the same as those which usually pertain to such offices. For clarification, the Executive Secretary shall be responsible for the collection and recordation of dues, submitting the IRS Form 990 (when necessary), and maintaining the membership list. The Recording Secretary shall make a written record of all formal meeting proceedings.

ARTICLE V – Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members present and in good standing at a regular meeting, after the proposed amendment has been presented in writing, to all members at least 30 days in advance of the vote. A quorum of fifteen (15) members is required.

BY – LAWS

ARTICLE I – Purpose

The By-Laws of this Club are adopted for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the Constitution of the Washington Stamp Collectors Club. Any amendments must be in complete harmony therewith.

ARTICLE II – Meetings

The regular meetings of this Club shall be held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Special meetings may be called by the President.

ARTICLE III – Members

SECTION 1. Members in this Club will be in one of the following classes:

Regular
Junior
Life
Non-Resident – Regular (Non-Voting)
Non-Resident – Life (Non-Voting)
Honorary – (Non-Voting)

SECTION 2. A Junior member is defined as any member younger than 18 years old. A non-resident member is defined as a member who does not reside permanently in the Washington, DC metropolitan area and normally cannot attend meetings due to geographic distance.

SECTION 3. A person who is normally not a member of this Club may be nominated and voted as an Honorary Member by majority vote of the members present at a meeting.

SECTION 4. Members whose dues or assessments are over one year in arrears shall be considered “not in good standing” and they shall not be entitled to vote on any matters pertaining to the Club.

SECTION 5. The Executive Secretary shall notify members whose dues are one year in arrears. Unless their dues are paid within thirty (30) days following notification, they will be automatically dropped from membership. Members who have been dropped for non-payment of dues may, upon payment of past and current dues owed, be reinstated into the Club.

SECTION 6. Any member accused of unethical conduct or dishonesty shall be investigated by the Executive Committee, which will report, with recommendations, to the Club as soon as possible. Following an unfavorable report, the member in question may be expelled by a majority vote of the members present at a meeting.

ARTICLE IV – Elections

SECTION 1. Nominations for elective offices shall be made at the first and second meetings in January, or when necessary to fill vacancies occurring during the year. Every voting member shall have equal voice in making nominations.

SECTION 2. The election of officers shall be by ballot at the second meeting in January. Each member present at the meeting shall have one vote on each ballot taken for an elective post. A majority of all votes cast for any office or position of trust shall be necessary to elect.

SECTION 3. If no candidate receives a majority of all votes cast in the first ballot, a two-way run-off ballot shall be taken.

SECTION 4. A regular or life member in good standing who will be absent from the club election may authorize another member in good standing to cast a proxy ballot on the absent member's behalf. The absent member must notify the sitting executive and recording secretaries in writing of their intention to exercise this option at least 72 hours before the election meeting, either by mail or e-mail. The absent member must clearly state who is to vote on his/her behalf, and they may not contest or dispute the vote cast by their proxy, which is final. Members acting as a proxy must be physically present at the meeting to vote, and no member may act as proxy for more than three absent members.

ARTICLE V – Voting

SECTION 1. Unless otherwise stipulated, all voting on matters pertaining to the Club shall be by a majority vote of all members present and in good standing.

SECTION 2. A quorum of eight (8) members is required for voting on all matters, except amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws (refer to **ARTICLE XI**).

SECTION 3. Voting on all matters pertaining to the Club shall be an “aye” and a “no” vote, unless a written ballot is called for by a majority vote of the members present.

ARTICLE VI – Absentee Officers

When an officer of the Club is absent from three (3) consecutive meetings without suitable excuse, his/her office shall be declared vacant by the presiding officer and shall be filled in the regular manner provided in **ARTICLE IV** of these By-Laws.

ARTICLE VII – Finances

SECTION 1. Annual dues shall be \$16.00 for Regular members, payable in advance at the first meeting in July of each year. Annual dues for Junior and Non-Resident Members shall be \$8.00 per year.

SECTION 2. If a person joins the Club anytime other than in July, that person shall pay the prorated amount of the annual dues , based on the nearest quarterly sum.

SECTION 3. Revenue may be obtained from donations, voluntary contributions from members or others, income from auction sales, income from sales circuits, and other sources.

SECTION 4. Upon payment by a member in good standing with ten (10) years of membership or more, he/she is entitled to Life Membership in the Club upon paying an amount equal to fifteen (15) times the annual dues shown in **SECTION 1** of this Article. Said member shall thereafter not be subject to annual dues or special assessments. Honorary Members are not subject to annual dues or special assessments.

SECTION 5. The Club is exempt from Federal taxes under Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Code, Title 26, Section 101(9), in accordance with IRS letter, dated September 29, 1952, and hereby continues this status. The IRS exemption was revised in 1954 under Section 501 (c) (7). When necessary, Form 990 will be submitted to the IRS.

SECTION 6. No director or officer shall be liable to the Club or any member except in case of willful misfeasance. The Club shall indemnify each director or officer (including any former director or officer) against all costs, including any fees, expenses, and fines, as a result of any threatened or initiated claim or proceeding to which the director or officer is made (or threatened to be made) a party or witness by reason of having been a director or officer of the Club.

ARTICLE VIII – Standing Committees

The President may appoint the following standing committees for the fiscal year:

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|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Finance and Audit | 6. Bulletin/Newsletter |
| 2. Sales Circuit | 7. FDC Sales |
| 3. Auction | 8. APS Representative |
| 4. Program | 9. Others, as needed |
| 5. Membership/Promotion | |

ARTICLE IX – Special Provisions

The Club may vote to establish “Special Provisions” to meet unique or periodic needs of the Club.

ARTICLE X – Parliamentary Procedures

All matters of business of the Club shall be conducted in accordance with the parliamentary procedures in Robert’s Rules of Order.

ARTICLE XI – Amendments

These By-Laws may be amended in the same manner as stipulated in **ARTICLE V** of the Constitution.

SPECIAL PROVISION No. 1— Club Auctions

SECTION 1. Auction lots must be submitted by Club members only.

SECTION 2. The minimum (starting price) for an auction lot is \$1.00.

SECTION 3. Each auction lot shall be accompanied by an auction sheet stating the minimum, lot owner, and description of the lot.

SECTION 4. The Auctioneer has the right to reject material not properly identified or not submitted in accordance with these rules.

SECTION 5. All those purchasing lots will be required to make payment to the Auction Chairman immediately upon completion of the auction

SECTION 6. 100% of the amount realized for each auction lot shall go to the lot owner, except for donation lots or auctions, where 100% of the receipts go to the Club.

SECTION 7. Settlement with lot owners will be made by the Auction Chairman after all lots have been paid for.

SPECIAL PROVISION No. 2 – Awards

<u>Name of Award</u>	<u>Contest/Presentation of Award</u>
Joseph R. Herbert Memorial Cover Award	1st Meeting, <u>February</u>

10 cover categories are selected by the previous year's winner for the contest. A panel of judges (usually 2-3) is selected in advance and vote on five designated cover categories and members and guests vote on the other five cover categories. Prize: \$25.

Hungerford Album Award	1st Meeting, <u>May</u>
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The best album is selected by Club members. Prize: \$25.

DeVoss – Gantz Annual Awards Dinner	1st Meeting, <u>October</u>
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Awarded at the Annual Awards Dinner to a Club member (DeVoss Award) and a non-Club member (Gantz Award) for outstanding philatelic service to the local/regional area. Prizes: Club President's choice.