



## 2016 CPS Year In Review – Bill Mitchell, VP

CPS started the new year with 42 members of which 2 are honorary and rest paid members. At this time, we now have 47 on our roll and that is a gain of 5 or bit over 10% which is something you can be proud of. Not a lot of stamp clubs can say they had a 10% gain vs. a loss in the year. And, we can boast as having the President of APS, Mick Zais, as a member as well as the Executive Director of APS, Scott English. What stamp society in US can boast of that!

We as a club continue to promote our hobby through our shows, held twice yearly. Our January 2016 show honored Woodrow Wilson, 28<sup>th</sup> President who had his boyhood home in Columbia. Bill Mitchell provided another outstanding show program featuring the President.

In August, we helped the National Park Service celebrate it's Centennial Year as our show theme. We featured a nice program to start the show on Saturday which included a NPS Ranger, the Postmaster of Columbia, Walter Rowland, along with USPS PO station for our show start. The NPS Ranger brought literature and "Passport" stamp which proved both educational and popular. We sold the most covers we have in quite some time and the attendance at the show was one of the best of recent time. For both shows John Owen continued his class for Boy Scouts teaching the stamp collecting merit badge with more than two dozen boys and 1 Girl Scout passing the requirements. Exhibits continued to be used as a feature of the show. And, thanks to all who supported the show including exhibitors, dealers and "our workers." Again, Bill Mitchell provided a well written and produced show program. Our thanks to Bill for his professional expertise and journalism in making the program a truly remarkable and noteworthy project.

We had five CPS members who attended the World Stamp Show in NYC at end of May: Mick Zais, Fred McGary, Mark & Susan Postmus and John Owen. That is a fantastic attendance for a club of our size and the speaks well of our affinity for the hobby. For the annual Southeastern Stamp Expo in Atlanta this past January, seven of our members made the trip over. Again, we had a good representation at CHARPEX 2016, our neighbor club in Charlotte. Bill Mitchell and Jim Sneed attended BALTEX in Baltimore in August with Bill Mitchell attending his \_\_\_th meeting of US Ship Cancellations Society meeting at that show. So, a core of our members continues to trek around to attend and support philately in various venues.

Mick Zais, our most traveled and renown member, put his name in nomination for President of APS which he won in the September election. During this year of campaigning, official business and just attending meetings and shows, Mick has logged at least 15K miles promoting the hobby including a trip to UK. He has truly been our ambassador for philately. Thanks, Mick.

We tried something new, offering an auction only meeting night this year for six months. However, that came up short in attendance and support. We learn from our efforts but we keep trying to do new things for CPS members. Hopefully, 2017 will provide new ventures into member services.

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**In conclusion, this banquet tonight attests to the support members put forward by their attendance. This is truly gratifying to the leadership and, again, says something about what members like to do at least once a year: PARTY and CELEBRATE. So, that being said, does anyone else have anything to add?**