

November 6, 2020

SEFSC Announces Cancellation of the 2021 Southeastern Stamp Expo

The Board of Directors of the Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs regrets to announce the cancellation of the 2021 Southeastern Stamp Expo. The Expo, an APS World Series of Philately event, was scheduled to take place from January 29th through January 31st.

After extensive discussions with the Expo's venue, the Hilton Atlanta Northeast, it became apparent that the Hilton's state of readiness for its reopening would not be at a level needed for a viable event. The Hilton Atlanta Northeast ceased operations in the spring of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and hotel staff have been working throughout the autumn to reopen the hotel.

The Hilton, home to the Southeastern Stamp Expo since 2013, has reached an agreement with the Expo's Organizing Committee to amend the contract between the two parties with no financial penalties to either side. The Hilton will host the 2022 Expo, with dates of January 28th to January 30th.

"We have a tremendous partner in the Hilton Atlanta Northeast," said Charles J. O'Brien III, President of the Southeastern Federation of Stamp Clubs, sponsor of the Expo. "Significant challenges have led them to reexamine their end of January status, and recommend a cessation of show planning activities given the high risk of an unavailable venue. We look forward to working with them as we plan the 2022 show!"

O'Brien also expressed gratitude to a host of stakeholders who had an interest in the show, particularly the Expo's dealers, exhibitors, and our jury. The 2021 panel of Chief Judge Peter McCann, Elizabeth Hisey, Colin Fraser, Rick Gibson, Regis Hoffman, and Van Siegling had been preparing to begin their research into the Expo's exhibits when the cancellation call was made. The Expo's planning committee has begun the process of reimbursing all dealers, exhibitors and other parties for their pre-paid fees.

Further, the SEFSC Board agreed that the annual Rowland Hill Award for service to the hobby of philately in the Southeastern States would not be awarded for 2021. The presentation and other celebrations of the honoree at the Expo are such a significant part of the Rowland Hill Award honor, that the board deemed it inappropriate to present the award. The Board anticipates the announcement of the 2022 winner in December 2021.

Lastly, the Organizing Committee is very regretful that the Expo's theme of the 50th Anniversary of Satchell Paige's induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame cannot be celebrated. This milestone ended an injustice in which the greatest players of the Negro Leagues were barred from entering the Hall of Fame. Paige, who was born in Alabama and played baseball in both Chattanooga and Nashville, was the first player selected by a special committee empaneled to assess the greats of the Negro Leagues and recommend their induction.

The Expo's Organizing Committee looks forward to an outstanding 2022 Southeastern Stamp Expo.

About the Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs

The Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs is a registered non-profit organization representing 21 stamp clubs and societies in Georgia, Tennessee, North and South Carolina, Mississippi, Massachusetts, Washington D.C., Florida, and Alabama which pool resources for a common goal of promoting and supporting stamp collecting activities and philatelic education in the southeastern region. Principal among these activities is the sponsorship and management of the annual Southeastern Stamp Expo.

About the Southeastern Stamp Expo

The Southeastern Stamp Expo is an APS World Series of Philately (WSP) accredited national stamp show, held annually the last weekend in January, and features 160 frames of exhibits, a dealer bourse, seminars and youth activities. In 2022, the show will be held at the Hilton Atlanta Northeast, 5993 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Peachtree Corners, Georgia, 30092, on Friday, January 28th through Sunday, January 30th.

About the Rowland Hill Award

Established in 2005, the Rowland Hill Award is named after Sir Rowland Hill, the creator of the first postage stamp, and is awarded annually to a philatelist who has made outstanding lifetime contributions to stamp collecting in the Southeastern United States. The award presentation is always made at the Awards Dinner of the Southeastern Stamp Expo. The honor includes an article on the honoree in the Expo's Show Program, and inclusion on the SEFSC's website at the link www.sefsc.org/hall-of-fame.