

**January 13, 2024 Business Meeting
Gulf Coast Stamp Club**

Called to order at 1:51pm by Secretary Robert Marousky. Board Members attending 4 and 9 Club Members with 0 guests. Quorum for Business Meeting requirement met and meeting is Official. Meeting held at Mercy Housing in Gulfport (See Attached 1: Sign In Sheet)

Approval of November 2023 minutes

The November minutes as posted on the Internet were approved

Treasurer's Report – Mike Kayes

The January Treasurer's report was approved as read (See Attachment 2 – Treasures Report)
Treasurer Mike Kayes gave a verbal End of Year report for 2023.

Standard Agenda Items

Website Update– Felix

1. Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs – It took a while but Felix now has full access to the SEFSC website. He also attends the SEFSC Zoom meetings.
2. Suggest that we transfer website hosting to another provider. (From Weebly to GoDaddy).
We are paid up for Weebly until June or July. When the Weebly contract ends this summer, Felix would like to change to Go-Daddy (which is much easier to use) as a host of our Club website. It would require domain name transfer. With Go-Daddy, authorized Club Officers would be able to post and make changes on the website.

Circuit Update– Bob

1. In November 142 items were purchased but there was still well over the \$200 that is needed to avoid the 5% penalty.
2. In December 148 items were purchased but there was still well over the \$200 that is needed to avoid the 5% penalty.
3. Request for circuit material in 2024 has been submitted. The circuit is still charging an additional \$5 for postage.
4. Report for 2023 Circuit expenses has been submitted to the Treasurer. Circuit cost for 2023 was \$190 with a check for \$100 to Circuit Manager and \$90 to Treasurer who furnished postage. (See Attachment 3)
5. Assistant Circuit Manager still needed for 2024.

Old Business

1..Sale of Club Library – Eric

One book was sold. Eric will bring a check for the Club next month

2 Auction – Les

See information in Board Meeting Minutes.

3 Securing Dates for the Fall Show – Rob

Dates for the show will be September 27 & 28 with set up on the 26th.

GULFPEX 2024

1. Are we going to have a show cancel and cachet envelope

It was decided to postpone this decision until we can have a Board meeting using Zoom to make decisions.

2. Dealer Contracts – Rob

Several dealers at the New Orleans show mentioned that they had not received a contract for GULFPEX 2024. Show chairman Rob O'Dell will be informed.

3. Publicity for Show – Poster?

a) Plan is to use the poster that was developed by Felix.

b) Additional plans at next meeting

4. Solar Eclipse Glasses – Do we need them to promote the show? Is there a liability if we give them out and they fail? Cost \$13 for 12, 60 pair for \$50.

It was decided that with the library next door getting 200 pairs of glasses to distribute we did not need to purchase any.

5. Exhibits and exhibit chairperson

a) Dr. John Barrett volunteered to act as exhibit chairman. Tom and Pat Adams volunteered to assist if they are available.

b) Dr. Barrett is still looking for material to do the solar eclipse exhibit. The question of having the exhibit put in the St. Martin library the month before the show was brought up. Felix volunteered to loan us one of his lighter frames to use if we decide to do this.

6. Other items for show

Discussion was held on planning for having a different layout at the show. The prior exhibit area is prime dealer area. Also the stage is not handicap accessible and is questionable space. A committee consisting of Tom/Pat Adams, Les Osborne, Mike Kayes and Rob O'Dell to work on this issue.

New Business

1. Planning for Election of Officers – May 2024

Deferred until February meeting.

2. Report on New Orleans Stamp Show? Attendance, Dealers, Problems with size of aisles.

a) All the dealers seemed to do well

b) It was challenging to get to the show location and parking was limited at the site. Additional parking across the street was available.

c) They had a food truck that seemed to be enjoyed.

d) There was some concern about the size of the aisles. At some places you could not get through using a walker. At least 4 individuals were using walkers at the show.

e) Eric White reported that there was more business on Saturday than Friday.

f) Sometimes the aisles were clogged by individuals standing and talking.

3. Club dues are due this month. Please pay Treasurer Mike Kayes. Yearly dues for individual are \$10.00 and for a Family it is \$15.00

4. Open for More New Business

None

Announcements:

1. James Gunnells from Sylacauga, Alabama sent message wishing everyone in the Club a Happy New Year and he hopes to see everyone at GULFPEX 2024.

2. Postage rates are going to increase on January 28, 2024. Forever stamps will go from 66 cents to 68 cents; postcard rate will go from 51 cents to 53 cents.

3. Former Club President Harold Gibson (who has moved to Knoxville) has received his 50 year pin as an APS member.

Announcements (cont.)

4. The club received a donation of a stamp collection from the family of the first female postmistress at Keesler Field/Base in the 1940s. It was made available for members to examine.

Show and Tell:

1. Eric White showed the various shades of purple on the 1851 3 cent US stamp.
2. Felix Perez displayed a copy of an 8 cent US Stamp online and talked about finding a full sheet of this stamp with an inking error.
3. Bob Marousky showed some covers he purchased at the New Orleans show. They included one cover with a coin in the middle of the cover and some cacheted first day covers by Ken Boil.

Volunteer for February Educational Program

There was no volunteer for the February Educational Program.

Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 2:32 pm.

Educational Program

Les Osborne showed an International Reply coupon and explained how they work. He then talked about how Charles Ponzi in the 1920s used these to start his famous "Ponzi Scheme". The "Scheme" was described by Les and then he told how it still happens today. It was a question on the TV show Jeopardy that initiated his interest in the subject.

Robert T. "Bob" Marousky
Secretary, Gulf Coast Stamp Club

Attachment 1 – Sign in sheet attached

Attachment 2 – November Treasurer's Report

Attachment 3 – Report of 2023 Circuit Expenses