

**PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

GREETINGS to all the Members—

Not many found their way to Irving, Texas for the National Topical Show and there were only seven people attending our meeting, but we had a good discussion. It was suggested that we lower the dues for those members using our WEB site for the journal. The subject will be presented to the board and hopefully we can have a decision by the time the next dues notice is sent out. Chris announced that quite a few members hadn't paid their dues. The current year paid is found after your name on the address label and this will be your last issue if you are in arrears. Also we plan to check through our records and publish a list of names, addresses, e-mails and collecting interests IF you have given your permission; that way if you wish to contact another member you can.

I came home with more duplicates -- as usual -- somehow my foolproof system breaks down each year. It was interesting that few of the dealers had new issues and some didn't look familiar but then again I believed my system. If they weren't listed I didn't need them.

Just before going to Texas I went on a cruise of the Chesapeake Bay with two of my cousins. It was a 'Crab Fest' and crab was served some way or another 3 times a day. I am still cringing when I see a crab in the store.

Hot weather has arrived here so only a few hours each day are fit for gardening, but finally have caught up except for the tree trimming; they all look like huge bushes now. Yesterday brought a flyer to my door 'tree trimming' so life is looking up.

Next year the National Topical Stamp Show will be held just south of Portland, Oregon so start planning and I hope to see you there.

Signing off, *Fran Hammond*

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