

NEWS OF NOTE

ATA DONATIONS

Almost 70 years ago, an energetic young collector named Jerry Husak launched the American Topical Association from his home in Milwaukee. Over the years, Jerry—who collected Americana, UPU, and Stamps on Stamps—was joined by others from all over the world who were attracted to this popular new collecting interest. Today the ATA has roughly 3000 members making it American philately's largest specialty.

The recent ATA member survey showed a high level of satisfaction with the ATA and its services, but it also pointed out things that it could do better. It is now examining and costing out those suggested improvements.

The ATA has been successful because of the generous support from volunteers. The ATA needs your help to maintain that success. ATA's annual fund-raising goal is based on what it actually needs to supplement income from dues and services. The ATA is within \$10,000 of meeting its goal of \$35,000 for 2016.

If you have not donated this year, or even if you have, please consider giving the Association a boost to reach this goal. Every dollar of member contributions is used to support ATA services and to promote topical collecting. Any contribution no matter how small helps the ATA go Boldly to the Future.

NTSS 2017

The American Topical Association, our parent organization, will hold its annual National Topical Stamp Show at the Crown Plaza Milwaukee Airport Hotel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on 23–25 June 2017.

The show will feature an all-thematic philatelic exhibition and a 30-dealer bourse. Several cachet makers will feature not only topical material, but a wide range of other stamps, covers, and philatelic material. There will be meetings, seminars, activities, and special touring events. Also offered are free parking, youth activities, and "Stamps in Your Attic" evaluations.

The Biology Unit will hold its annual meeting at the show on Saturday morning.

The daily show themes are: Nature (Friday), Culture (Saturday), and Technology (Sunday).

The Crown Plaza is providing a special show rate of \$99 (plus ~15% tax) by calling 414-764-5300 no later than 7 June 2017, and giving the Group Code "NTS."

An exhibit prospectus and entry form are available on the NTSS page of the ATA website at: <http://americantopicalassn.org/ntss/ntss2017.shtml>. The fee for multi-frame exhibits is \$15 per frame. There is no charge for Youth exhibits.

TOPICAL TIME WINS AWARD

Topical Time, the bi-monthly magazine of the American Topical Association, won second place in the 4th CG International Philatelic Promotion Awards on 29 October 2016, at the 34th *Internationale Briefmarken-Börse* in Sindelfingen, Germany.

The jury awarded *Topical Time* a score of 80.2 points, which was exceeded only by a score of 80.5 awarded to *Junge Sammler* (Youth Collector) published by Deutsche Philatelisten Jugend e.V. The award included a trophy, certificate, and cash prize of €1,000 (~\$1,200).

Congratulations to Editor, Wayne Youngblood, and to the ATA for this terrific accomplishment.

The awards are sponsored by Auktionshaus Christoph Gärtner GmbH & Co. KG in Bietigheim-Bissingen, Germany.