



Remembering Washington 2006

Springfield Stamp Club Members Share Their Memories of Volunteering
at the Washington 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition

Gerry Frazier, Pat Kuch, Neal Parr, Otto Thamasett

Washington 2006

- The 10th U.S. International Philatelic Exhibition, Washington 2006 – World Philatelic Exhibition, ran from May 27 thru June 3, 2006 at the Washington Convention Center in Washington D.C.



Origins of Springfield Stamp Club Involvement

- Washington 2006 representative Steve Luster and Gordon Morison spoke at the Springfield Stamp Club in 2001 asking, “Who will volunteer?”
- Since the show was five years off, Club members said sure.
- Beginning with the 2001 meeting, the Springfield Stamp Club made a yearly financial contribution to support the Washington 2006 organization.
- The Springfield Stamp Club thus became the first and one of the many philatelic organizations to support Washington 2006.

- Fun Fact – Steve Luster served as President of the Springfield Stamp Club in 1975-1976



Springfield Stamp Club at Washington 2006

- Supporting Washington 2006 was truly a Club wide effort
- Over 30 Club members volunteered at Washington 2006
- What follows are the personal stories of several Club members

Catalog Sales and Palmares – Otto Thamasett



Otto Thamasett was responsible for the sale of show catalogs. Eight pallets of 1,000 programs each were shipped to the Convention Center. The programs were shrink wrapped in bundles of 4 and had to be opened to have stamps inserted. It took a team of four about two hours per pallet to get the job done!

As for sales, Otto had a team of six volunteers who sold the catalogs from a booth near the show entrance.

Otto helped to find a printer for the Palmares book of exhibit winners. The challenge was that he received the list of winners on the Thursday of the show and had to have 1,000 copies of the Palmares book by Saturday!

Fun Fact – the show catalog sold for \$20 and there were lines everyday of the show to buy them

The Bin Room – Pat Kuch

Pat Kuch was new to stamp collecting in 2006 but was game to volunteer to support Washington 2006. Pat worked as a checker in the bin room. The bin room is where all the exhibits are checked in and stored prior to mounting them in the exhibit frames.

Checking one particular exhibit proved to be quite memorable. Before the owner brought it to her she noticed everyone in the room looking and oohing over it. When the owner brought the exhibit over to Pat to check it in, she thought it was a bunch of dirty old stamps showing depicting Washington and Franklin. Afterwords Pat found out she had checked in the Gross collection of rare American stamps, including the famous Z Grill. The value of the stamps Pat checked in was estimated to be between \$8 Million to \$10 Million!

In retelling the story, Pat admits she was glad she did not know the value of the stamps at the time as she would have been way too nervous!



Booklet given to show attendees

Audio Visual – Gerry Frazier



Volunteers were usually given a nice medal and/or a Washington 2006 bag as a thank you!

When Gerry Frazier was asked to volunteer for the show he was given the option supporting audio visual for the event. Not entirely sure of what that meant, Gerry accepted. He ended up being very busy during the show as he checked the sound systems and projectors in some 8 to 10 meeting rooms and stages each day. If something was not working, such as a projector bulb, Gerry would alert the contractor supplying the A/V equipment and have them resolve the issue.

Gerry also was the PA announcer for several days to announce the show's official opening and closure!

Escorting Ben Franklin – Neal Parr



Neal Parr had an interesting volunteer job at Washington 2006 – escorting Ben Franklin! A professional Ben Franklin re-enactor was hired to appear at the show. Neal walked him around during the five days that the re-enactor was at the show. The re-enactor stayed in character the entire time and proved to be very popular with show attendees.

For Neal this was a great volunteer assignment as he was able to walk around the show floor and see everything and even more rewarding was that he was able to meet the many people that Ben Franklin interacted with.

When not with Ben Franklin, Neal was at the Catalogue Sales booth giving the volunteers at that booth a chance to see the show

Other Springfield Stamp Club Volunteers at Washington 2006

- The late **Doug Easton** was a past President of the Springfield Stamp Club. Doug was a gregarious “foodie” who volunteered to manage the Washington 2006 Club. The Washington 2006 Club had food options and meeting space for the generous donors who underwrote much of the show cost.
- The Bin Room was organized by Springfield Stamp Club members **Doug Lehman** and his wife **Patricia** and Springfield Stamp Club member **Chris Loesch**.

Final Thoughts

Otto, Pat, Gerry, and Neal all agreed that:

1. Volunteering at Washington 2006 was incredibly rewarding.
2. If collectors have a chance to attend an International Philatelic show they definitely should.
3. When attending an International Philatelic show you should give yourself at least three days at the show.
4. If possible, volunteer!
5. Boston 2026 is not that far off. Start planning your trip there now!