

Notes on the Meeting of Regional Group Representatives BNAPEX-2009-SEAWAYPEX, September 12, 2009

At the suggestion of Gary Dickinson, it was decided to call a meeting of any of the Regional Group Representatives who were planning to attend the annual BNAPS Convention. It was the expectation that we might be able to assist each other with some of the challenges facing Regional Groups in our far-flung organization.

We had nine participants on hand, and each person went over the manner that their Group conducted their activities. A review of the discussions follows, in the hope that other Group Contacts will find some ideas for the more successful operation of their "district".

Peter McCarthy of the Golden Horseshoe Group, which draws from the largest concentration of BNAPS members of any group, made several points:

- They usually meet five times per year – September through May;
- Attendance is generally in the 30 – 35 range, but most times there is a different mix of attendees from meeting to meeting;
- Meetings start at 10:00 AM, and run to 3:30 PM;
- The program consists of a speaker (max. 45 minutes), invited dealer(s), a Show-and-Tell segment, and an auction of donated material;
- An email is sent out to BNAPSers in the area, about 10 days before the meeting; (guests are welcomed);
- The Group produces one Newsletter per year;
- All this is staged at an attractive restaurant, and there is a break for lunch.

Dave Whitely and Don Fraser commented on the activities of the Manitoba/NorthWestern Ontario Group:

- Meetings are held three or four times a year, one of which is in conjunction with the annual Stamp Club Show;
- They generally get 10 – 15 members at a meeting;
- Meetings take place on Saturday from 1: to 4: PM;
- Dues of \$5. per year are collected;
- Meeting notices are mailed to 22 BNAPS members in their area;
- The meeting venue is a hall in the basement of a church.

Pacific Northwest Regional Group was represented by Gary Dickinson, and their activities are:

- An annual meeting at various locations within the geographic area of the members;
- Generally 30 members, half with their spouses, are in attendance;
- There is a 2-day event, and has a definite "social" aspect, with a Friday get-together, Saturday and Sunday mornings feature philatelic presentations, Show-and-Tell sessions, and a business portion;
- Usually one Dealer is invited;
- Combined activities for the couples are held in the afternoons;
- Two Newsletters are produced each year – one just before the meeting, and another afterwards;
- Email notices are sent to about half the 210 members in their "territory".

Charles Livermore from the New York Region had these points to add:

- Their Group meets twice a year, usually in conjunction with an area Stamp Show
- Attendance is generally 11 or 12;
- 110 notices are sent out to advise members of the meetings.

From Robert Lemire, representing the St. Lawrence Seaway Group outlines some of that region's activities:

- They hold two meetings a year – one in conjunction with Orapex, the other in October, with a social theme, including lunch at noon, and supper with spouses;
- While there are fewer in attendance in the Fall, those participating are generally different from the members at Orapex;
- Vest-pocket Dealers frequently attend;
- They rent a room in Perth for about \$25. for the meeting.

Down in Prairie Beaver country, George Dresser explained that they do things a bit differently:

- They try to meet three times a year;
- Meeting venues are switched around, with College Station, Dallas, Houston. and Austin as some of the places they've gathered.
- Friday PM and evening are selected for their get-togethers with lunch and dinner;
- An effort is made to invite guests in the hope that fostering an interest in BNA philately could lead to additional new members.

For the Atlantic Regional Group, Graham McCleave sat in for the New Brunswick "wing", and some of the things that this relatively new group has tried to initiate are:

- Having a regional meeting in conjunction with Novapex, in Halifax;
- Staging local (Halifax area) informal meetings at members' homes, or in rented facilities;
- Advising all Atlantic members via email whenever either type meeting is scheduled;
- Providing details of each meeting through email communication with those same BNAPSers;
- Looking to institute plans to try to hold meetings in other geographic centers in the region.

I hope this overview will assist other Regional Group contacts in putting together a plan for their territory, and we would welcome any program ideas, comments or suggestions that you might want to share. As well, if you have some ideas and/or activities that have worked for your Group, please pass them along. My email address is: JAFRBS@aol.com

Subsequent to the Kingston meeting, Greg Spring has offered to spearhead the organization of a United Kingdom Regional Group. He would welcome contact from any members in that area; his email address is: g.m.spring@asch.co.uk

Your efforts on behalf of BNAPS are greatly appreciated.

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