



PRESIDENT'S VIEWPOINT

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ESPHS REJECTS STAMP INSIDER FUNDING

The Empire State Postal History Society Executive Board, of which I am a member, has voted against funding *STAMP INSIDER* subscriptions for its membership. ESPHS has a substantial balance in its available investments and is fiscally able to make such a commitment. It should be noted that other *FEDERATION* clubs are providing the *INSIDER* to their membership.

The commitment would cost ESPHS approximately \$600. ESPHS members currently pay \$15 per year in dues and receive the *Bulletin* and *Excelsior*. The board vote resulted in a tie that was broken by President Alan Parsons, who cast the deciding no vote on February 17. Those opposing subscribing saw little or no postal history value in the *Stamp Insider* and did not believe that the publication or the Federation contributed to ESPHS' goals or the interests of a majority of its membership.

Those of us who voted yes do not support this decision or the arguments. I will propose renewing the funding when the new ESPHS administration takes office next year, with the hopes its members will continue to receive our bimonthly publication.

Until then ESPHS members no longer will receive the *STAMP INSIDER* unless they receive it by virtue of belonging to another philatelic organization within the *FEDERATION*. This goes into effect with the July–August issue.

In 2007, Parsons and I personally contributed \$328.50 each to provide the *STAMP INSIDER* to each ESPHS member who did not already receive the publication. Parsons proposed the cost-sharing initiative after the ESPHS Executive Board rejected funding.

I solely financed the 2006 *STAMP INSIDER* subscriptions in order to provide news and articles on a timely basis.

I am requesting that ESPHS members wishing to continue receiving the *STAMP INSIDER* subscribe individually for \$4.50 per year postpaid. This is not the \$7.50 price normally applicable to non-*Federation* members. Please send your payment to *FEDERATION* Secretary Ronald K. Ratchford, 1105 Union St., Schenectady, NY 12308-2805. We need your support to continue providing this quality nonprofit publication to club members and other subscribers.

If anyone would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to the *FEDERATION* to help sponsor the ESPHS subscriptions for 2008 and to ensure the continuation of its club page, please let me know. I also encourage ESPHS members to let its Executive Board know their views on its actions. Please mail, e-mail or call ESPHS Secretary George McGowan, P. O. Box 482, East Schodack, NY 12063-0482, GEOLOTUS2003@NYCAP.RR.COM, 518-479-4396; and Parsons, 809 Holley Rd., Elmira, NY 14905-1212, ALATHOLLEYRD@AOL.COM, 607-732-0181.