

# TEXAS PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION - 2014 ELECTIONS

## Biographies of candidates for office

### President - John Germann, Houston, Texas



Like many collectors I began stamping when I was a youngster, ten years of age to be precise. My mother went to Foley's in downtown Houston and on a lark purchased a tiny paper stamp album, a packet of hinges, and a packet of stamps just to see if I might be interested. Little did she know what she had started. I collected avidly, even saving my lunch money in order to buy approvals from the likes of Garcelon, Jamestown, and Wolverine Stamp Companies. Again like many I shelved the albums in college. But that same interest in culture and history which had so intrigued me about stamps also became the basis for my life-long career – teaching high school history. And like many I rediscovered the albums in my mid-twenties, in my case when my wife asked me to help with some spring cleaning. Poor things, she has been a stamp widow now for almost a half-century.

I started by collecting the stamps of Egypt and Finland; their histories were attractive to me and the stamps were relatively affordable. My tastes and interests were much too eclectic, however, to stick very long with just two. My binders today are chock full of Egypt, Scandinavia (including stationery), Russia, Europe, the British and French empires, and worldwide definitive and airmails. I also pursue postal history. In fact my main collecting interest is the postal history of Texas, with a special affinity for discontinued post offices. In addition I stay on the lookout for covers from as many different ships of the US navy as I can find. Along the way I have joined many philatelic societies. I have shed some in retirement but I am currently a 39-year member of the American Philatelic Society, plus the Texas Philatelic Association of course, the Texas Postal History Society (former vice-president), and the Houston Philatelic Society (current vice-president). I have a passion for philatelic research, and have published books on Louisiana Post Offices and Texas Post Offices, plus many articles on Texas and naval postal history. I am spending much of my retirement time in this aspect of the hobby.

I would also like to spend a goodly amount of my retirement on advancing the cause of philately in Texas. I have worked with kids for over 40 years, including a school stamp club back in the days when students had much fewer, less flashy choices to spend their time. So I have a soft spot for them. But I also believe that we should pursue others, for example empty-nesters with discretionary income and time and retirees looking for enjoyable ways to spend their time. And I'd like to see if we can find ways to make the society ever more rewarding for our current TPA colleagues. We have a fine journal and now a fine auction as well – what else can we do to actively engage today's and tomorrow's membership?

## **First Vice-President - Vince King, Denton, Texas**



Vince King became a stamp collector in 1960 when working on his Cub Scout merit badges. That interest prompted all of his aunts and uncles to tear stamps off old letters and send them to him. By 1990 Vince began to seriously collect and study the Canadian Small Queens issues as well as classic Canada and British North America.

Today his interests are focused on researching, writing and collecting early Texas postal history to 1876. Since 2007 he has served as the president of the Texas Postal History Society (TPHS). He was previously vice president of the TPHS. He wrote the "Seen at Auction" feature in the quarterly Texas Postal History Society Journal for several years and served as Texas co-editor of the CSA Handbook.

His various Texas postal history exhibits have garnered multiple APS World Series and International Gold awards. He is now the President of the TEXPEX Foundation and chairman of the show.

Vince's philatelic affiliations include the American Philatelic Society, U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, Inc. and the Confederate Stamp Alliance. He is a member of the Council of Philatelists of the Smithsonian National Postal Museum.

Graduating in 1975 with the B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering from Texas A&M University, Vince holds U.S. patents in the design of underwater acoustic instrumentation. He is owner and president of Denton, Texas-based Entech Design, Inc., a leading producer of equipment for the water and wastewater industry.

## **Second-President - Tom Koch, DeSoto, Texas**



Tom began collecting stamps as a youngster by replying to ads in comic books and trading with neighborhood kids. Today he specializes in 19th century transatlantic mail to and from Texas. His ancestor, Friedrich Ernst, is known as the "Father of German Immigration to Texas." The Texas Philatelic Association honored him as a Distinguished Philatelic Texan in 2007. He is currently the second vice president of the TPA and Texas Philatelist editor. Tom chaired the TEXPEX stamp show in North Texas from 2001 to 2009. He served as president of the Texas Postal History Society from 2003-05, and has been editor of the Texas Postal History Society Journal since 2005. In 2003 he won a gold medal at TEXPEX for exhibiting "Postal Markings and Usages of Industry, Texas." He also won a gold for exhibiting "The World's First Baseball Stamp," at the 2008 Mid-Cities Stamp Expo.

He created and wrote the "Stamp Scene" column for the Dallas Times Herald metro newspaper from the late 1970s to the mid-1980s. He was an organizer of the Dallas Stamp Day in 1980 and 2002. During his 13 years on the staff of McDermott Library at The University of Texas at Dallas, he organized seminars and presentations for the Wineburgh Philatelic Research Library. These included the Chester Nimitz stamp campaign, Gerald Ford stamp, Space, Air America, Jimmy Doolittle and the American Scientists issue.

Tom's philatelic affiliations include the American Philatelic Society, Collector's Club of Dallas, The Christmas Philatelic Club and the Universal Ship Cancellation Society where he served on the national board of directors.

He recently retired from UT Dallas. He spent many years in public relations and newspaper work where he served as national communications officer, editor, reporter and columnist. He received a B.A. in journalism from North Texas State University.

## Secretary-Treasurer - Lyle Boardman, Austin, Texas



Born in Long Beach, California, Lyle Boardman has been a collector of stamps since the age of eleven, when his grandmother gave him stamps she had set aside from her post office purchases. He joined a stamp club in junior high school and started building his collection there and from approval dealers.

After moving to Austin, Texas in 1968, Lyle joined the Austin-Texas Stamp Club in the mid-1970's and has held every office in that club. He currently serves as Secretary-Treasurer-Newsletter Editor. He was on the show committee for the Austin Stamp Show (AUSPEX) since the first one in 1976 and designed cachets and cancellations for the show from 1979 to 2005 when the show was

discontinued.

He joined the Texas Postal History Society in 1976 and the Texas Philatelic Association in 1984. He became Treasurer of both organizations in the mid 1990's and still holds the posts. Lyle was named the Distinguished Philatelic Texan for 2002. In 2012, he was appointed Secretary-Treasurer of the TEXPEX Foundation. He is a member of the American Philatelic Society, the American Revenue Association, the United States Stamp Society, and several other specialty groups.

His primary collecting interests include United States, Germany, Canada and stamps engraved by Czeslaw Slania. He also collects engravings, Cinderellas, and Austin, TX covers. He has exhibited his collection of covers and ephemera related to the 1995 Texas Statehood stamp. He has written articles for the journals of the Texas Philatelic Association and the Texas Postal History Society.

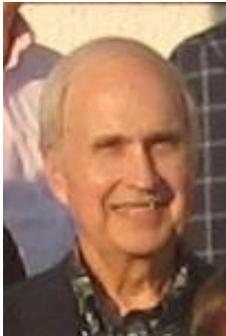
Lyle has had a long volunteer relationship with the Austin Post Office and has prepared numerous cancellation designs and cachets. He was a member of the Austin Program Committee of the State Sesquicentennial Events Committee during the Texas Sesquicentennial Celebration and designed the pictorial cancellation used for the final Sesquicentennial event in February, 1996. He designed the pictorial cancellation used in Austin and Crawford, Texas for the presidential inaugurations of President George W. Bush, and most recently prepared a pictorial cancellation for the centennial of birth of Lady Bird Johnson. Most of his work results in a donation to the group that contacted the Austin Post Office and includes the Bob Wills Museum in Turkey, Texas, the Boy Scouts of America, Huston-Tillotson College, the Friends of O. Henry, and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

He has been married to his wife Gerre for over 47 years and has three grown daughters and five granddaughters. He is the only stamp collector in his family, but has prepared several topical

collections that relate to things they are interested in, including chickens, cycling, running, and, of course, women.

Lyle is retired from the field of Management Accounting having been employed by the same company for nearly 40 years. His other interests include landscaping using the Xeriscape approach, cooking without recipes, and Toastmasters.

### **TPA Board of Directors - Larry Ballantyne, Katy, Texas**



I started collecting stamps at age 12 when my grandfather gave me a stamp album and a bag of worldwide stamps. I have remained a collector ever since, focusing primarily on U.S. and Canadian stamps and postal history. My main area of interest includes U.S. local and express companies. Currently I am enjoying researching 19<sup>th</sup> Century Texas and Louisiana express companies in contemporary newspapers and city directories. I have exhibited U.S. independent mail / express companies on the local and national level.

I am a Life member of the American Philatelic Society and Executive Secretary of the United States Stamp Society. I have been Treasurer of both the Houston Philatelic Society and HOUPEX/Greater Houston Stamp Show since 1996. I am a Section Editor for the *Western Express* journal of the Western Cover Society and also on the Board of Directors of the Western Cover Society. I am also on the Board of Directors of the Carriers and Locals Society. I am a member of the Texas Philatelic Association and the Texas Postal History Society along with a few other societies.

I feel it is incumbent upon all of us to give something back to this great hobby that we enjoy so much. I would like to give back to Texas philately by continuing as a member of the Board of Directors of the TPA. Hopefully my experience in a variety of philatelic organizations can translate into helping the TPA become a more valuable asset to existing members and in finding ways to attract new TPA members.

### **TPA Board of Directors - Ray Cartier, Arlington, Texas**



Ray Cartier is currently a Director of the Texas Philatelic Society and is the Exhibit's Chairman for TEXPEX. He has been a member of the TPA since 2001. In addition to these he is the Secretary of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club and the Exhibit's Chairman for the Mid-Cities Stamp Club's annual Stamp Expo. He was honored by the TPA as their choice for Distinguished Philatelic Texan in 2009.

He, with his wife, founded the Mid-Cities Stamp Club in 1973 serving as their first President and co-chair of their first stamp show, POSTEX in 1974. He and his wife are both Members Emeritus of that club. In 1975 the TPA awarded him the first Forsheimer Award for his three part article on the Planet Mars. From 2003 through 2009 he was selected and served as the Executive Director of the American Topical Association. In that capacity he played major roles in running six different National Topical Stamp Shows, designing two souvenir sheets

and two mini-sheets for two of those shows. In 2007 he was selected as the ATA's Distinguished Topical Philatelist.

He has written articles appearing in most of the major US philatelic publications including the Texas Philatelist, and his articles have also appeared in Philatelic Publications in England, Germany, Croatia and South America.

He served the Space Unit as Vice President for 8 years and as its President for 4 years. He is also a member of the APS .

His collecting interests are primarily along the lines of collecting space covers and some aviation themed covers, with topicals of Mars, Stratospheric Flight, Jules Verne, Jacques Cartier, Primary Recovery Ships, the Aircraft of Air Force Plant #4, and others. He authored the "Primary Recovery Ship Cover Handbook" in 1992 and the "Space Cover Collecting Handbook" in 2012. He is a frequent exhibitor and has been awarded several "Gold" level awards for his various exhibits.

Ray retired from General Dynamics where he started as a buyer and moved up to Purchasing Agent, winning the President's Award for his Cost Avoidance techniques. The American Red Cross awarded him the Clara Barton Award for Volunteer Leadership over a period of 10 years. He and his wife, Karen, also an avid philatelist, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this year. Both are retired. They have three grown children and three grandchildren.

### **TPA Board of Directors - Greg L. Cain, Cypress, Texas**



I have been collecting stamps since I was about 8 years old. My dad got my brother and me started with two copies of the *Worldwide Stamp Album* by John W. Nicklin (1935), which I believe had been his and his brother's. I still have mine. Except for the familiar hiatus many of us go through during college, I've been a steady collector pretty much ever since. My longest standing collecting interest has been U.S. commemorative singles, which, frankly, I still enjoy. That collection, however, is nearly complete so over the years I've added Roosevelt (FDR) on stamps as a topical interest and, in recent years, I've discovered the excitement and fascination of U.S. postal history, especially as related to my hometown of Evansville, Indiana, where I was born in 1951. I've picked up a couple of advertising covers from there as well as covers from what were the two most prominent hotels in town when I was growing up. Only one still stands and it's abandoned, awaiting its fate. My favorite activity at stamp shows, other than saying hi to some of the dealers and other collectors I've met, is to browse through boxes of advertising and hotel covers.

I joined the APS in 1994 and the Methodist Philatelic Society a few years later. I completed my undergraduate and law school studies at Southern Methodist University in the 1970s and early 1980s, and have been employed as a tax attorney in corporate tax departments pretty much ever since. My late wife (Kate, d. 2005) and I had three kids, who are all now in their 20s and in college. I met Lucy in 2007 and we were married in late 2012, which brought two more college-age young men into my life.

Lucy and I love to travel Texas; she's a camper, me not so much. But I am learning. We enjoy West Texas, especially the Fort Davis area, and we honeymooned in Matador in the panhandle. We spent our first anniversary at the Hotel Settles in Big Spring, which is just beautiful now. Everywhere we go, we visit the local post office and historical sites. We especially enjoy locating post office murals from the 1930s, such as the one in Alpine.

I have been richly blessed with friends and a loving family and, as I enter the "encore" phase of my life, I look forward to giving back as much as I can, through the law, through our church, and through the organizations I support and believe in. I can think of no better closing than the one made famous by our former State Comptroller and Lt. Governor, Bob Bullock – *God bless Texas*. Thank you.

### **TPA Foundation Trustee - Jonathan Topper, Houston, Texas**



I am an enthusiastic lifelong stamp collector (started when I was five years old), and now specialize in postal history of Texas and various countries in Latin America. I became a full time stamp dealer 4 years ago, offering formal stamp appraisal services for insurance, estates and wills.

I strongly believe in giving back to the hobby. I have over 25 years' experience in volunteering in philatelic study groups and societies, including the local Houston Philatelic Society, as a Director for the International Society of Guatemala Collectors, and as Secretary for the Texas Stamp Dealers Association. Before I became a full time stamp dealer, my wife and I coordinated the Beginner's Booth at the Greater Houston Stamp Show for over 10 years.

When I moved to Texas, I joined the TPA and have previously served on their Board of Directors. As a member of the TPA Board of Trustees, I plan to continue to be an advocate for youth philately and to support stamp programs and stamp shows throughout Texas.

I am a retired Toxicologist and am spending my retirement years with the hobby that I love. I have been married to my wife Cielo for 25 years, and we have two children, David (Auburn University in Alabama) and Marie-Claire (University of Houston). As a couple, we are active in our local church ministries and historical societies.