

2020 Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show Canceled

By Harvey Edwards, President

“Good news travels fast; bad news travels faster”

Hello fellow NSSS members:

As you are all aware, our lives and daily activities have been upended by COVID-19. We are making less trips to the store and having to be creative to keep in contact with our children, grandchildren and friends.

The club has moved its meetings, for the time being, to the web using Zoom. At each meeting we have talked about the annual stamp show but at the May 23rd meeting we reached the point where we had to vote on whether to go forward or cancel the show scheduled for July 25-July 26 at the National Bowling Stadium. I think most everyone in attendance would really have preferred to go forward but, regretfully, we determined that we had little choice but to cancel the show.

Some things were within our ability to address but many of the obstacles were not. Nevada is currently in “Phase 1” of reopening with the governor expected to speak this evening (May 26th) about moving into Phase 2, potentially next week at the end of May. The Bowling Stadium would be a “Phase 3” reopening. “Large” gatherings would be allowed in Phase 4. I have not heard any discussions about target dates for Phases 3 or 4.

In talking with the Stadium manager, he hadn’t received any specific directions for reopening. They anticipate that the museum (our show room) occupancy will be halved. We revised the show room layout to a less dense layout that accommodates only 8 dealers and the post office (down from 13 dealers and the post office) and we had commitments from 8 dealers to fill those tables. However, we do not know if the bowling stadium would have been open for the show. Nor do we know if the city would have let us go forward with the show, what kind of mitigation plan they would require of us or how onerous it might be.

We also don’t know if our revised layout would have been acceptable to the City but if it were, physical distancing would have required us to monitor and limit the number of people in the show room and the number of customers at any dealer booth throughout the show. We would also have had to manage attendees waiting to come into the show.

There was a concern that many of our members are in the at-risk category and we might be taking on a liability if an outbreak was traced back to the show. We were also concerned about setting up sanitizing stations, providing any required PPE (face masks) and signage requirements. Some other concerns were how to determine/monitor the wellness of attendees, whether we could or would enforce wearing masks, and who would enforce physical distancing and the wearing of masks.

We hope that you agree, or at least understand, our reasoning for canceling this year’s show.

Editor: This is a mock-up of one of the show covers that Harvey was working on. The other cover and cancellation celebrated the 150th Anniversary of the Carson Mint. Plans were to have a different cover theme and cancellation for each day of the stamp show. Oh well!

