

## **The Year in Recap!**

**By Harvey Edwards, President**

Welcome to December of 2020. If you look back and can only remember the months of January, February, and COVID, it would be understandable. And to be honest, COVID has been in so much of the news that I'm not sure anyone remembers too much of January and February.

The year started out like many of the club's previous 43 Januarys (the NSSS was formed in August 1975): talk of the Holiday Party, socializing over refreshments, remembering "closed albums," and bidding on auction items.

In the February-March timeframe, the "fertilizer" hit the proverbial "ventilation system" and the philatelic world, along with the rest of the world, turned upside down when the words "coronavirus" and COVID-19 entered our everyday vocabulary.

Many stamp clubs haven't had a meeting, in-person or virtual, since late February or early March. Our club, after much discussion, went forward with its first March meeting. Then, due to health guidelines and concern for our members' health, the second meeting went virtual using Zoom. There were 9 members in attendance at that first experimental meeting. (I don't know it as a fact but the NSSS may be the only club not to miss any meetings this year.)

First day of issue ceremonies went virtual, stamp collecting videos popped up on the web and stamp shows were postponed or cancelled, including our own 2020 Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show that had been scheduled for July 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> at the National Bowling Stadium.

In early July, we had our first combination in-person/virtual meeting. Yes, just when we were starting to get the hang of Zoom meetings, we had to upset the cart. If my count is correct, we have had 6 in-person/virtual meetings. But, due to another huge uptick in COVID cases in October and November, there won't be any additional in-person meetings for the rest of the year. For those wondering, December 12<sup>th</sup> will be the club's 18<sup>th</sup> virtual meeting. (A special thanks to **Dave Parsons** for allowing the club to use his Zoom account.)

Meeting attendance pre-COVID was typically 25-30 members. Since that first virtual meeting with 9 attendees, we have grown our meeting attendance, split between in-person and virtual, back up to about 20 members over the recent months. One really great outcome of the virtual meeting is that our members can attend from anywhere. And they do! Some of the more distant locations include Hawaii, Arizona, and Mexico. The Board is exploring what purchases we need to make in order to continue a virtual aspect of the meetings in a post-COVID environment.

NSSS membership has remained strong. The Board of Directors voted to extend all memberships through July 2021. NSSS has also welcomed 6 new club members this year: **Madeline Sanford** (January); **David and Trice Klauber** (June); **Tom Reyman** (June); **Debbie Grugal** (September); and **David Morton** (October). Sadly, the albums closed for three of our members: **Gary Dahlke** (March), **Don Garrett** (June) and **Bill Littell** (November).

In other news, although we had to cancel the July stamp show, the club decided to continue with the show covers since the post office had already approved the cancellations. The covers celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Carson City Mint. Many of the covers have been sold but some are still available for purchase at \$2 each.

With many thanks to **Dave Parsons**, **John Walter**, **Howard Kadohiro**, **Howard Grenzebach**, the club has also initiated an on-line auction. There have been 3 successful auctions. And buyers have been getting some very exceptional value for their purchases! (Auction 4 is available for bidding

December 2<sup>nd</sup> through noon December 10<sup>th</sup>. The club receives 10% of the selling price for member-listed lots and 100% of the “blue sheet” or donation lots.)

In closing out this 2020 recap, I wish you all a safe holiday season. I hope that you will join us for the December 12<sup>th</sup> virtual meeting. There will be a door prize raffle at the meeting, but you must be “present” to win. And stay tuned for 2021.