

Meeting of Regional Group Representatives, BNAPEX Victoria Sept 2010

For those who weren't able to attend, I trust this outline of discussions will help with your efforts in the field.

Attendance - we had 10 people attending, including our new president, Robert Lemire. The following are some of the topics that were discussed.

Meeting Frequency - there were diverse approaches to this....some meet monthly (except summer), others, 5 times, 3 times, or even once a year. Areas with larger concentrations of members in a relatively "tight" geographic zone are the ones that tend to meet more frequently. Those meeting less often seem to use a local stamp show as a gathering point for get-togethers.

Meeting Content - Standard fare at most of the meetings is a period of time for trading, selling, of stamps and covers, sometimes with one or more dealers in attendance. Some groups include a guest speaker, and most have a period of time set aside for show-and-tell activities. There is frequently a lunch, and in a few cases, a dinner. For the groups that meet less frequently, the main meeting would include a dinner where accompanying partners attend. In situations like this it was pointed out that it is most important to set up some activities for the partners during the time where the members are involved in philatelic endeavours. The venue will dictate what these activities will consist of, but make sure they are of general interest.

New Attendees/Members - One point that was driven home was the need to make new members feel at home with the group. It was suggested that when information is received by the Regional Group contact about a new applicant for membership from our Secretary, an attempt should be made to assign one of the more active members (maybe an OTB member) of your group to act as a mentor for the new person. This way, when he or she is invited to a meeting, there will be someone there to introduce them to other attendees. This mentor could also explain the Regional Group concept and make sure that information on Study Groups is provided as well. To foster a closer relationship with newcomers, their name should automatically be added to the mailing/emailing list of the group so that they are kept fully up to date on activities.

Meeting Reports - after each meeting, a report should go out to all the BNAPSers within the region, so that even if they haven't been able to attend, they will know what is going on in the area, and conceivably plant a seed that will encourage them to get out for the next function. The meeting reports should also go to the BNAPS webmaster, and if possible include photos to be posted on the web site.

Presidential Visits - Robert Lemire has expressed a desire to visit some of the Regional Groups over the course of his time in office. With our far-flung membership, it's apparent that the number of visits will have to be limited, but if you feel you would like to host Robert, please send him an email at: (rlemire000@sympatico.ca) and provide a time that you think would be convenient for the greatest number of your members.

I think this covers all the material discussed. I hope that more Regional Representatives will be able to attend next year's Convention in North Bay, Ontario.

Regards,

Jack Forbes