

February 22, 2005

MARYANN BOWMAN SELECTED AS 2005 ATA DISTINGUISHED TOPICAL PHILATELIST

MaryAnn Bowman of Waukesha, Wisconsin, has been selected as the American Topical Association's 2005 Distinguished Topical Philatelist, according to an announcement by DTP committee chairman Jerome Husak. The award will be presented on Saturday evening, June 18, 2005, at the Awards Banquet during the ATA annual convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Mrs. Bowman has been involved since 1970 in promoting youth stamp collecting activities, and in 1991 she was the first recipient of the American Philatelic Society Kehr Award for starting, in 1982, the APS youth area at StampShow, and for creating KIDPEX, a stamp show promoting stamp collecting among youth in Wisconsin.

MaryAnn Bowman received a stamp album for her birthday in 1968 and attended her first stamp show where she fell in love with a thematic exhibit by Mary Ann Owens. The following year, she subscribed to her first philatelic weekly which she found useful in leading youth in philatelic activities in the elementary school where she teaches. Soon she was writing articles in various philatelic periodicals such as the "Back To Basics" column that appeared in Stamps magazine. She commenced the "Youth in Topics" column in the January-February 1999 issue of Topical Time which is still being published.

For twelve years MaryAnn Bowman served as president of the Waukesha (Wisconsin) Philatelic Society where she also was editor of their newsletter and a force behind many of their activities and programs. She was involved in the organization of ATA conventions in 1993 and 1999, and the forthcoming 2005 National Topical Stamp Show, and currently serves as president of the ATA Chapter #5 in Milwaukee.

Honors received by MaryAnn Bowman include induction in 1988 into the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs Hall of Fame, and recipient of the 1997 Greater Milwaukee Areas Distinguished Philatelist Award. One of her nominators for the 2005 ATA award describes MaryAnn Bowman as "a non-stop machine when it comes to cranking out innovative ideas for various philatelic activities and events."

Three years after its founding by Jerry Husak, the American Topical Association launched the Distinguished Topical Philatelist award to recognize notable service in topical philately. In the past 52 years, this award has been presented to 112 topical philatelists, including residents of Canada, Great Britain, and Italy.

For additional information on the American Topical Association contact the ATA Central Office, PO Box 57, Arlington, Texas 76004-0057 (telephone 817-274-1181; fax 817-274-1184; email americantopical@msn.com, or visit their website at www.americantopicalassn.org.