

## AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION

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American Topical Association – News Release

### **ATA 2017 Distinguished Topical Philatelist Selected**

For her wide-ranging contributions to philately, Vera Felts has been selected to receive the American Topical Association's highest award at the National Topical Stamp Show awards banquet June 24 in Milwaukee.

As ATA executive director since 2009, Felts has brought innovation and a positive attitude to the office and many of the organization's programs. She spearheaded the highly successful ambassador program which has resulted in hundreds of new members, and managed the transition to a new topical checklist database, which has made ATA's signature checklists better than ever.



For the past 18 years she has served as registration chair and managed the show cachets for the St. Louis Stamp Expo. She edited the APS gold award-winning newsletter of the Southern Illinois Stamp Club for 15 years, and co-founded its SIRPEX local show.

A life member of APS, she served eight years as coordinator of its newsletter exchange. At the Science Center in Carbondale, Illinois, in 1999 she founded a long-running youth stamp group.

Felts is revered throughout philately for her devotion to helping people advance and enjoy topical collecting.

The Distinguished Topical Philatelist (DTP) award has been presented each year since 1952 by the ATA, the largest affiliate of the APS. Don Smith served as chair of the selection committee. The scrolls signed by all of ATA's 119 DTPs can be viewed at <http://americantopicalassn.org/awardsdtp>