

BALTIMORE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC.

A.P.S. Life Chapter #20

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Dear BALPEX INVITEE:

WELCOME TO BALPEX 2.0! NEW DATES! NEW VENUE! NEW MARKETS! After many decades, BALPEX is making substantial changes to reinvigorate the show to make BALPEX one of the premier *WSP* shows on the philatelic circuit. We have a new, greatly improved upscale venue at the BWI Airport Marriott Hotel, 1743 West Nursery Road, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090. It is located between Baltimore and Washington off I-295 (B-W Pkwy) just 5 minutes from BWI Airport (Free hotel shuttles!) and 5 minutes from the BWI AMTRAC/MARC station. This makes access much easier for your out-of-town customers as well as gives a broader appeal to the substantial Northern Virginia/Washington DC collector community. The 2024 public show will run Friday, October 24th, and Saturday (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) to Sunday, October 26th (10 a.m.-3 p.m.). Dealer set up will take place from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, October 23rd. However, the show will actually start with a 2-day Postal History Symposium on Wednesday, 22nd and Thursday, 23rd, see BALPEX website for details. This year our participating Societies will include The United Postal Stationery Society (UPSS) and The American Topical Association (ATA). We are also hosting the Manuscript Society so we expect some ephemera dealers to also be present. The First Day Cover Society and The German Philatelic Society among others will have regional society meetings at the show. Please consider this when packing stock to bring to the show. You may also wish to advise any of your customers from this area of the new show dates and new venue.

New venue = new policies. This year's table fees **include** a three-night stay at the BWI Marriott Hotel. See details and procedures on the Application. A tentative floor plan and booth price lists are attached. We will endeavor to adjust tables to suit, but there are limitations and specific arrangements and sizes cannot be guaranteed. Attached are the BALPEX Regulations and an Application Contract for your use. Please review thoroughly. You are encouraged to respond as soon as possible to this invitation since this is a new venue and booth assignments will be on a first come/first served basis. We are offering NEW locking storage cabinets and plexiglass table covers to aid those dealers who fly to the show. We will also have opportunities for Dealer patrons in the BALPEX program. The Contract will be acknowledged if accepted. Payment deadlines are on the Application and in the Regulations. The hotel contract requires upfront payment so adherence to our deadlines is required. For questions, or help, contact me at bwcasanova@msn.com, my Office phone for messages: 410-442-2040, or, for high priority questions, my cell is: 443-904-1929. Thanks for your attention and cooperation. We look forward to seeing you at BALPEX '24.

Barry W. Casanova, Esq., Bourse Chairman