



Vera Felts of Carterville, Illinois, has been selected as the next Executive Director of the American Topical Association. Mrs. Felts has previously served the ATA as the ATA Checklist Coordinator for three years and has helped work at staffing the ATA table at Pacific '97, signing up the most members at that show. She is also a member of the Medical Subjects Study Unit of the ATA.

Mrs. Felts was chosen primarily for her background in computers, recruiting, and public relations along with her publishing, advertising and organizational backgrounds. She has served for ten years with the Southern Illinois University School of Law as their Word Processing Supervisor along with 18 years with their School of Medicine's MEDPREP program where she was the Admissions Coordinator and Academic Advisor.

Her philatelic volunteer work includes serving as Editor of the Southern Illinois Stamp Club News, a newsletter that won several Gold Awards in APS Newsletter Competition. Mrs. Felts was also a co-founder of their local stamp show. Additionally, she founded and leads a youth stamp group at the Science Center in Carbondale, Illinois. She has volunteered with the St. Louis Stamp Expo and several APS Shows as well as at Washington 2006.

For twenty years, Vera was a board member of Green Earth, Inc. having served as President and Treasurer. In her church background she has served as church board president, as deacon and elder, as chair of their long-range planning committee and is active in special projects fundraising.

She received her B.S. degree from the University of Illinois and her M.S. from Southern Illinois University. She has also completed her Doctoral course work at Southern Illinois University. She is a member of the ATA, the APS, the Virtual Stamp Club, Scandinavian Collectors Club, the St. Louis Stamp Expo Board of Directors and the Southern Illinois Stamp Club.

Vera will become only the sixth Executive Director in the 60-year history of the ATA. She will officially take office on March 1st. **The new address of the ATA Central Office will now be - P.O. Box 8 – Carterville, IL 62918-0008 [effective 03-01-2009].** It is expected that the ATA email address, americantopical@msn.com will continue. Telephone and fax communications will be announced on the ATA Website, www.americantopicalassn.org as soon as these numbers are available.

Outgoing ATA Executive Director, Ray Cartier, will continue to work on promotion and publicity for the ATA's National Topical Stamp Show to be held in Dayton, Ohio, on June 12-14, 2009. Office Manager, Karen Cartier, will continue working on and enlarging the services of the ATA checklists following the change in leadership. Both will temporarily serve as advisors as required by Mrs. Felts.

For information on the world's largest all-topical philatelic organization, contact the ATA Central Office,

P.O. Box 57, Arlington, Texas 76004-0057 (telephone: 1-817-274-1181; email americantopical@msn.com; or visit their website at www.americantopicalassn.org).