

AFDCS Official Ballot For Election of 2018–2020 Directors

Carefully follow the instructions for voting.

This ballot is to elect four AFDCS directors for the 2018–2020 term. Vote for no more than four candidates. Ballots with more than four selections will be disqualified. Fewer than four directors may be selected. The names are in random order.

Any copy of of this ballot is acceptable, subject to validation by the AFDCS election committee when received.

Put the completed ballot into an envelope and seal it. *Place your name and AFDCS membership number on the back of the envelope. Ballot envelopes without a membership number will be disqualified.* Do not include any other correspondence with your ballot. All ballots must be postmarked by December 29, 2017, and received at the following address below by January 8, 2018:

**AFDCS Election Committee c/o Frederick C. Levantrosser
21901 Willoway Road
Dearborn, Michigan 48124-1135**

Vote for no more than four directors.

- Gary Denis
- James Hogg
- Ron Klimley
- Foster Miller
- Mark Thompson
- _____
- _____
- _____

Candidates' Statements

Gary Denis

Patuxent River, Maryland

I have been a stamp collector most of my life, and a FDC collector for about thirty years. I joined the AFDCS in 1987.



I am a frequent contributor to *First Days*, and have also been published in *Linn's*, *Stamp Collector*, and journals including *Topical Time*, *EFO Collector*, and *Auxiliary Markings*.

In the 1990s I edited the Maximum Card Study Unit's newsletter, and was "Maximum Card" columnist for *First Days*. I authored the *Maximum Card Collectors Handbook* in 1995 (revised and republished in 2009 by the AFDCS). In 2007, I self-published a *Catalog of Norman Rockwell Paintings on Postage Stamps*.

I currently author the "Research Projects" column in *First Days*, which I conceived as a way to encourage members to correspond with others with similar interests. I have been the publications committee chairman for several years, and serve on the executive committee as education director.

I also occasionally exhibit, including Legend of Sleepy Hollow FDCs, Washington Irving FDCs, Davy Crockett, and Teddy Bears (thematic).

I am still just a collector and not a cachetmaker, except for the occasional cover for my own collection (maybe a couple extras for trading). My enjoyment of the hobby comes from my

friendships with other collectors, writers and exhibitors, maintained through old-fashioned letter-writing, email, and meeting up at *AMERICOVER!*

If reelected to the board, my only real "agenda" would be to continue to encourage member participation, especially communication between members, and encourage research projects suitable for AFDCS Publications. ■

James Hogg

Fort Myers, Florida

I joined AFDCS in 1973, and am currently life member LM 343.

In 1977, I was ASDA Stamp Show chairman in New York City for the AFDCS. I was an active cachetmaker, producing the Hogg Cachet. My active years were 1974 to 1978. Today, I only make cachets occasionally.

I was a corporate CEO, possessed a mortgage banking license in Florida, FHA and VA approved lender status, and was in mortgage lending. I am an attorney at law, with admissions to the bar in Florida, Georgia, and the District of Columbia. I was mainly a trial attorney in the criminal courts.

In college, I was the founder and president of my fraternity chapter. In Florida, I was president (and current board member) of the Fort Myers Rod & Gun Club. I also recently served on the audit and finance committee for eight years at Lee Mental Health Center, prior to its merger.



I have also served in numerous presid- ing officer chairs in numerous Masonic organizations, currently serving as trea- surer to seven groups. And, I also served a seven-year term as a national board mem- ber of the Masonic Society.

I hope to be a valuable hand in board governance. My view is a board of direc- tors should supervise the stewardship of an entity, offering guidance and advice to those appointed or elected as its offi- cers. The board should offer stability, in a mature and non-controversial manner, with no political agendas. ■

Ron Klimley
Tampa, Florida

I am a long time collector, twenty-five year mem- ber of APS, and first exhibited com- petitively in 1988. When I discovered FDCs, however, I began to enjoy the camaraderie that makes our hobby unique.



After collecting FDCs for sever- al years I first exhibited them at PSSS in 2001 with an exhibit on advertising FDCs. I have exhibited quite extensiv- ely over the past fifteen years winning medals and special awards with several different exhibits. Two exhibiting high- lights have been winning a gold medal at *WORLD STAMP SHOW-NY2016* and the grand award at *AMERICOVER* in 2016. I was honored to be in the first day cover experimental class at *WSS-NY2016*.

I have also written several articles appearing in philatelic journals and won the Clyde Jennings Award in 2016

as the best new author in the AAPE journal, *The Philatelic Exhibitor*.

I have spent my professional career as a global training director with sev- eral multinational organizations and currently am responsible for training at Tampa International Airport. Returning to Tampa has been a homecoming for my wife and me after spending the past five years moving around the country.

In addition to philately I enjoy trav- eling and sightseeing with my wife and am also an avid sports fan and enjoy supporting our local Tampa teams.

If I am fortunate to be elected, I would focus my efforts on increas- ing the interest and understanding of FDC collecting and exhibiting and I would utilize the lessons I have learned in my career to encourage folks to become more involved. ■

Foster Miller
Annapolis Junction, Maryland

Professionally, I am a comput- er system architect with an agency of the US Depart- ment of Defense.

I am currently an AFDCS direc- tor, chairman of the membership depart- ment, chapter coördinator, USPS liaison, *AMERICOVER* seminar/meeting coördina- tor, and *AMERICOVER* bourse promoter. In addition, I run the AFDCS cover sales program, am a member of the convention planning committee, and an author and proof reader for *First Days*.



I am a member of the Graebner and Ries chapters, the American Ceremony

Program Society and ESPER. My collecting interests include 7-1-71 first day covers and first day covers of Scott 749, 765, 797, 1184, 1314, 2042, 2132, and U593, plus anything else that I find interesting.

I regularly staff AFDCS sales and recruiting tables at local and national stamp shows and managed the AFDCS table at WSS-NY2016. I promote first day cover collecting by attending numerous first day ceremonies each year.

Now that the AFDCS has achieved financial stability, the next step is to invest in our future. This needs to include actions in two areas: building an endowment fund and creating new services for our members, to include a members only section of our award winning website and offering additional content on the website. A short term priority also needs to be to ensure that new issues of *First Days* are available on the published schedule dates. ■

Mark Thompson

Nashville, Tennessee

My philatelic pedigree is relatively short. I was already gray when my dad gave me his US commemorative stamp collection.



It was the late 1990s, and I learned the fundamentals of philately, the internet and online bidding as I searched Stamp Auction and eBay listings and lurked around the discussion sites. Here I stumbled upon first day covers, which simply and affordably enhanced my appreciation of the respective stamps.

Having grown up a preacher's kid,

and having aspired to the ministry, and then working as a community organizer, I understood the need for organizations. In 2001, I joined AFDCS.

For ten years I paid my dues and thumbed through *First Days*, but was not very active. I was thankful there was an organization watching out for my collecting interests. I had built my collections and made contacts and friends primarily through eBay. But I realized that if I wanted interaction with dealers, cachet makers and other collectors, I needed to get active with the organization.

In 2011, I attended my first *AMERICOVER* convention. It was an exciting weekend. Recognizing that I would only get from an organization to the extent that I put something in, I volunteered. Since September 2013 I have served as the advertising manager for *First Days*.

Were I to be elected to the board, I would seek ways to expand our fundraising and financial accountability. I would also like to help see *First Days* used in ways it has in years past to introduce and encourage both new and experienced cachetmakers. ■

