



WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB NEWS

Volume 24, Issue 2, February 2026

Wilkinsburg Stamp Club is a member of APS #12293

www.wilkinsburgstampclub.com

Meeting Schedule: 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. Doors open at 12:30 PM and meetings start at 2:00 PM.

Churchill Borough Building, 2300 William Penn Hwy, Churchill PA 15235

WILKPEX 2026 – Friday and Saturday April 10 & 11 (10 AM-4 PM; 10 AM-3 PM), 2026 – Holiday Park Fire Department, Plum PA.

Wilkinsburg Stamp Club News

Reminder! **If the weather looks bad for a meeting** please refer to the Website for updates – if it looks like travel is hazardous, we may cancel a meeting. We love Stamp Cub but love you all more! Stay safe!

Dues are due! 2026 dues will stay at \$8 per person/\$12 for a couple (or \$4 for additional family members). You can send a check in to the address at the end (if you haven't already paid) or bring cash to a meeting.

Wintertime is the time to prepare for WILKPEX 2026!

- The Club voted at the January 11th meeting to discontinue the cachet for future WILKPEX shows. The time and expense involved overshadowed the number of cachets sold at the most recent shows. We will continue to sell the old cachets we have in stock.



- We are still collecting stamps for our Raffle Jar for WILKPEX! These can be US or World-wide. You can bring these to a meeting.



- It's time to get an exhibit (or 2) ready on your favorite topic! If you have any questions please ask a member who's done exhibits. Please let Maureen know ASAP the name of your exhibit(s) and how many frames they need.
- Cull your collection! If you have extra stuff, package them up for the Phlea Market and make a few bucks on your junk!
- If you have an idea for the world-famous WILKPEX souvenir sheet, please bring to an upcoming meeting or write in!
- We discussed placing paid ads in the Greensburg Trib and surrounding smaller newspapers this year to try to increase attendance at the show.
- WILKPEX 2026 is now listed in the APS calendar of shows!
- There has been interest in some members having a dealer's table with all items less than \$1 – using the APS/GASS rules. This would be in addition to the Phlea Market where members can price items at any amount.

Treasurer's Report – Danielle reported that the check book is balanced and she will have the next report at our next meeting.

The Club will be ordering permanent magnetic-style name tags to be used at WILKPEX as well as at meetings. These will have the Club logo, the name of the Club and our first names. They will be paid for by the Club. If you want a name tag please tell us at a meeting or email Maureen – we will ask you to put a down payment of \$10 and this will be returned to you when you collect your name tag at a meeting or at WILKPEX. For members who don't live in the area, please let us know so we can mail your name tag to you.



Scott bought Andy's stamp collection – it totally filled his SUV. He did find some interesting things:

- The 2023 Scott Catalog Volume 5B was at Andy's house. It has been given to Dave to complete the set.
- There was ephemera from the Westinghouse Stamp Club Open Houses (their shows) in 1939 (1st) & 1940 (2nd). Dave will scan and upload onto the website.
- There were many small envelopes with a few inexpensive stamps that Andy had packaged for sale, including his name & club name on the back. Scott will have them at WILKPEX – just ask him for one! You can also send him a SASE for one.

To view the DESG Zoom Meeting where Jay Bigalke (new owner) talked about the plans for Scotts and Linns, you can go to

www.youtube.com/channel/UCDpQEo_Hn6Ly-unap-rXFA .

If you have any photos from past Club events please send them to Dave Duggins for inclusion in our website gallery.

Please feel free to write at the address below, especially if you don't usually make it to meetings. Your letters are read aloud at our meetings.

Philatelic News

- February US Stamps currently scheduled for release – all are Forever Stamps unless noted otherwise:
 - Lunar New Year (Feb 3) – Year of the Horse – next in the 12 year series by artist Camille Chew
 - Bruce Lee (Feb 18) – Celebrating the life of the world-famous martial artist
 - Harriet Powers (Feb 28) – A series of 4 stamps showing sections of her 1898 "Pictorial Quilt".



Postmark change could impact getting ballots, bills in on time

Story by Sarah D. Wire and Maria Francis, USA TODAY – 12/30/25

The [U.S. Postal Service](#) is making new changes in 2026, including adjustments to the [postmark process](#), which could result in late fees and penalties for anyone mailing time-sensitive documents such as [tax returns](#) or bill payments.

For decades, the postmark – an official mark that shows where and when mail was accepted by the Postal Service – has been used in law as proof that an individual met a deadline, such as submitting a ballot by Election Day.

A USPS postmark used to indicate the date when mail was dropped in a mailbox or submitted at the post office counter. Now, USPS is clarifying in a new rule that the postmark will reflect the date an envelope is first processed by an automated USPS sorting machine, potentially days after it was dropped off – not the actual drop-off date.

Changes to USPS are part of its Delivering For America initiative that includes consolidation of mail processing and modernizing infrastructure to fit a time when the volume of paper letters is dropping and the number of packages is increasing.

How does the new postmark rule affect your mail?

For a long time, Americans have assumed that mail will be postmarked the day it is mailed and may not be prepared to account for the extra days.

Tax payments, charitable contributions, legal filings, rent payments and other bills or items that rely on postmark dates for deadlines can be impacted by later postmarks and risk late fees, penalties, or delinquency.

Many states also accept ballots that are postmarked by Election Day.

Time-sensitive mail should be mailed several days before the deadline. People can also go inside their local post office and ask for a hand-stamped "manual postmark" on the date, or use certified mail.

When do USPS postal shipping rates go up and how much more will it cost?

While the cost of a First-Class Mail stamp, currently \$0.78, is not set to rise at this time, shipping costs for Priority Mail, Priority Mail Express, USPS Ground Advantage and Parcel Select rates [are all expected to go up](#) in the new year.

The increase in [USPS shipping rates](#) is set to take effect on Jan. 18. Prices are based on the package's weight and the distance it is being shipped.

- Priority Mail prices start at \$10.45 per package and \$11.90 for a flat-rate Priority Mail envelope. They are expected to increase 6.6%.
- Priority Mail Express packages start at \$32.50 and flat-rate envelopes start at \$33.40. They are expected to increase by 5.1%.
- USPS Ground Advantage starts at \$7.20 and is expected to increase by 7.8%.
- Parcel Select is expected to increase by 6%.

The standard First-Class Mail letter rate of a [postage stamp is \\$0.78](#) for the first ounce and goes up \$0.29 per additional ounce. This price has been in effect since July 2025 and is not expected to rise in January. The next possible price change is anticipated in mid-2026.

Modernization push

[Post office modernization](#) is also on the way for the new year.

USPS announced redesigned, technology-forward lobbies are coming to retail locations nationwide in a modernization push that officials say will make post office visits faster, easier and more convenient for customers to ship and pick up mail.

"Modernizing our retail spaces is about meeting customers where they are today," said Tracy Raymond, director of retail operations in the [news release](#). "People expect speed, clarity and technology-driven convenience – and that's what our new lobbies deliver, while still offering the trusted, in-person attention that defines the Postal Service."

The upgraded post office lobbies will feature 24/7 smart lockers, enhanced self-service kiosks, Rapid Drop mobile app, digital information displays, and streamlined layouts. They will also provide more government service hub options such as passports, fingerprinting and identity proofing.

Tariff issues resolved for stamps and covers, states Boston 2026 organizing committee

Nov 3, 2025, 8 AM – Linn's Staff

In an Oct. 24 press release, Boston 2026 public relations chair Thomas Fortunato announced that, in the coming weeks, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection will issue a letter ruling that philatelic material is again free from tariffs.

Until this year, the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTSUS) 9704 allowed for stamps and covers to be imported into the United States free of duty; however, this changed several months ago when country-specific tariffs came into effect.

According to Fortunato, “the initial ruling letter that resulted in philatelic tariffs has now been ruled *void ab initio* (i.e., null from the beginning) and voided.”

Fortunato said this comes after the organizing committee consulted with U.S. Customs and Border Protection over the past several weeks.

“Boston 2026 has been working with various officials of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which includes U.S. Customs and Border Protection, regarding tariffs and the exhibition,” Fortunato said in an Oct. 17 press release. “Lower-level analysts specializing in collectibles up to Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem have been consulted, along with Republican and Democratic members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.”

Further in the Oct. 17 press release Fortunato outlined two strategies the Boston 2026 organizing committee used to avoid tariffs on philatelic material and exhibits during the May 2026 show.

The first strategy involved Boston 2026 government relations chair Mick Zais presenting the case that stamps, philatelic material and exhibits are informational materials, and thus are free from tariffs under the 1994 amendment to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA).

In August the Boston 2026 organizing committee appointed Zais to plan and coordinate interactions with the U.S. federal government in an effort to facilitate the entry of philatelic material into the United States (*Linn's*, Sept. 22, page 5).

Zais served as the U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education and then briefly as acting Secretary of Education during the first Trump administration.

As a second strategy the Boston show committee has employed the customs broker Vantage Point to assist with acquiring temporary importation bonds for philatelic material not being sold to enter the country under a tariff-free status, according to Fortunato.

Vantage Point will provide foreign parties, such as dealers, auction houses, postal administrations and commissioners, with the appropriate instructions and documentation for importing philatelic material into the United States, Fortunato said.

In a Sept. 22 press release, Fortunato said reports of a 20 percent importation tariff for exhibits brought into the United States based on the insured value were unsubstantiated (*Linn's*, Oct. 20, page 6). The organizing committee extended the deadline for philatelic exhibit applications to the end of October to allow time for final mandates to be known.

Boston 2026 World Expo will take place May 23-30, 2026, at the Boston Convention and Exposition Center. Show details and instructions to sign up for email updates can be found at www.boston2026.org and via the expo's Facebook, X and Instagram pages.

Collector's Corner

Show and Tell is at the second meeting of each month. Please bring an item to show and talk about. It can be about a topic other than stamps. Sharing the story is the important part.

Please take some time before the February 22nd meeting and see if you have something fun to share from your collection!

Upcoming Events Nearby

- Feb 6 & 7 – McKinley Stamp Club Show – Canton OH
- Feb 27 & 28 – Toledo Stamp Expo – Toledo OH
- March 7 & 8 – BUFPEX – Cheektowaga NY
- March 8 – K2 – Churchill Borough Building, Churchill PA
- March 13-15 – Garfield-Perry March Party – Strongsville OH
- April 10 – 11, 2026 – WILKPEX, Plum PA
- June 14 – K2 – Churchill Borough Building
- June 20 & 21 – SCOPEX – Bellefonte PA (APS)
- September 13 – K2 – Churchill Borough Building

For more details google the stamp club or look at the latest issue of the American Philatelist Magazine or the calendar at APS -
(<https://stamps.org/events/events-calendar>)



Boston 2026 World Stamp Show will be the 12th International Philatelic Exhibition hosted in the United States. The show will be held at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center from May 23-30, 2026, to celebrate America's Semiquincentennial (250th anniversary). There is no separate GASS in 2026.

Book your rooms NOW! Nearby hotels may already be sold out!



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Meetings – 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. Doors open at 12:30 PM and meetings start at 2:00 PM.

Churchill Borough Building, 2300 William Penn Hwy, Churchill PA 15235

All are welcome! Free admission! Wonderful snacks! Stamps! Fun for all!

WILKPEX – Our Annual Stamp Show

2026 – Friday April 10 & Saturday April 11 (10 AM-4 PM; 10 AM-3 PM) – Holiday Park Fire Hall, Plum PA.

Officers:

President, Secretary & Newsletter Editor: Maureen McKeever
(maurmomck@gmail.com)

Vice President: John Harding (hardingeb@gmail.com)

Acting Treasurer: Danielle Weaver

Membership & Circuit Manager: Danielle Weaver (dmm742000@yahoo.com)

Web Tech: Dave Duggins (davidfduggins@gmail.com)

WSC c/o Danielle Weaver, 3710 Henley Drive, Pittsburgh PA 15235

Newsletter:

Original articles for the newsletter can be submitted from any member to Maureen at a meeting or emailed to her (see above) or via regular mail:

Maureen McKeever, 118 Larchwood Drive, Turtle Creek PA 15145.

Club members will be mailed a black and white copy of the newsletter each month. Anyone can request a color copy to be delivered at a meeting, but please let Scott Shaulis (scottshaulis@comcast.net) know ahead of time.



(Sailing away with the stamps!)