



WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB NEWS

Volume 18, Issue 11, June 2020

Wilkinsburg Stamp Club is a member of APS #12293

www.wilkinsburgstampclub.com

It's time to pay your dues! Please send \$8.00 to: WSC, PO Box 10522,
Pittsburgh PA 15235

Meeting Schedule: Up in the air – Possibly May 24 or June 14 – check our
website for final date or contact Andy

**WILPEX 2021 is currently scheduled for Friday April 23 and
Saturday April 24, 2021**

COVID-19 Effects on Stamp Collecting

The current pandemic has changed everything in our world, including stamp collecting. Last month's newsletter showed several postmarks from around the world. In addition to Vietnam, Iran, Indonesia and Switzerland have issued stamps honoring the care workers:



Other Impacts:

- 1st Day Ceremonies in the US have been cancelled or postponed until later in the year. As of now this includes all stamps issued from 3/15/20 (Maine Statehood) through 5/31/20 (Voices of Harlem Renaissance). The stamps are being released for sale at US Post Offices.

- Most stamp shows around the country have been cancelled. Linn's listing of shows went from 42 on 3/30/20 to 4 on 5/11/20.
- Postal delivery around the world has been disrupted. The USPS has temporarily suspended delivery to approximately 75 countries who have said they are unable to process international mail, including Chad, Ecuador, Libya, Panama and many others. Because of the reduction in scheduled international air flights, some US mail is being delivered to Europe on ships, adding up to 20 days to the journey. In 2007 the USPS had stopped using ships due to the cost and time delays.
- Stamp sales have greatly increased since the start of the pandemic. Possible reasons include the increased news and social media coverage of the USPS revenue woes as well as collectors spending more time at the USPS Postal Store online.

Notable People on Stamps – Dr. Jonas Salk

The current rush to find a vaccine for COVID-19 has brought back memories of the rush to find a polio vaccine in the 1950s. Dr. Jonas Salk developed the first viable polio vaccine in 1955, after several years of research at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, and tested it on Pittsburgh school children. His work was partly funded by the March of Dimes (now known as March of Babies which raises money to reduce infant mortality). Dr. Salk continued to work on vaccines for various diseases, including AIDS, until his death in 1995. He has been honored by stamps from all over the world.



Junior Corner – Hello Kitty

Hello Kitty is a fictional Japanese character who is a worldwide media and product franchise, created in 1974. Several countries have produced Hello Kitty Stamps, including Thailand, Guyana, and most notably Japan:



The United Nations is issuing 6 Hello Kitty souvenir sheets, 2 for each of the UN Post Offices (NY, Geneva and Vienna), and each sheet has 1 blank stamp with a variety of stickers to apply to the stamp. Each sheet highlights one of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, such as health and education:



50 Years Ago - Maine

In 1970 the USPS celebrated Maine's sesquicentennial with a stamp based on an Edward Hopper painting:



In 2020 Maine's bicentennial was honored with another Hopper-based stamp.

Wilkinsburg Stamp Club Information:

Meetings - 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month (June, July and August 2nd Sunday only). 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! Free light lunch available!

WILPEX – Our Annual Stamp Show

WILPEX 2020 was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

WILPEX 2021 is scheduled for Friday April 23 and Saturday April 24, 2021, at Gateway Hall, 4370 Northern Pike, Monroeville PA 15146. Admission is free. Anyone interested in exhibiting or setting up a dealer table is encouraged to contact one of the officers. More information will come as the date comes closer.

Officers:

President: Andy Novotny (novoand@hotmail.com)

Vice President: Laura Kaczynski (laurakac13@verizon.net)

Treasurer/Secretary: Danielle Weaver (dmm742000@yahoo.com)

and Mailings

Newsletter Editor: Maureen McKeever (maurmomck@gmail.com)

Web Tech: Deb Foltyn (quest4moos@msn.com)

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 Danielle know ahead of time.