



# WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB NEWS

## Volume 22, Issue 11, November 2024

*Wilkinsburg Stamp Club is a member of APS #12293*

[www.wilkinsburgstampclub.com](http://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 2025** –Saturday and Sunday April 12 & 13 (Times TBD), 2025 – Holiday Park Fire Department, Plum PA.

### Wilkinsburg Stamp Club News

I am sorry to announce the passing of William "Bill" Brierton on Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>. Bill was a US Army veteran and loved history, especially anything about WWI. He loved sharing his knowledge (and postcards) with the Club. He will be greatly missed. Our prayers go to Phyllis and Bill's family.

Dues are due for 2025! Please fill out the coupon on the bottom of the page & return with a check made out to the Wilkinsburg Stamp Club. You can mail it to WSC C/O D. Weaver, 3710 Henley Dr, Pgh 15235 or bring to a meeting.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

How do you want to **change** how you get the newsletter? Email only \_\_\_\_ Mail only \_\_\_\_

Dues - \$8 per individual, \$4 additional per immediate family member (same household), \$2 junior member (under 16)

Our Christmas/Holiday Party will be on our regular meeting day Sunday December 8 at the usual meeting spot. **We will discuss if another date may be better (if available).** Deb Folytn has agreed to bake a holiday dinner and members can bring appetizers. John agreed to make another trivia game and Maureen will get prizes. There will be more discussion on details before we get to that date. We will also auction off the famous shadow-box for 2025 (Dave Duggins is the current holder).



Rebecca Folytn has curated some beautiful cachets suitable for First Day covers or everyday stationary. If you are any of her creations please let her know!



Officer Elections for Club President and Secretary will take place in December for 2025 – 2026. If anyone is interested in running for one of these positions please tell us at the next meeting (November 10<sup>th</sup>).

If you can think of something appropriate for the 2025 Souvenir Sheet that might look like it belongs on a button, please let John Harding know.



John passed out juice boxes at the last meeting and asked members to come up with ideas for a satirical button. If so, please use a sharpie to draw it then gently etch the picture onto the inside of the box. (Remember to reverse any text). Some of the best ideas could be included in the souvenir sheet.

For WILKPEX- If you can think of something to make Day 2 special (auction, presentations, etc.) please bring that idea to the meetings. We are working to get a separate room at the Fire Hall for this. We want good attendance on both days!

## Philatelic News

- All of the 2024 US Stamps have been released. Stay tuned for new about the 2025 stamps! So far all we've heard is that there will be a new Lunar New Year, Black Heritage and Love stamp early in the year.
- The First Day Ceremony for the 2024 Kwanzaa Stamp took place on Wednesday September 25th at the Heinz History Center in the Strip District. John and Joyce harding attended the event and reported that it was a great experience.



## Stamp Flops

From Uncle John's Awesome 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bathroom Reader © 2022

You wouldn't think that something as low-key and practical as a postage stamp could wreak social or financial havoc, or inspire strong opinions...but you'd be as wrong as leaving a stamp off a letter.

### The Simpsons

In 2009 and 2010, the US Postal Service sold a series of first-class, 44-cent postage stamps featuring *The Simpsons*. Commemorating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the series debut in 1989, five stamps were offered, each one featuring a portrait of Home, Marge, Bart, Lisa or Maggie. Following successful rollouts of stamps that featured Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe (each sold around 500 million), the USPS assumed that the characters from the longest-running TV show would move a lot of stamps. They were wrong. A 2012 Postal Service inspector general report revealed that the office had printed a whopping one billion *Simpsons* stamps. By the time it had to discontinue them (when postage went up to 45 cents in 2011), only 318 million had sold, leaving a surplus of more than 680 million stamps that had to be destroyed. The USPS lost more than \$1.2 million on the promotion.



### Alcoholism

In 1981, the Postal Service released a special 18-cent stamp bearing the words "Alcoholism: You can beat it!" in large blue letters on a stark white background. The idea was to raise public awareness about alcoholism and highlight the fact that it is a medical problem, not a moral one...but it had the opposite effect. Postal customers didn't want to put such an aggressive message on their letters for fear of making it seem like they were calling the addressee an alcoholic. Result: of the 100 million stamps printed, very few were sold. Within a few months of its release, the stamp was withdrawn from circulation and tens of millions of them had to be destroyed.

### Dinosaurs

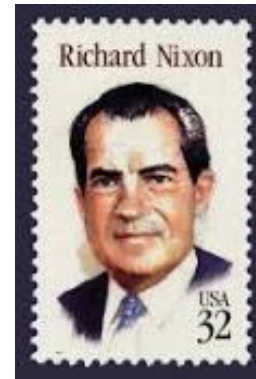
Referred to in promotional materials as "dinosaur stamps", the Postal Service's 1989 "Prehistoric Animal Series" pictured some of the most famous and impressive beasts to ever walk the Earth. Two of the four 25-cent first-class stamps bore major historical errors. One featured a Brontosaurus, a name not used by paleontologists since the mid-1970s – Apatosaurus is now the preferred term. Another depicted a Pteranodon, which technically isn't a dinosaur at all, but a lizard that flies. (Paleontologists had no issue with the other two stamps, celebrating the Tyrannosaurus and the Stegosaurus.)





### Richard Nixon

Traditionally, all American Presidents are honored with their face on a postage stamp, some time after their death. In 1995, following the demise of Richard Nixon, the Postal Service issued a 32-cent stamp bearing the ex-president's image. Nixon was a controversial figure, to say the least—he's the only president to resign from his office, which he did in 1974 to escape being impeached for his role in the burglary of the Democratic Party's offices in the Watergate Building. How controversial could he be 20 years after those events? Very. Hundreds of post offices around the country reportedly sold close to zero Nixon stamps, such as the lingering resentment for the disgraced politician. One place where Nixon stamps did move briskly: Santa Cruz, California. That's where *Santa Cruz Comic News* publisher Thom Zajac created a special envelope (which sold in the tens of thousands) that when affixed with the Nixon stamp, made it appear as if the face of the president was behind the bars of a jail cell.



### Atomic Bombs

In 1995, to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II, the US Postal Service announced a series of memorial stamps, including images of US Marines raising the American flag on Iwo Jima, Allied troops liberating Holocaust survivors, a sailor kissing a nurse on V-J Day... and a mushroom cloud with the caption "Atomic bombs hasten war's end", referring to the bombs dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945. The Japanese government quickly protested the planned stamp, decrying it as a callous celebration of mass death. Result: President Bill Clinton asked the Postal Service to

not release the stamp, and they didn't, replacing it with an image of President Harry Truman announcing Japan's surrender and the end of the conflict.

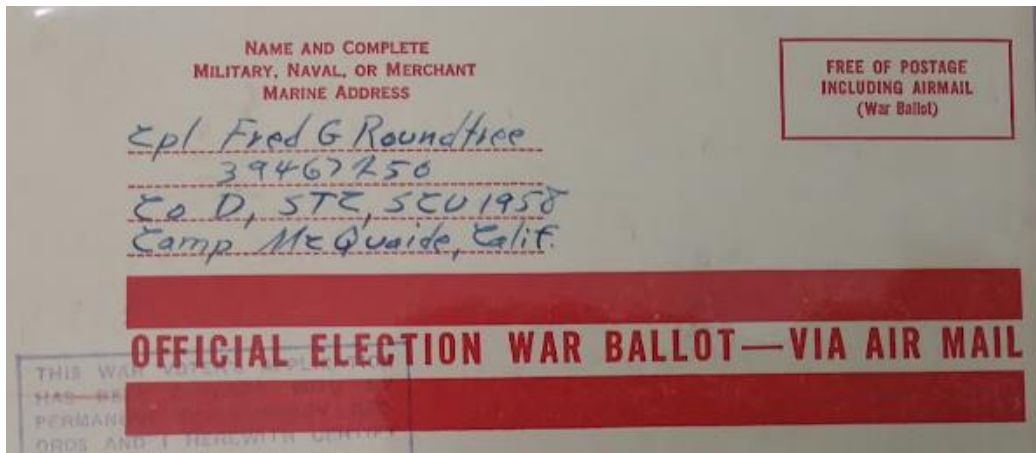
## Just Move

Most First Ladies of the United States have a particular social issue or cause to which they devote a great deal of their public life. For Michelle Obama, it was childhood fitness. In conjunction with Let's Move (Obama's official campaign to get kids to exercise more), the Postal Service worked up a series of 15 stamps depicting kids being active and having fun. Obama's office rejected three of them because they might have encouraged children to engage in unsafe practices. The "Swim" stamp showed a kid doing a potentially dangerous cannon-ball style dive, "Stand" depicted a child standing on their head without wearing a helmet, and "Ride" featured a skateboarder with no kneepads. Ultimately, the entire Just Move stamp collection was cancelled.

## 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.
- In October the following members shared:
  - John had an 1866 Official Election report for the Town Treasurer for Hinsdale MA as well as 2 military ballot envelopes and a Canadian postcard with the canel reading "Vote as you like but VOTE!".
  - Ron brought a notebook filled with old postcards from the early 1900s that were sent to his family from various places, mostly in Western PA.
  - Maureen had a recent Mystic catalog showing that they were selling old APS circuit books.
  - John passed out juice boxes for the engraving project – he asked that people come up with an idea for a pinback button for the satirical sheet, draw it with a Sharpie then use a sharp but non-cutting tool to etch in the pattern. These can be brought to the next meeting (show & tell) for us to ink and produce images.





## Upcoming Events Nearby

- November 9, 2024 – Johnstown Stamp Club Show – Richland PA
- November 16 -17, 2024 – PITTPEX – **NEW LOCATION!** Fairview Sunset Room 3326 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA 15017
- December 14 – Erie Stamp Club “Stamping with Santa” – Erie PA
- March 1 – 2, 2025 – McKinley Stamp Club Show – Canton OH
- March 14-16, 2025 – Garfield-Perry March Party – Strongsville OH
- March 22-23, 2025 – BUFPEX – Cheektoaga NY
- March 29-30, 2025 – MSDA Columbus OH Stamp Show – Columbus OH
- April 12 – 13, 2025 – WILKPEX – Plum PA
- May 9 – 10, 2025 – Butlerpex, Lyndora PA (tentative)

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.



## Wilkesburg Stamp Club Information:

Meetings – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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

2025 – Saturday April 12 & Sunday April 13 (Times TBD) – Holiday Park Fire Hall, Plum PA.

### Officers:

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

Vice President & Circuit Manager: John Harding ( [hardingeb@gmail.com](mailto:hardingeb@gmail.com) )

Treasurer: Lois Gregg ( [mooneymanor@yahoo.com](mailto:mooneymanor@yahoo.com) )

Membership: Danielle Weaver ( [dmm742000@yahoo.com](mailto:dmm742000@yahoo.com) )

Web Tech: Dave Duggins ( [davidfduggins@gmail.com](mailto: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 Stevan or Chris ( [stevanw2020@gmail.com](mailto:stevanw2020@gmail.com) ) know ahead of time.



(Pile the Amazon boxes high in the containers!)