

# The Messenger



June-July 2026

Next Meeting

**Special Day**

**Saturday-June 27th**

**Room available 10:00AM**

**Meeting starts 2:00PM**

**See Details on pg 9**

The Greater Kansas City, Missouri Area's Stamp Club

Jeff Jaax, President ([jeff.jaax@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.jaax@gmail.com))

Armen Hovsepian, 1st Vice President ([info@armenstamp.com](mailto:info@armenstamp.com))

Rodger McReynolds, 2nd Vice President ([rodger\\_mcreynolds@hotmail.com](mailto:rodger_mcreynolds@hotmail.com))

Hans Vergara, Treasurer ([iwc1868@yahoo.com](mailto:iwc1868@yahoo.com))

Perry Kilpatrick, Secretary ([kilpatrickp61@gmail.com](mailto:kilpatrickp61@gmail.com))

Jim McKinzie, Newsletter Editor ([jimmckinzie1@att.net](mailto:jimmckinzie1@att.net))

Dear Members,

Notice we are meeting one week earlier this month because of the 4th of July. So, what is in store for us this month? Jim McKinzie will present, "The 2026 Failure of the USPS".

There will be several members selling items before the meeting. Circuit books from APS and maybe a surprise or two. You must get there early to get the good stuff. Don't forget to save some of your money for the auction. Always some good items in the auction each month.

Philatelic Events in our area for July are as follows:

**July 24-25**

**The Greater Kansas City Stamp Show**  
**1st Presbyterian Church-Westminster Hall**  
**Independence, MO**  
**Friday 10am-5pm**  
**Saturday 10am-3pm**

*The one and only event you need  
this month with 12 dealers.*

Our show is upon us. Please consider volunteering in some capacity. It takes a lot of people to put on a good show. We will be setting up on Thursday afternoon and tear down will be after the show closes on Saturday. We will also need people to greet the people as they come in and to help with the beginners table.

This is your only opportunity this year to see all kinds of philatelic material in one place close to home. Make the most of it by supporting the three clubs and all the dealers that have chosen to come to Independence for the weekend.

Enjoy!

Sincerely, Jim

## ***New Issues for June 2026:***

### **American Icons**

Forever First Class Rate

Thirteen Designs

Pane of 13

Issue Date June 9th

First Day of Issue City:

New York, NY

Print Quantity—23,010,000

***The USPS presents a pane curated by American Fashion Designer Ralph Lauren. Selected from his own unparalleled archive and from visuals that have inspired him, the images Ralph Lauren chose for the stamps embody our shared values and reflect the unique fabric of our nation.***

### **US Flag (2026)**

Forever First Class Rate

One Design

Pane of 20, Booklet of 20

Coils of 100, 3,000 & 10,000

Issue Date June 9th

First Day of Issue City:

New York, NY



***The photograph on this 2026 stamp, a knit interpretation of a 13-star flag, is from an iconic sweater introduced by Polo Ralph Lauren in 1989. The knit flag is also featured on the 2026 American Icons pane, an issuance curated for the Postal Service by Ralph Lauren. Beneath the flag on this mail use stamp are America's anniversary dates: 1776 and 2026, both in red, with a golden, five-pointed star between them. USPS art director Greg Breeding designed the stamp using a photograph from the Ralph Lauren Corporation.***

### **Summer Sunset**

Non-profit Rate

One Design

Coils of 3,000 & 10,000

Issue Date June 25th

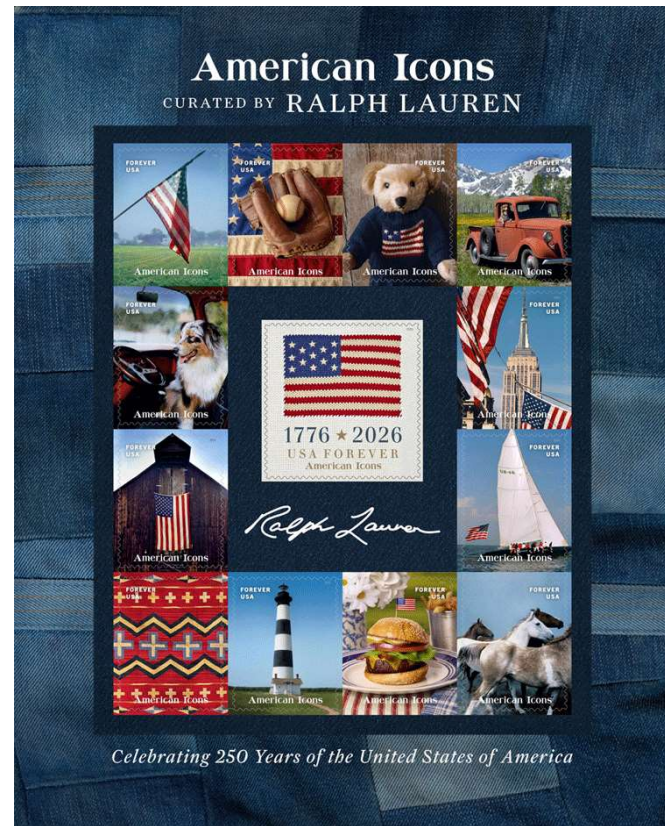
First Day of Issue City:

Edgartown, MA

Print Quantity 12,000,000 for 3,000 roll coil, 2,000,000,000 for 10,000 roll coil.



***Summer Sunset is a nondenominated, nonprofit-price stamp intended for bulk mailings by authorized nonprofit organizations. The stamp art features an oil painting of a brilliant sunset in Menemsha, a fishing village in the town of Chilmark on Martha's Vineyard, MA. The art creates an eye-catching image of a sunset over water.***



## New Issues for July 2026:

### Declaration of Independence

Forever First Class Rate

One Design

Pane of 20

Issue Date July 4th

First Day of Issue City:

Philadelphia, PA

Print Quantity—15,000,000

With this stamp, the U.S. Postal Service celebrates the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The bold stamp design in red, white, and blue features the year “1776” arranged vertically against a deeper blue background. Each numeral takes the shape of a feather quill pen, a nod to the instruments used to sign the nation’s founding document. Juan Carlos Pagan created the stamp design and typography. Greg Breeding art – directed the project.



### Barbie

Forever First Class Rate

Ten Designs

Pane of 10

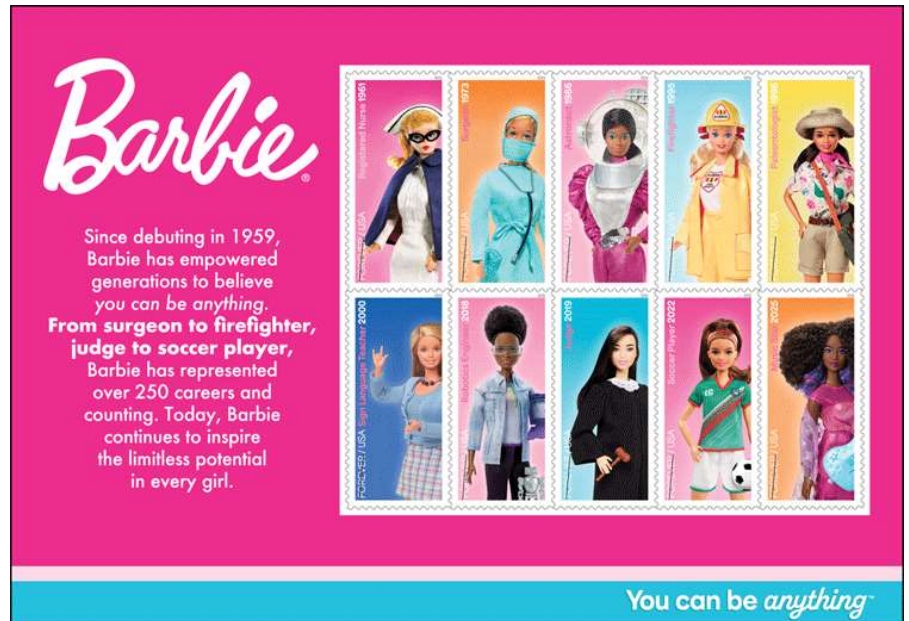
Issue Date July 11th

First Day of Issue City:

Austin, TX

Print Quantity—????

This pane of 10 Forever® stamps features Barbie®, the best-selling doll of all time, dressed to portray 10 different careers. In 65-plus years as a staple of imaginative childhood play, Barbie has represented more than 250 careers, encouraging generations of fans to dream big and explore a world of possibilities. Each stamp spotlights a photograph of an outfit worn by an era-appropriate Barbie doll with the apparel’s release date. USPS art director Ethel Kessler collaborated with Mattel on the design of the stamps and pane, using photography provided by Mattel.



Only four more designs announced for the remainder of the year. The two holiday issues in September and two other issues that have yet to be announced.

Remember that the Forever rate is scheduled to go from 78c to 82c on July 12th. Additional ounce remains the same. Postcard rate goes from 61c to 65c.

And to think when I started collecting, the postcard rate was 4c and only 2c when I was born. No wonder you don't find many places in tourist areas selling postcards anymore.

## Report from Boston 2026 by Jim McKinzie

What a great show! What fun! MPS had 16 members and spouses at the show. We were not all there at the same time but with such a long show, that is to be expected.



From Left to Right: Zach Lawrence, Jim McKinzie, Stephen Slack, Tomas Greibling, Mike Miklovic, Jeff Jaax, Fred Reynolds, Andrea & Dale Smith, Bill & Kathleen Johnson, Jim & Beth Allen, Charlie & Vicki Wunsch.

What a great group. Everyone was so busy everyday, we really didn't get to converse with each other much. Too much to see and do.

As always, I went to the First Day Ceremonies and there were several. I unfortunately missed the one I was most interested in, which was the first day of the show. And that was the Treasures of the Revolutionary Era. After two and half days on the train with a long unexpected delay in Chicago, I was worn out and did not have my ducks in row that first day. I did make it to several others which as always were quite informative.



*These guys and gals were fun and festive!*

## Boston Show continued:

I did make it to the unveiling of the last Boston Show label. It is a beautiful design by Martin Morck. You might recognize his work and name if you collect the Faroe Islands. He does a lot of engraved stamps for that country. The sheet is a depiction of the Siege of Boston which the colonists won, unlike Bunker Hill. More on that at another time.

The next day was the "Encore" issue. The USPS made a big deal out of this. Security before the unveiling and it was all wrapped up so that you could not peek. And if you don't know already, it was the Mr. Rogers stamp.

There was a special guest at the ceremony also.



The featured speaker at the first-day ceremony was David Newell, who played Mr. McFeely the letter carrier, on "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood." [photo right] His first words were "speedy delivery!" Then he added, "It certainly is a beautiful day in your stamp expo neighborhood." The gentleman was very entertaining. This issue received 40,000 more votes than the 2nd place finisher.



The encore issue has been issued in a pane of 20 and the souvenir sheet at the right.

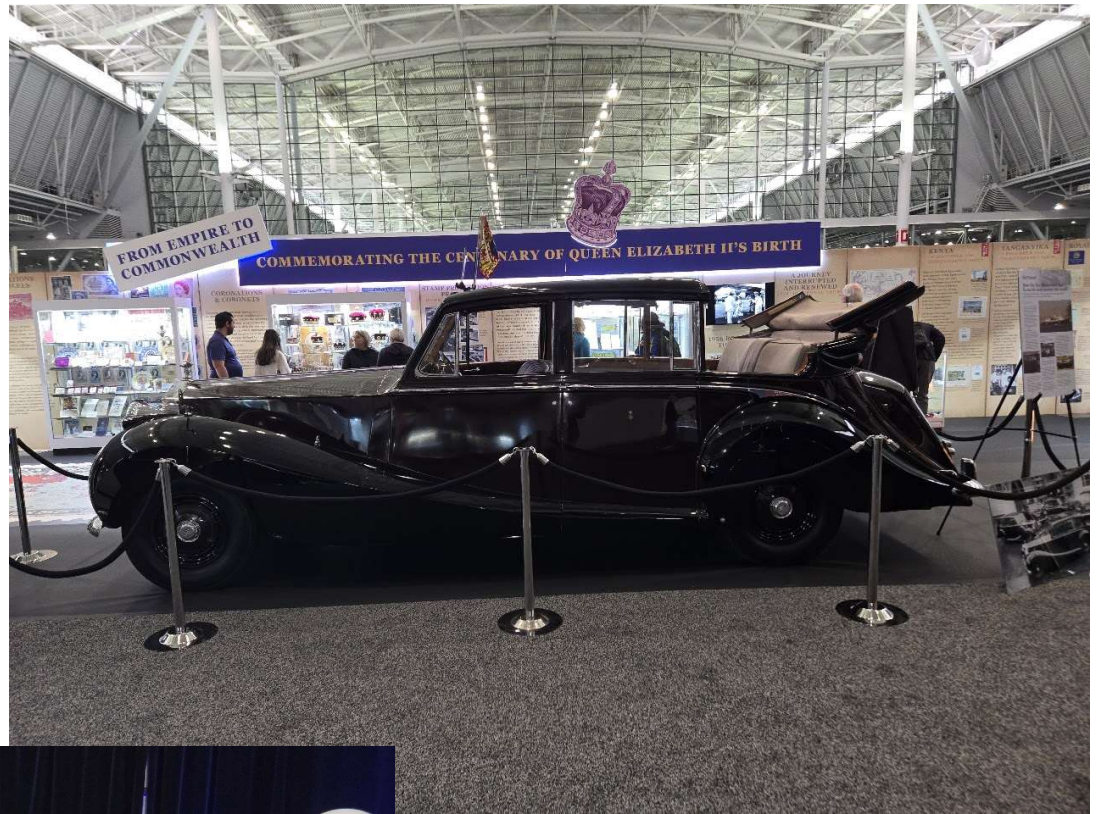


While I am not fond of this issue, I do get it. But for full disclosure, I was a Captain Kangaroo Kid!

It wasn't all first day ceremonies, you could wander through a wonderful British exhibit, which featured a car of QEII. If you ask some of the ladies in the group, you can probably see a pic of them sitting in the car waving like the Queen.

Many of the big auction houses had booths, displaying rare items that were to be up for auction soon. Bill Johnson got to hold an upside down Jenny and have his picture taken. I coveted the CIA invert that I held for a few moments at the Americana Auctions booth. Only at a big show like this do you get these opportunities.

More first day ceremonies such as the new Bison stamp, which I think is quite handsome.



The people at the Postcrossing stamp ceremony were very enthusiastic. And maybe a little nuts! I had to have Tomas explain to me what postcrossing is. So if you are curious ask Tomas. The international Peace issue was interesting since I got to meet the lady on the immediate left of the image of the stamp. Sue DiCicco was the artist who folded the crane and is the Peace Crane Project founder. Sue was sitting to my left at the bar where some of us were eating the night before the ceremony. While we waited for our table for dinner, I had a very nice conversation with her. She had no idea what a big deal the show and ceremony was.



Soccer was the last first day ceremony during the show. They were about as rowdy as the postcrossing people. Scott's/Linns editor and now owner, Jay Bigalke dressed in a soccer uniform for this ceremony. I should have asked him if he is or was a soccer player. It is a game I have never understood nor cared about like I do baseball or basketball. Then they had a dedication ceremony for the American Revolutionary Figures pane. There was a panel discussion about how the design was conceived and developed with a couple of the artists there to discuss and answer questions. Dorothy Kessler the USPS art director explained how they decided on the background behind each portrait. It is one big US flag behind the portraits of the patriots.



In the beginners and kids area they had a area Lego group with Legos for kids to build with. During the week a large Lego replica of the Boston World Stamp Show Post Rider issue that came out last year was built. You can see our friend Alex Haimann of St. Louis standing next to it, below. The USPS display sign of this great issue is in the background.



The Smithsonian Postal Museum had a booth and gave a couple of good talks. One of the talks I went to was "A Basic Introduction to the Video Spectral Comparator (VSC)". You can make an advance appointment and analyze a stamp or document with this devise. It will quickly discover watermarks, such as the single line watermarks on the Washington-Franklins or what I found fascinating is its ability to separate out a color or colors on a stamp so that you



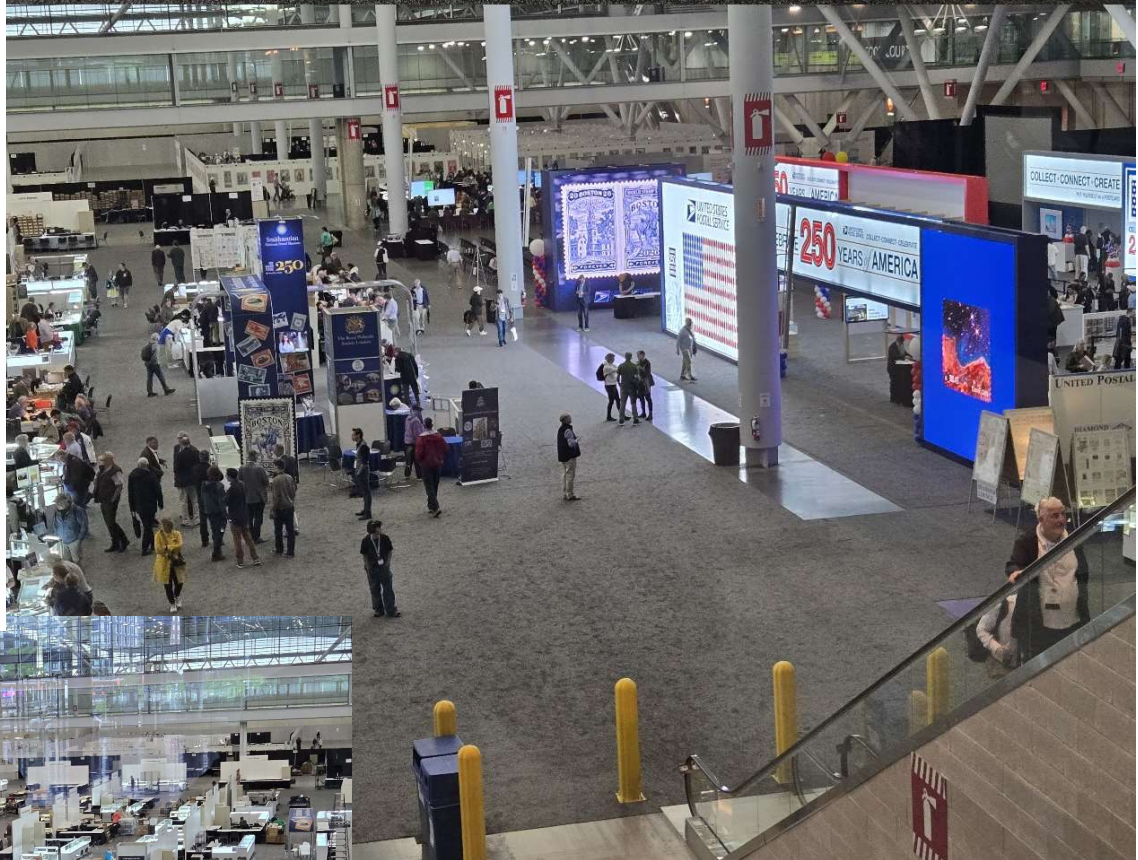
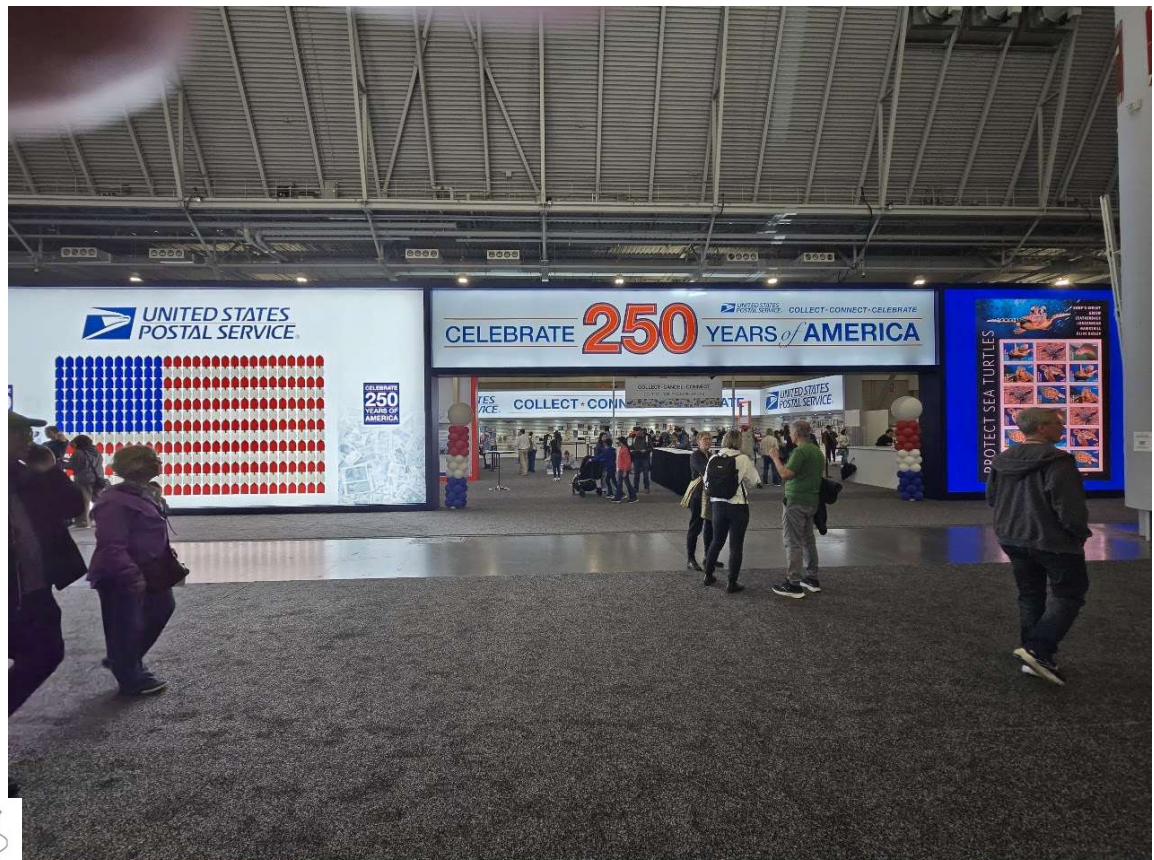
can determine if a second or third color has any trace left on the stamp. I have a couple of color omitted errors that I would love to take to Washington, D.C. and analyze with this machine. If I could separate out the colors that are there and nothing is left, then I know it is missing that color. You can detect repairs also. It was a fascinating talk, which followed with a presentation, "Analysis and Identification of American and European Watermarks in Early American letters 1765-1815". This helped to understand how the device worked at least with the watermarks.

Other programs included one by the AFDCS that included three representatives from the Stamp Fulfillment Center (The Caves). During the question and answer period, someone suggested that they bring back the philatelic centers at larger post offices. Lisa Bobb-Semple, USPS Director of Stamps, was in the audience and replied that she is currently working on bringing them back. I think Union Station would be the perfect place to test the concept. It would be close to the Caves, tourists to buy the merchandise that most collectors have no interest in and it is centrally located for the Metro. Something

to think about.

By the last day, the crowds had died down. People that had been lined up to buy stamps at the USPS large booth area and get their special postmarks, had slowed considerably.

I finally stood in the small line to get my picture taken at the USPS to get a postcard made of me as a patriot. I don't think it looks anything like me but it was fun. Mine looked better than the gal in front of me. She screamed when she saw hers. It was not a scream of joy!.



Then the show closed and the worker-bee ants took off to tear it all down. I had time to kill before it was time for me to take my exhibit down. By the way, Tomas, Bill and myself all medaled with our exhibits. I'm not sure that I will do a World show again as an exhibitor but I was happy that I did this time. I think having Bicentennial material at this show during the 250th anniversary and in Boston was important.

# Meeting Location and Time:

## MEETING PLACE & TIME for Midwest Philatelic Society

MPS Meeting Schedule for Saturday, June 27th

Meeting is to be held at 1st Presbyterian Church-Westminster Hall  
417 W Lexington Ave  
Independence, MO 64050



10:00am—1pm Dealers and members, buy, sell and trade.

1:00pm—2pm Auction Lots displayed and available to view.

2:00pm—5pm Business meeting, show-n-tell, program and club auction.

*We must be out by 5pm, so be ready to bid, pay with cash and pickup your auction lots.*

***What you will find if you come early to the meeting:***

**Several members with material for sale. Bring your want lists. Let those members know what you are looking for ahead of the meeting. It is hard to bring it all.**

### ***Serving the Organization:***

No organization can survive without the people that serve that organization. It takes many for a group such as ours to be effective and to continue to exist. These past few years, it has been difficult to find anyone to serve in one of the offices. It's the same people that help set up and tear down the room each meeting date. We average 30 to 40 members each meeting, yet a few are running the show. Some of us are ready to step back and let others guide the club. New leadership brings new ideas and keeps an organization thriving.

We have a great group of members and it is much appreciated those of you that serve in some capacity either as an officer elected or appointed or you are always willing to help. Please consider stepping up and help if you are able. Tell President Jeff what you are interested in doing and how you would like to help. December officer elections is not that far away.

Thanks for considering. Without the help of many, MPS will not survive in the future.

**Jim will be taking pictures for the membership directory. Please attend, if unable, send a jpg. of your headshot to [jimmckinzie1@att.net](mailto:jimmckinzie1@att.net) so that you will be included in the next membership directory. And if you did not fill out a new membership application, please send to the same email address your collecting interests. The membership directory is a great way for us to keep in touch between meetings but it is only useful with current information that you provide.**

The Midwest Philatelic Society Website is

[www.midwestphilatelicsociety.com](http://www.midwestphilatelicsociety.com)

***Find previous newsletters, links to other stamp info and more on our website.***

## ***What You Missed at the May Meeting:***

**Attendance** – 32 members attended.

**New Member** – New Member Richard R. Collets several countries. Plate Blocks and Precancels.

**Visitor** – Harlan L. from Virginia collects US and Japan

**Presidents report** – Discussed Boston show and told everyone to email Jim McKinzie what times they would be. He asked all to show up early to help set up and tear down for the club meetings.

**First VP** – No Report

**Second VP** – No Report

**Secretary** – Perry will not be here for the July meeting on June 27th. Some one please step up and take notes for Jim McKinzie.

**Treasurer** – APS books brought in \$192, deficit of \$52. Federal IRS Form 990 was submitted.

**Librarian** – No report.

**Historian** – No report.

**Stamp Show** – Rick gave a report on the progress and Dale Smith updated us on all the ads he has put together. There will be a cost for the Coffee Club News of \$300 the hope is it will bring in a lot more visitors. Ad put in Linns and Dale G. has 300 plus postcards he will be sending out. Sending a few fliers to all the local clubs. Getting date changed with the APS. Dale S. is putting the show info in the Topical Times magazine. Rodger is setting up his 3D printer and some of his other toys.

**Newsletter** – Keep the articles coming. He will be combining the June and July newsletter due to the show and change of meeting. July meeting will be now on June 27th due to FIFA.

**Old Business** – None

**New Business** – Boston 2026, Sunday the 24th, will have a talk on WWI German Air ships. Online will have a discussion on an Electronic Catalog at 3:00 PM on the 30th, it will be free for everyone.

**Looking for** -Jeff J. Souvenir sheet for Collection. Rodger told about his new perf gauge measures to .1. Need presenters at the Lawrence Club meeting on the 1st Thursday of the month at 6:30, at the Emanuel Lutheran Church.

**Show and tell** – Bill Johnson showed the earliest Denver Territory Cancel on Tombstone California 1850-1851 mailed in California. Rate was 12 ½ cent showed the coinage used. Armen- showed #2 on cover that did not get delivered with four corrections on which was mailed to Jeff J. who had changed address then the letter was returned to Armen.

**Cache for the Show** - Talk about the cache for the Club stamp show and several options and Ideas. Also a cache and cancel used at the Liberty Fall Festival club members can purchase. Vote was taken on getting covers from the Liberty Fall Festival Majority said yes. Vote on the Cache for the club show a majority voted yes for that too. Barry F. Show a Circulation book put together by the MPS he came across. Howard B. a cover he purchased on eBay that was for Kansas City Horns Zoo. Jim J. talked about an insurance policy he mailed on the 9th of March that did not show up, Insurance company asked for policy and then the mailed policy showed up 7 weeks later.

**Presentation this week** – Rick Karlslyst “Sea Floor Mail”

*Submitted by Perry Kilpatrick*

*There were no minutes submitted for the June meeting since Perry was not in attendance.*

Hope you enjoyed this month's newsletter. Thanks to the Boston Show participants for their contributions. You can contribute too by emailing me for next month's issue. **Deadline for the August issue will be July 15th.** Happy stamping! *Jim McKinzie*