

The Messenger



January &
February
2026

The Greater Kansas City, Missouri Area's Stamp Club

Next Meeting

Jeff Jaax, President (jeff.jaax@gmail.com)
Armen Hovsepian, 1st Vice President (info@armenstamp.com)
Rodger McReynolds, 2nd Vice President (rodger_mcreynolds@hotmail.com)
Hans Vergara, Treasurer (jwc1868@yahoo.com)
Perry Kilpatrick, Secretary (kilpatrickp61@gmail.com)
Jim McKinzie, Newsletter Editor (jimmckinzie1@att.net)

January 3rd
Room available 10:00AM
Meeting starts 2:00PM
See Details Inside
On page 2



What You Missed at Our December Meeting:

Attendance – 28 members

New Member – One guest Rick Lucas, Linda's husband with no interest in stamp. Linda's friend Katherine Harris had a stroke she asked us to please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Presidents report – Rodger McReynolds stepped in for Jeff Jaxx who was out injured. Rodger reported this was the last meeting of 2025 and that the next two meetings would technically be in January, the first Saturday and the last Saturday since we will not be able to meet on the first Saturday of February.

First VIP – Armen reported he has older tags that members can use.

Second VIP – No report.

Secretary – No Report

Treasurer – Dues for 2026 are due they will be processed in January. \$25 for Single and \$35 for Family. We had \$241 in sale on the APS books leaving the club with \$2.11 to the club. Hans will be transferring the treasury books to Betsy for auditing.

Librarian – No report.

Historian – No report.

Newsletter – Jim McKinzie sent a get-well card around for Jeff Jaxx and will get a card for Katherine. Jim will only be producing one newsletter for January/February since the meetings will be closer together. Reminded that we will be working on presentations in January and February from 10AM to 12pm. There will be other presenters around to help. Please keep the articles coming.

Old Business – No old business.

New Business – Rodger McReynolds introduced a new method of bidding on auction lots with a lot of discussion. It was stated that if the rules are to change a full write-up needs to be put in the newsletter and all members are aware of the changes. Andrea Smith suggested that we attempt to pull in more members with some form of advertising. Discussion was long and intense with multiple ideas. Some of the ideas were to try the cable local channel announcement, signs in post office, note in E&D auction, and Craigs List.

What are you looking for - Dave is requesting postal history.

Show and tell – Scott Couch – Presented Chicagopex FDC for 80 cent Hawaii stamp with a hula girl cache. Stephen told his story on obtaining his sacred cow stamp on eBay. Barry Fitzgerald talked about the Lawrence Kansas stamp club and a cover from 1937 and miscellaneous related covers. Scott Couch told how there was a record number of attendees at the Chicago and Dallas shows. Indicating the comeback of the hobby.

Elections – The following election slate was presented.

President – Jeff Jaxx

1st Vice President – Armen Hovsepian

2nd Vice President – Rodger McReynolds

Treasure – Hans Vergara

Secretary – Perry Kilpatrick

Motion made by Jim McKinzie to accept the slate of officers and vote in by acclamation.

Scott Couch second the motion. Motion voted on and passed.

Presentation this week – Jeff was to be the program but unable to attend. Auctions started at this point. *Submitted by Perry Kilpatrick*

Join us on January 3rd, 2026 for a
“A beginner's guide to exhibiting, Pt 1”
Bill Johnson & Jim McKinzie

Meeting Location and Time:

MEETING PLACE & TIME for Midwest Philatelic Society



MPS Meeting Schedule for Saturday, January 3rd
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. **Learn about exhibiting.**

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

2:00pm—5pm Business meeting, Officer Elections, show-n-tell, program and Annual club fundraising 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:

Philatelic Happenings:

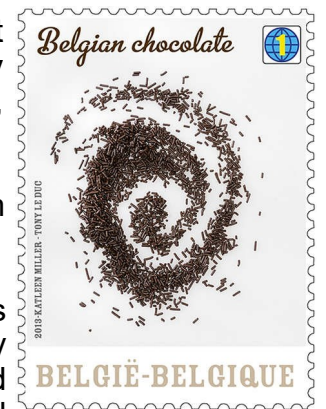
February 20-21
Cessna Coin & Stamp Show
Cessna Activity Center
2744 George Washington Blvd
Wichita, KS
Friday 9am-5pm
Saturday 9am-4pm

Not much going on in the area that I can find for the next two months. A problem I run into each month, is too many of the local shows do not advertise much in advance, so it makes it hard to list in this newsletter.

Due to the church's Annual Chocolate Festival, Westminster Hall is not available to us on the first Saturday in **FEBRUARY**. **So our February meeting will be held on January 31st.** If you show up on February 7th, enjoy all the chocolate you can buy! But no stamps!

The format and schedule for the meeting will be the same. The program will be PT 2 of Exhibiting for Beginners.

The question always arises at this time of year, what if the weather is bad? We will be there unless the region is shut down due to a heavy snow or ice storm. You will need to use your judgement about the road conditions. Check the local stations for those reports on the roads and the weather. Hopefully, we will escape bad weather this year and both meetings coming up will come off without a hitch.



Belgium
#2624a from
Souvenir Sheet
March 25, 2013

It is time to pay your membership dues. Thanks to all that have already paid. Membership form is attached to this newsletter. The dues help us pay for this newsletter, our meeting place, the annual BBQ and other projects throughout the year. Please pay promptly. The newsletter email and mailing list will be updated by the March newsletter so if you have not paid, no newsletter.

The Midwest Philatelic Society Website, Marketplace & Blog is

www.midwestphilatelicssociety.com

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

Philatelic Ramblings:

We certainly had an interesting discussion about how to promote this organization at the last meeting. I will say again that when so many in this hobby never speak to others about their hobby, you can not expect the general public to think that there is anything to stamp collecting. Most of what the general public reads or sees about the hobby is negative these days. That is our fault. We must speak up and talk positive about our passion. The common question I get, as I am sure all of you do, when my hobby is mentioned is "What is the most expensive or valuable stamp that you own?" How you answer that question is important. While you don't want to brag or boast, you don't want to say nothing is valuable any more! My usual answer is, "While I have some valuable stamps, that is not why I collect. I collect for the history, art work and where that little piece of paper takes me when I look at it." That usually changes the direction of the discussion away from value.

As I was preparing this newsletter it dawned on me part of the problems with promoting the hobby. I've mentioned both of the following in this newsletter. When the USPS holds onto information that they already know, to the point that someone like myself can not write about it in a timely fashion then that becomes a detriment to the hobby. If we are not able to promote the new issues coming out in a month's time because we do not have all the facts, that is a problem. We in the hobby are also guilty of not promoting shows/bourses in a timely fashion. More times than not, I find out about a bourse or show that is within a half day's drive from the KC area after I have sent this newsletter out. They may list their show in Linns or with APS but only right before the event. I realize part of the reason is the cost of ads. But by not promoting well in advance, you are only going to get the usual customers and never grow the show. It also will eventually cause the show's doom as the local members die or get out of the hobby. Less people coming and no one to replace them. The well promoted shows, far in advance, are having great attendance and sales. That keeps the hobby alive!

When I was growing up, boxing was a BIG deal. You could not turn on the sports news without hearing about the latest bout or what was coming up. Before pay-for-view, boxing was on live one of the three local TV stations. And ABC had Howard Cosell who developed an unusual relationship between a sportscaster and an athlete. So when I think of Muhammed Ali, I think of Howard Cosell. The new issue honoring Ali is nice and I get the intention of the two similar but different stamps by bringing up the familiar chant, ALI, ALI that was always heard when he entered the ring or was in a crowd, I just feel that it would have been nice to have Howard and Ali on the second stamp. And I don't think either would have minded.



That is exactly why I love stamps. I look at an issue and it can take me back to great memories. In watching TCM in October, I was taken back to a time when my little brother and I would lie in front of the TV, in the dark, on a Friday or Saturday night watching the old Universal monster movies. Every time I see this issue, it takes me to those wonderful memories too!



US #3172a
Classic Movie
Monsters



You can make hotel reservations now. Multiple hotels have been secured for the big International Boston show. If you plan on going it is not too early to secure your room. Go to the following website to do so:

<https://web.cvent.com/event/bbbdc1d9-e50e-44dd-8bef-eb36c9d1251f/summary>

DEAD COUNTRIES: (Stamp-issuing countries that no longer exist) by Neil Becker

#34 New Brunswick & Nova Scotia

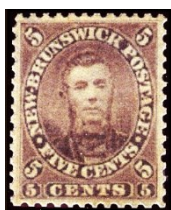
The next three episodes will cover the small pieces of Canada that issued their own postage stamps prior to joining the Confederation.

New Brunswick is a nearly 28,000 sq. mi. area located between Nova Scotia on the southeast and Maine on its west border, Quebec on the north and the Gulf of St. Lawrence on the east and north-east. The area was first explored by Europeans when Jacques Cartier landed in 1534 and as the Maritime areas were soon settled, they became known as Acadia. The area was bounced back and forth between France and Britain all the way up to the 1760's when the British took over permanently. New Brunswick became a province in 1784, until it joined the Canadian Confederation in 1867.

Two sets of stamps were issued by New Brunswick. In 1851 they produced four diamond-shaped stamps in three pence/ shilling denominations. A five cent stamp featuring portrait of the current postmaster was prepared but not issued – most were destroyed. (He later resigned because of that.) The rest of the set was issued, without issue. (groan!) There were six denominations up to seventeen cents and were they were used up to 1867.



#3



#5



#8



#6

Nova Scotia is nearly an island southeast of New Brunswick, jutting into the Atlantic Ocean, with only a 15-mile-wide isthmus connecting it to the mainland. The name, Latin for "New Scotland" was used in 1621 in a charter set up to bring over Scots immigrants to settle. Its history is much like New Brunswick, with the British, France and the native peoples fighting over the land. Nova Scotia became a crown colony in 1848 and joined the Canadian confederation in 1867.

The first postage stamps of Nova Scotia were issued from 1851 to 1857. A 1 pence square stamp, featuring Queen Victoria, was followed by six diamond-shapes of the same design as New Brunswick, but inscribed Nova Scotia, from 3p to 1 shilling. 1861 to 1863 saw six denominations (1 cent to 12 ½ cents) showing two different poses of the Queen. This set was printed on both white and yellowish paper. In 1867 the stamps were replaced by Canada postage.



#10



#1



#12

TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES

Fill out the form on the reverse, attach a check and mail to Hans, our Treasurer or hand it to him at the January meeting.

If we get the majority to pay on time this year, we will put together a new membership directory and get it out by this summer. But to do that we need everyone to get their dues paid timely.

The officers of the club thank you in advance.

Volunteers Needed for Boston:

We need volunteers to help man the Military Postal History Society (MPHS) Table at Boston2026. MPHS has a society booth in the American Pavilion, a high traffic area. Because of the length of the show, we need a few more than the normal group of volunteers to man the table. Working at a Society Table is a great way to “Take a load off your feet”, and at the same time meet some very interesting people (unless of course you routinely see Elvis at your McDonalds). You don’t have to be a member of MPHS to help out.

Please see Fred Reynolds at our next meeting, or contact him at 913-402-7038, or reynoldscolusa@gmail.com”

YES ☐ I would like to JOIN OR CONTINUE my membership in Midwest Philatelic Society.

Copy and save this form as a pdf or jpg document and send to: Bring to meeting with dues.

Or mail to: Hans Vergara

Treasurer

11916 W 109th St #204

Overland Park, KS 66210

☐ 2026 dues (individual)..... \$25.00.....\$ _____

☐ 2026 dues (family) \$30.00.....\$ _____

☐ Life Member (contact Hans first for eligibility) \$175.00...\$ _____

Current Life Member ☐

☐ 2026 Donation to My MPS Club.....\$ _____

(As outlined in By-Laws)

☐ 2026 Donation to MPS Library.....\$ _____

☐ Upcharge for Mailing Newsletter \$10.00.....\$ _____

.....Total Remittance \$ _____

We are updating our records and will appreciate if you complete the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

My collecting interests: _____

ALL MEMBERS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY, IF YOU WANT TO BE INCLUDED BUT WANT SOME INFORMATION TO BE WITHHELD PLEASE INDICATE WHAT YOU DO NOT WANT TO BE INCLUDED:

I ONLY WANT MY NAME and COLLECTING INTERESTS TO BE INCLUDED IN MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY _____ Include picture of myself in directory YES _____ NO _____

YOUR COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER WILL COME BY EMAIL UNLESS YOU WOULD PREFER IT TO COME BY TRADITIONAL MAIL.

I AM UNABLE TO RECEIVE EMAIL, SEND MY NEWSLETTER BY MAIL _____

There is an additional \$10 charge to receive the newsletter by mail.

Important Auction Rule Changes:

In the interest of speeding up the MPS stamp auction, the club is planning to implement a small change to the auction format.

In the past, any auction item which has at least one interested bidder number on the auction form has been offered for bids. Frequently, if the item has only one interested bidder, the item is sold at the initial asking price.

Beginning in January, 2026, any item which shows only one interested bidder will be collected and removed from the auction tables prior to the start of the meeting and will be sold to the interested bidder at the asking price without being offered for bids. These items will be collected shortly before the meeting begins to allow time to process these items. Items with two or more interested bidder numbers will be offered for bids in the traditional fashion.

In order to be successful, there are a couple things to keep in mind:

- Be sure to have all of your items for sale on the tables before 1:30. The earlier you put your items on the tables; the more time buyers will have to look them over.
- If you have interest in an item, be sure to add your bidder number to the auction form. This will ensure that the item is included in the live auction if there are at least two interested bidders.

Procedures for MPS Auctions

1. Only club members may offer items for sale while non-members are welcome to purchase items but not sell. If a non-member wishes to bid on any items, please contact the auctioneer to arrange for a bidder number.
2. Members are allowed to place up to 10 items per month for auction.
3. All auction items should be on the tables no later than 1:30pm. This allows time to collect the "1-bid" items and get them entered into the computer before the meeting begins.
4. All items should have an auction form attached with the seller's auction number and description shown. Auction forms are available on the MPS website.
5. Please price items to a rounded dollar amount. Prices of ".25" or ".50" complicate making change.
6. All items are sold "as-is, where-is" with no guarantee as to accuracy of description, etc.
7. All sales are final. No refunds are granted.
8. At the conclusion of the auction, it is preferred that buyers come forward first followed by sellers. The club uses money collected from buyers to pay sellers for their items. The club does not take a commission from the sales.
9. Donations to the club are welcome. Please clearly indicate such on the auction form.
10. It is preferred that all sales are paid in cash to allow sellers to be paid more easily. Credit cards and various forms of ePayments (Paypal, Venmo, CashApp) are not accepted.
11. Please remember to take your purchases at the end of the auction.
12. Please remember to pick up any of your unsold items before you leave.

This Month's New Issues for 2026:

The USPS is notoriously slow in divulging information on upcoming new issues. Much of what is coming out in January, the information is not all available. I am sure most of these issues have already gone to press, so print amount and how many to a pane, should be available now. I would surmise that most will be 20 stamps to a pane but that could be wrong. 16 to a pane has been a popular number in recent years also. Because so little info is released in advance, the February issues will not be included in this newsletter. They will be included in the March newsletter along with the March issues.

Angel's Trumpets

Low Denomination Rate 4¢

One Design

Pane of 20

Coils of 10,000

Issue Date January 9th

First Day of Issue City:

Kenosha, WI

Print Quantity—?????



Photographer Harold Davis backlit the flowers on a lightbox and combined multiple photographic exposures to create these images. This resulted in a luminous, transparent look. USPS Art Director, Ethel Kessler, designed these stamps. The first day ceremony will be held during the MSDA Wisconsin/Illinois Stateline Show.

Muhammad Ali

Forever First Class Rate

Two Designs

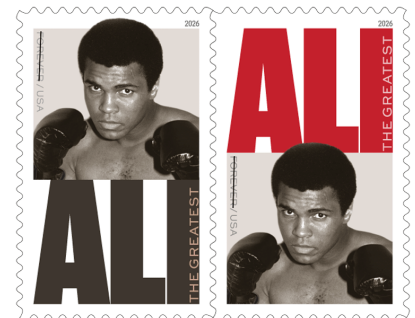
Pane of 20

Issue Date January 15th

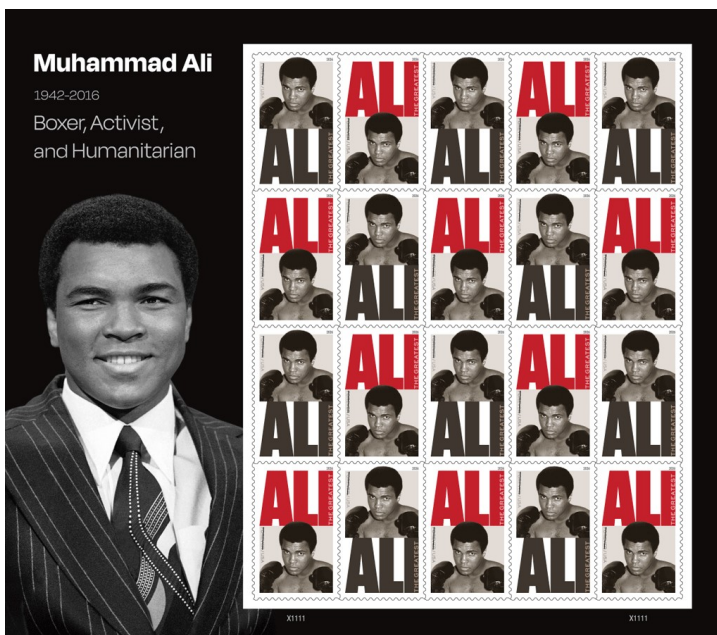
First Day of Issue City:

Louisville, KY

Print Quantity—?????



“The Greatest”



Muhammad Ali (1942-2016) born Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr. in Louisville, KY became a three-time world heavyweight boxing champion. He challenged the best fighters in the world. As a boxer, activist and humanitarian, he defied expectations to become a globally celebrated cultural icon. Ali once said, “I should be a postage stamp, because that’s the only way I’ll ever get licked.” The stamps feature a 1974 Associated Press photo. USPS art director, Antonio Alcala designed the stamps. A first day ceremony is scheduled at the University of Louisville, L & N Federal Credit Union Stadium, Angel’s Envy Bourgon Club. Attendees are encouraged to register in advance, usps.com/muhammadalistamps.

This Month's New Issues for 2026 Continued:

Love

Forever First Class Rate
Four Designs
Pane of ??
Issue Date January 13th
First Day of Issue City:
Kansas City, MO
Print Quantity—?????



James Yang created the art for this year's Love stamps. His illustrations show pairs of stylized birds in a colorful world in which hearts appear, like love itself, in sweet and surprising ways. The art is inspired by both mid-century American design and Japanese children's book illustrations. Ethel Kessler, an art director for USPS, designed the stamps. No first day ceremony is scheduled.

Colorado Statehood

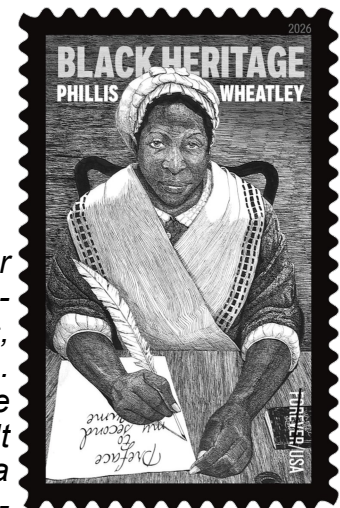
Forever First Class Rate
One Design
Pane of ??
Issue Date January 24th
First Day of Issue City:
Denver, CO
Print Quantity—?????



150th Anniversary of Colorado statehood will be honored with a new stamp issue. The stamp features a photograph of Jagged Mountain, located in the Weminuche Wilderness area of the San Juan national Forest. Derry Noyes, art director for USPS, designed the stamp with an existing photograph by Colorado nature photographer John Fielder (1950-2023). A first day ceremony is planned at the History Colorado Center in Denver for the opening of the "Mountains Majesty: On the Summit with John Fielder" exhibition.

Phillis Wheatley (Black Heritage)

Forever First Class Rate
One Design
Pane of ??
Issue Date January 29th
First Day of Issue City:
Boston, MA
Print Quantity—?????



Phillis Wheatley lived from approx. 1753-1784. She was the first author of African descent in the American Colonies to publish a book. As an enslaved woman with an education and prominent social connections, Wheatley occupied a unique and remarkable place in Colonial Boston. She is often called "the mother of African American literature." She wrote a book of poems, "Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral". It was published on September 1, 1773. USPS Art director, Antonio Alcala designed the stamp with a portrait of Wheatley by internationally acclaimed artist Kerry James Marshall.

Hope you enjoyed this month's newsletter. Thanks to Fred, Neil & Rodger for their contributions. You can contribute too by emailing me for next month's issue. **Deadline for the March issue will be February 15th.** Happy stamping! **Jim McKinzie**