



**WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB - APRIL, 2017**

**OFFICERS / ADDRESS / WHEN WE MEET**

**President:** Andy Novotny  
(email: novoand@hotmail.com)

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

**Secretary:** Lorraine Vincent  
(email: LVincent04@aol.com)

**Treasurer:** Danielle Weaver  
(email: dmm742000@yahoo.com)

**MAILING ADDRESS:** Wilkinsburg Stamp Club  
P.O. Box 10552  
Pittsburgh, PA 15235-0552

We meet on the second and fourth Sunday (except holidays and fourth Sunday in June, July and August) of each month. Meetings are from 12:30 P.M. until close of business, with the business meeting at 2:00 P.M. Meeting at the Churchill Borough Building, 2300 William Penn Hwy, Churchill, PA 15235.

**DUES ARE ONLY \$8.00 PER YEAR (JULY-JUNE)**

**Newsletter Editor:** Tom Reiff  
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**Mailing Coordinator:** Danielle Weaver  
(email: dmm742000@yahoo.com)

**THE EDITOR WRITES...**

Our annual exhibition and bourse is this month. Please try to attend to find some items to add to your collection(s). It will be fun!

**APRIL, 2017 MEETING DATES**

April 9th ONLY  
No meeting on April 23<sup>rd</sup> (WILKPEX)

**\*\*\*\*\* PLEASE JOIN US \*\*\*\*\***



**HAPPY EASTER**

**2016 HUNGARY  
EASTER STAMP**

This newsletter is published ten times per year. Eight issues are published monthly for the months of January, February, March, April, September, October, November and December. For the months of May through August, two issues are published, one for the months of MAY-JUNE and one for the months of JULY-AUGUST.

**\*\*\*\* OUR FISCAL YEAR IS JULY 1 – JUNE 30 \*\*\*\***

**CLUB NEWS**

**OFFICER ELECTIONS:** Due to a delay, elections for offices of Vice-President and Treasurer were held at the March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. We are happy to report that Laura Kaczynski was re-elected Vice-President and that Danielle Weaver was re-elected Treasurer by acclamation. **Congratulations and Thank you!**

**WILKPEX 2017 UPDATE – APRIL 22 & 23**

**Dealers:** We currently have 10+ dealers using 19 tables. This is the maximum number of tables that was can accommodate.

**Cachet & Cancel:** Both the cachet and cancel are complete and ready for the show. As stated in previous newsletters, this year is former Pittsburgh Pirates player/coach Gene Baker.

**Souvenir Sheet:** This year's souvenir sheet is "spoofing" the 2016 Star Trek stamps with "Car Trek" stamps. It has been printed and will be available at the show.

**Exhibits:** The show will have a total of 20 frames of exhibits of stamps and covers. Included will be competitive and non-competitive exhibits from members along with various exhibits from the club.

**Advertising:** The show ad has been in the last several issues of the APS Journal. Linn's Stamp News had an article about the show in the March 27<sup>th</sup> issue and had/will have other show advertising. Members also took advertising fliers to distribute at various local places and newspapers, etc.

**Advance Mailing:** The advance mailing show postcards to non-members will be mailed on April 10<sup>th</sup>. This year we are mailing 148 postcards, an increase from 140 mailed in 2016.

**WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB - APRIL, 2017**

**100 YEARS AGO - UNITED STATES ENTRY INTO WORLD WAR I – APRIL, 1917**

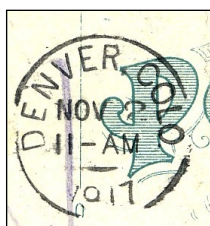
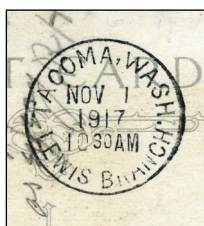
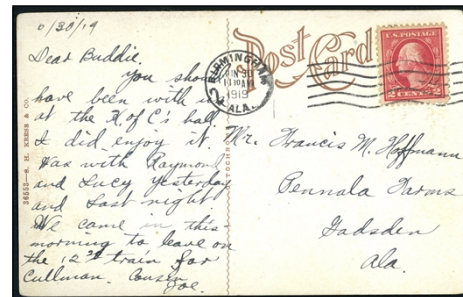
When World War I erupted in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson pledged neutrality for the United States, a position that the vast majority of Americans favored. Britain, however, was one of America's closest trading partners, and tension soon arose between the United States and Germany over the latter's attempted quarantine of the British Isles. Several U.S. ships traveling to Britain were damaged or sunk by German mines, and in February 1915 Germany announced unrestricted warfare against all ships, neutral or otherwise, that entered the war zone around Britain. One month later, Germany announced that a German cruiser had sunk the *William P. Frye*, a private American vessel. President Wilson was outraged, but the German government apologized and called the attack an unfortunate mistake.

On May 7, the British-owned *Lusitania* ocean liner was torpedoed without warning just off the coast of Ireland. Of the 1,959 passengers, 1,198 were killed, including 128 Americans. The German government maintained that the *Lusitania* was carrying munitions, but the U.S. demanded reparations and an end to German attacks on unarmed passenger and merchant ships. In August, Germany pledged to see to the safety of passengers before sinking unarmed vessels, but in November sunk an Italian liner without warning, killing 272 people, including 27 Americans. With these attacks, public opinion in the United States began to turn irrevocably against Germany.

In 1917, Germany, determined to win its war of attrition against the Allies, announced the resumption of unrestricted warfare in war-zone waters. Three days later, the United States broke diplomatic relations with Germany, and just hours after that the American liner *Housatonic* was sunk by a German U-boat. On February 22, Congress passed a \$250 million arms appropriations bill intended to make the United States ready for war. In late March, Germany sunk four more U.S. merchant ships, and on April 2 President Wilson appeared before Congress and called for a declaration of war against Germany. Wilson cited Germany's violation of its pledge to suspend unrestricted submarine warfare in the North Atlantic and the Mediterranean, as well as its attempts to entice Mexico into an alliance against the United States, as his reasons for declaring war. On April 4, 1917, the U.S. Senate voted 82-6 in support of the measure to declare war on Germany. The House concurred two days later with a vote of 373-50.

**WORLD WAR I - WAR TAX POSTAGE RATES**

Postmaster General Order (PMG) No. 755, October 3, 1917, effective November 2, 1917, read as follows: "Upon all matter of the first-class postage shall be charged the rate of three cents for each ounce or fraction thereof..." (PB 11468 (October 6, 1917)). Also in this case the domestic postcard rate was increased from one cent to two cents. This War Tax rate was in effect until June 30, 1919 and on July 1, 1919 it was reverted back to the previous rates. It is interesting to collect postal history during this time and can be challenging to find the War Tax "bookend" dates and other interesting dates. Below are three postcards, one with the last date of the one-cent pre-War Tax rate on November 1, 1917, one with the first date of the two-cent War Tax rate on November 2, 1917 and one with the last date of the two-cent War Tax rate on June 30, 1919.



**NOVEMBER 1, 1917  
LAST DAY 1-CENT PRE-WAR RATE**

**NOVEMBER 2, 1917  
FIRST DAY 2-CENT WAR TAX RATE**

**JUNE 30, 1919  
LAST DAY 2-CENT WAR TAX RATE**

**WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB – APRIL, 2017**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**Upcoming  
Stamp, Postcard and Collectible Shows**

**POSTCARD & PAPER SHOW** – April 8 – **PITTSBURGH, PA** - Three Rivers Postcard Club, Fairhaven United Methodist Church, 2415 Saw Mill Run Blvd. (Route 51), Pittsburgh, PA 15234. 9AM – 4PM Admission \$2.00

**STAMP SHOW** – April 22-23 – **MONROEVILLE, PA** - WILKPEX Wilkinsburg Stamp Club, Gateway Firehall, 4370 Northern Pike, Monroeville, Pennsylvania 15146. Saturday 10AM – 4PM; Sunday 10AM – 3PM Special Cachet, Special Cancel. Admission FREE

**STAMP SHOW** – April 28 - 29 – **LANCASTER, PA** – LANCOPEX 2016 - Lancaster County Philatelic Society, Farm & Home Center/Lancaster County, 1383 Arcadia Rd., Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17601 Friday 10AM – 5PM; Saturday 10AM – 4PM. Admission FREE

**STAMP SHOW** – May 12-13 – **BUTLER, PA** – BUTLERPEX Butler County Philatelic Society, Tanglewood Senior Center, 10 Austin Avenue, Lyndora, PA Friday 10AM – 5PM; Saturday 10AM – 5PM Admission FREE

**STAMP SHOW** – May 19 - 20 **ROCHESTER, NY** – ROPEX - The Greater Canandaigua Civic Center, 250 North Bloomfield Rd, Canandaigua, New York 14424 Friday/Saturday Daily Admission \$2; Sunday FREE; RPA Members and Youth under 18 Free. Friday 11-6, Saturday 10-5, Sunday 10-3.

**STAMP SHOW** – June 16 -17 – **COLUMBUS, OHIO** - COLOPEX 2017 – Rhodes Center, Ohio Expo Center, 717 East 17th Avenue Columbus, Ohio. Fri 10AM – 6PM, Sat 10AM – 6PM, Sun 10AM – 3PM.

**STAMP SHOW** – June 24 - 25 – **BELLEFONTE, PA** – SCOPEX 2017 - Mt. Nittany Philatelic Society. American Philatelic Center, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823. Saturday 10AM – 5PM; Sunday 10AM – 4PM.

And don't forget, during the year, weather permitting, Trader Jack's Flea Market (every Sat-Sun), Hannastown (MAY-SEP 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday), Bull Creek (MAY-OCT 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday), Washington Antiques Fair (Consol Energy Park – Last Sunday of the month), etc.

**PITTSBURGH AREA STAMP CLUB WEBSITES**

Here are some interesting Internet Web Sites. Once you access this URL, you may be able to navigate to other parts of the web site.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY PHILATELIC SOCIETY**  
<http://www.muleshoepa.com/WCPS/WCPS.HTM>

**PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH**  
<http://www.presidentdrive.com>

**50 YEARS AGO – APRIL 1967**



**LAST DEPT. OF THE POST OFFICE  
COMMEMORATIVE STAMP  
JUNE 23, 1971 (#1431)**



**FIRST USPS  
STAMP  
JULY 1, 1971 (#1396)**



**SWAZILAND (Scott #126 AND #129) – APRIL 25, 1967**



**HISTORICAL FACTS WITH PHILATELIC CONNECTIONS  
OVER THE YEARS, STAMPS HAVE BEEN ISSUED FOR  
THE U.S. POST OFFICE & POSTAL SERVICE AND  
SWAZILAND**

**APRIL 3, 1967** - Larry O'Brien, the United States Postmaster General (and the future Commissioner of the National Basketball Association) said in a speech that the U.S. Department of the Post Office should be abolished and replaced by a nonprofit government corporation. "If we ran our telephone system the way we run the post office, the carrier pigeon business would still have a great future," O'Brien told a gathering of magazine publishers and editors. The Postal Reorganization Act would be signed in 1970 and the cabinet-level department would be replaced on July 1, 1971 by the U.S. Postal Service.

**APRIL 25, 1967** - The colony of Swaziland was made a protectorate by the United Kingdom, with internal self-government. The Ngwenyama (Paramount Chief) of the Swazi people, Sobhuza II, was recognized as King and head of the government. Full independence would be granted on September 6, 1968.

**ATTEND A SHOW – FIND A TREASURE**