



West Suburban Stamp Club

Mayflower Minutes

<https://westsuburbanstampclub.org/>

July 2026

P.O. Box 700049

Plymouth, MI 48170

E-mail:

newsletter@thewssc.com

Meetings on the 3rd Friday of each month at 6:45. (Doors open at 6:00)

Held at:

Plymouth Historical Museum

155 South Main Street

Plymouth, Michigan

CLUB MEETING INFORMATION

The July 17th Meeting (**6:45 PM**) will be LIVE at the Plymouth Historical Museum and via ZOOM. Open at **6:00 PM**.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE INFORMATION

We are looking to fill 2 open positions for the 2026/2027 Term. Openings are due to term limits. The open positions are President, and 1 Trustee.

Jim would take the President position if someone would take over the US Auction Lot duties. (See Page 2)

Please give serious thought to taking on a position of leadership in our club to keep it strong and healthy. Contact Doug Becker or Carol Ann Beier if interested.

WSSC MEMBERSHIP—DUES PAYMENT

Annual dues are \$15.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Nick Fava at westsuburbanstampclub@gmail.com.

Dues can be paid at a meeting or by check to: West Suburban Stamp Club, P.O. Box 700049, Plymouth, MI 48170

LOCAL STAMP SHOWS

Allen Park Stamp Club Show, Saturday August 8, 10-5
Sokol Cultural Center,
23600 W Warren Ave., Dearborn Heights 48127



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- July 17—Members – How I began Collecting Stamps
- August 14– Charlie Wood – Notable American you never knew
- Sept. 11 – Fall Giant Auction

WSSC Club Officers:

President: Sarah Beckman, Vice President: Ron Beier, Secretary: Nick Fava, Treasurer: Open.

Trustees through 2026: John Beeskow, Ray Gunther. Trustees through 2027: Doug Becker, John Beckmann.

Newsletter Editor: Doug Becker, E-mail: newsletter@thewssc.com

AUCTION LOT COORDINATER NEEDED FOR US LOTS

Jim would take the President position if someone would take over the US Auction Lot duties. Jim will help you get started if you agree to take on this position. This is a great opportunity to research and grow in your knowledge of stamps and postal history. Talk to Jim to better understand what's involved. Please give serious thought to taking on this responsibility in our club.

CLUB PRESIDENT CANDIDATE NEEDED

This position within our club is still open. This is a vital position to allow our club to remain in existence. Please think about taking on this responsibility if US Auction Lot Coordinator does not step forward. Current terms expire on October 1, 2026.

COLONIAL POSTAL SERVICE (Article from The National Postal Museum)

In early colonial times, people depended on friends, merchants, and Native Americans to carry messages between the colonies. However, most correspondence ran between the colonies and their mother countries. It was largely to handle this mail that, in 1639, the first official notice of mail service in the colonies appeared. In keeping with the European practice of using coffee houses and taverns, the General Court of Massachusetts designated Richard Fairbanks' tavern in Boston as the official repository for letters brought from or sent "beyond the seas".

Local authorities operated post routes within the colonies. Then, in 1673, Governor Francis Lovelace of New York set up a monthly post between New York and Boston. The service was short-lived, but the post rider's trail became known as the Old Boston Post Road, part of today's U.S. Route 1. Governor William Penn established Pennsylvania's first Post Office in 1683. In the South, private messengers, usually slaves, connected the huge plantations; a barrel of tobacco was the penalty for failing to relay mail to the next plantation. As plantations expanded inland from port regions, so did the communications network.

Central postal organization came to the colonies only after 1692, when Thomas Neale received a 21-year patent from the British Crown for a North American postal system. Neale never visited America. Instead, he appointed Governor Andrew Hamilton of New Jersey as his deputy postmaster general. Neale's franchise cost him only six shillings and eight pence a year but was no bargain. He died heavily in debt in 1699 after assigning his interests in America to Andrew Hamilton and another Englishman, Robert West.

Cont.

In 1707, the British government bought the rights to the North American postal system from Hamilton's widow and West. The government then appointed Hamilton's son John as deputy postmaster general for the American colonies. He served until 1721, when he was succeeded by John Lloyd of Charleston, South Carolina. In 1730, the former lieutenant governor of Virginia, Alexander Spotswood, became deputy postmaster general of America. The appointment of Benjamin Franklin as postmaster of Philadelphia in 1737 was among Spotswood's most notable achievements. Franklin, only 31 years old at the time, was a successful printer and civic leader.

Two other Virginians succeeded Spotswood: Head Lynch in 1739 and Elliot Benger in 1743. When Benger died in 1753, Benjamin Franklin and William Hunter were appointed by the Crown as deputy postmasters general for the colonies. As deputy, Franklin made important and lasting improvements to the colonial posts. To reorganize the service, he set out on an inspection tour of Post Offices from Virginia northward. New surveys were made, milestones were placed on principal roads, and new and shorter routes were laid out. For the first time, post riders carried mail at night to speed service between Philadelphia and New York.

Mail between the colonies and Britain operated on a regular schedule, with posted times. Due largely to Franklin's innovations and economizing, the North American post became self-sustaining and by 1760 generated a surplus. When Hunter died in 1761 he was replaced by John Foxcroft, who served as Franklin's co-deputy until 1774.

British victory in the Seven Years War added formerly French territories to the North American postal network. Consequently, in January 1765, the administration of British post offices in North America was divided into Northern and Southern Districts. All post offices from Virginia northward fell under the purview of Franklin and Foxcroft. A postage chart published in 1765 showed the number of post offices in the Northern District alone had increased to 64. Despite the extension of mail routes to Canada, service in the north continued to improve. In the Southern District, "between bad roads and no roads at all," service lagged. In the absence of reliable overland routes, "a letter sent from New York to Charlestown or to the West Indies had to travel across to London and back again.

In 1764, Franklin sailed for England to serve as agent for Pennsylvania and several other colonies. He lived abroad for eleven years and left day-to-day management of postal affairs in the colonies to Foxcroft. Officials in London thought "the expanding scope of the North American post demanded a greater degree of supervision. In 1772 a new position was created — surveyor of post roads — "surveyor" being the British term for an auditor or inspector.

Cont.

That position was filled by Hugh Finlay, who had served as postmaster of Quebec. Finlay found a marked decline in service since Franklin's inspection 10 years earlier. The most glaring problem that Finlay observed was flagrant evasion of the postal laws to avoid payment of postage. He was dismayed to discover many American colonists bypassing the royal post by having their letters carried privately.

In 1774, after the unrest in Boston, Franklin was dismissed for being "too much of an American. Meanwhile, William Goddard, a newspaperman and former postmaster, was organizing an American postal system completely outside of British control. Goddard called it the "Constitutional Post" and it quickly gained the support of many provincial assemblies and committees of correspondence. The Constitutional Post required postmasters to hire only reputable post riders. Each post rider swore an oath to secure the mail under lock and key.

When the First Continental Congress met in Philadelphia in September 1774, Goddard laid out a detailed plan for how Congress could take over the Constitutional Post. To his disappointment, Congress took no action, but he reiterated his warning against the royal mail:

Letters are liable to be stopped & opened by ministerial mandates, & their Contents construed into treasonable Conspiracies; and News Papers, those necessary and important vehicles, especially in Times of public Danger, may be rendered of little avail for want of Circulation .

By 1775, the network of Constitutional post offices rivaled the Crown's, with nearly 50 post offices stretching from Maine to Virginia. When George Washington took command of the Continental Army, a fully functional, alternative communications infrastructure was already in place. The Constitutional Post afforded security to colonial messages and provided a communication line that played a vital role in winning American independence.

Note:

A special bi-weekly blog series features selected excerpts from the U.S. Postal Service's Publication 100: The United States Postal Service—An American History, 250th Anniversary Edition. Through these posts, readers will explore the dynamic evolution of the Postal Service—from its expanding delivery network and growing array of services to its trailblazing technological innovations and proud legacy of workforce diversity. Together, these stories highlight the institution's enduring commitment to serving the American people. A free digital copy of Publication 100 is available at: about.usps.com/publications/pub100.pdf.

The National Postal Museum extends its sincere thanks to U.S. Postal Service historian Stephen Kochersperger for his valuable collaboration on this series.

Mini Auction July 17, 2026

1. US Used Official Stamps, Quantity 11 Various Departments. Cat. \$86.81
2. US Used Scott #205-#211. Cat. \$127.00
3. US Mint Legends of the West Full Sheet of 20 plus other assorted formats, does not include Recalled Sheet. Cat. \$25.00++
4. US Mint Pane of 20 Legends of the West Recalled Issue. Cat. \$109.38
5. US Mint, 7 Full sheets of 10c and 8c stamps. Face \$23.36
6. US Used Scott #583, 584, 612, 614, 615. Cat. \$8.00
7. US Mint Ameripex 86 US Presidents Mini Sheet set. Cat. \$20.00
8. US Used Scott #156-#166 and #178 & #179. Cat. \$649.00
9. US Mint 1st Day Issue Envelopes (9), different denominations
10. US Mint Full Mini sheet Comic Strip Classics. Face \$6.40 Cat. \$11.00
11. US Used Scott #294 - #299 Pan American Expo. Cat. \$110.00
12. US Mint 2 Full Sheets 20c and 29c 1981 Cactus , and 1991 Minerals Face \$19.60 Cat. \$43.55
13. US Mint Qty 87 29c stamps issued in 1990's Good Postage. Face \$25.23
14. US Mint Washington / Franklin Selection Qty 14 Scott # 331, 374, 536, 525, 498, 425, 540, 486, 384, 481, 503, 504, 506, 510. Cat. \$100.45
15. US Used 1894-1920 Definitive Issue Qty 12 Scott # 250, 252, 267, 279, 280b, 281, 279b, 279d, 492, 493, 377, 381. Cat. \$36.70
16. Sweden, Switzerland, & Norway – (35) Glassines & Dealer Cards of older identified stamps. Some duplication. Some higher values.
17. (101) older Worldwide Revenue Stamps mounted on stock cards. Have fun trying to figure these out.
18. Great Britain - #180 used 5sh. Carmine Rose. Cat. \$115.00.
19. Kenya – (5) MNH Souvenir Sheets. Included are: #67a, 79a, 87a, 166a, & 224. Total Cat. \$22.50.
20. (145) mint & used older stamps mounted on a two-sided stock card from Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, and a few others.
21. (263) mint & used older stamps from Portugal and Territories mounted on (4) stock Cards.
22. (7) MNH Souvenir Sheets. Included are: Nicaragua #1402, 1514, & C1150, Nigeria #146a, Uganda #680, and Cuba #669a & C223a. Total Cat. \$21.35.
23. Great Britain - #174 used 5sh. Rose Carmine. Cat. \$340.00.
24. (473) mint & used older stamps mounted on pages in a spiral bound book.
25. (382) mint & used older stamps mounted on (8) stock cards in a binder. Stamps are from Norway, Panama, Rhodesia, San Marino, Sierra Leone, Spain, and Yugoslavia.

