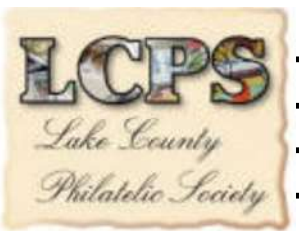


Perforations



Last month **Ed Pieklo** retired as treasurer having served since January of 2014. **Gary Olson** was elected to assume the position — with the rest of club officers being returned to their positions.

The activity for the evening was for the members to bring in their favorite collection item and show and talk about its why was of interest.

Discussion for a donation in commemoration of Jerry Nylander was tabled until the February meeting on where and the amount to be donated. This, and a presentation on **"Swedish Engraved Stamps"** by **Jerry Netterstrom/Gary Olson** and a discussion of future topics are on this month's agenda.

It should be noted that the 28 March and 25 April meeting scheduled for 2 pm in the afternoon.



Next Stamp Show

February 25 - 26

STAMPFEST '23

Milwaukee Philatelic Society

St Francis Lions

Community Center

3476 E Howard Ave

St Francis WI

Sat 10am - 5pm / Sun 10am - 4pm

Last year, we looked at what was being done about counterfeit postage stamps and why the postal service was not more heavily involved in rooting out this problem. This month we'll look at the organization chartered to do this and what assets they have to cover *all* their responsibilities.

The United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) —is the organization for the law enforcement arm of the United States Postal Service. It supports and protects the U.S. Postal Service, its employees, infrastructure, and customers by enforcing the laws that defend the nation's mail system from illegal or dangerous use. Its jurisdiction covers any **"crimes that may adversely affect or fraudulently use the U.S. Mail, the postal system or postal employees."** This function has become the main focus of the organization.



Today there are about 200 federal crimes that can be committed which involve the mail that are overlooked by the 1,300 Postal Inspectors, who are authorized to carry weapons, make arrests, execute federal search warrants, and serve subpoenas. Last year, Postal Inspectors made more than 5K arrests leading to about 4K convictions, mostly involving mail theft, mail fraud and prohibited narcotic mailings. The growth in illegal narcotics has resulted in 19,000 arrests and the seizure of \$18 million in drug proceeds since 2010. In 2022 alone, Postal Inspectors performed over 5,300 seizures that resulted in more than 17,000 pounds of illicit drugs being taken off the streets.

Short History — The USPS is America's first and oldest federal law enforcement organization, established by **Benjamin Franklin** - appointed Postmaster General under the Second Continental Congress. One of his first acts was to appoint **William Goddard** as the first **Postal Surveyor** of the newly founded American postal system, in charge of inspecting the integrity and security of postal routes, regulating post offices, and auditing their accounts. A letter from Franklin to Goddard, dated 1775 August 07, authorized a total of \$170.00 for Goddard to carry out these duties.

In 1801, the title of **"Surveyor"** was changed to **"Special Agent"**. In 1830, the special agents were organized into the **Office of Instructions and Mail Depredations**. The Postal Inspection Service was the first federal law enforcement agency to use the title Special Agent for its officers. Congress changed this title to **"Post Office Inspector"** in 1880 to differentiate the federal postal agents from the multitude of other "special agents" employed by railway and stagecoach companies. Finally, in 1954, the title changed again to **"Postal Inspector"** to reflect their relationship to all phases of the postal system and the U.S. Mail, instead of only post offices.

In 1873, one of their primary duties became the enforcement of obscenity prohibitions under the Comstock Act, named after Postal Inspector **Anthony Comstock** (1844 - 1915) who was an anti-vice activist, and secretary of the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice (NYSSV), who was dedicated to upholding Christian morality. He opposed obscene literature, abortion, contraception, gambling, prostitution, and patent medicine — *this was the first "something" outside the services original charter — and one of many more to come.*

Next Meeting (Early-again):
7-PM on Tuesday 21 February 2023
Grayslake Library and Via ZOOM
Any Changes will be posted on: lcpshome.org



Dave Schenkel / Tom Willer – Co-presidents
Officers:
Ron Bruner – Vice President
Dave Sadler – Secretary
Gary Olson – Treasurer

Prior to 1996, USPS was the only investigative agency of the Postal Service; however, with the creation of the USPS Office of Inspector General in 1996, they assumed many duties previously carried out by postal inspectors. The USPS OIG conducts independent audits and investigations of USPS. Audits of postal programs and operations help to determine whether the programs and operations are efficient and cost-effective. These investigations help prevent and detect fraud, waste, and misconduct, and they have a deterrent effect on postal crimes.

The OIG primarily took over the Postal Inspection Service's audit function, as well as investigations of fraud (against the USPS), waste, and abuse - and has had its budget and numbers reduced as other issues have emerged.

Since the 2001 September 11 attacks, the USPS has also investigated several cases where ricin, anthrax, and other toxic substances were sent through the mail. Although the USPS has a wide jurisdiction, USPS investigations can be categorized into these seven types of investigative teams and functions:

1. **Fraud:** These types of investigation involve crimes that use the mails to facilitate fraud against consumers, business, and government. Federal statutes that surround these types of investigations include mail fraud and other criminal statutes when they are tied to the mails, such as bank fraud, identity theft, credit card fraud, wire fraud, and Internet/computer fraud. One notable "catch" was former Illinois governor Otto Kerner on mail fraud charges.
2. **External Crime and Crime Teams:** The External Crimes Function of USPS is a function that investigates any theft of US mail by non-employees, assaults of postal employees, and theft and robberies of postal property. This function also investigates robberies of postal employees and postal facilities, burglaries of postal facilities, and assaults and murders against postal employees. This investigative function focuses on ensuring that the sanctity and trust in the U.S. Mail system is maintained.
3. **Prohibited Mailing Investigations:** Prohibited mailing investigations are USPS investigations that focus on the prohibited mailing of contraband including: *narcotics*, precursors, and proceeds; child pornography and other sexually prohibited materials; and hazardous materials to include: mail bombs; and nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons. The laundering of narcotics and other criminal proceeds through the use of postal money orders is sometimes categorized under this investigative function. *Emphasis in this area has been greatly expanded in the last five years due to the increase of small packages from Asia and Latin America.*
4. **Aviation and Homeland Security:** USPS investigations also include the securing and protecting of transportation of US Mail and any risk that might compromise the security of the homeland because of these mails.
5. **Revenue Investigations:** *USPIS investigates cases where fraudulent practices are conducted by business and consumers that mail items without proper postage or with counterfeit postage and indicia. Also included are other crimes that defraud the USPS of revenue.*
6. **International Investigations and Global Security:** This investigative function ensures that international mail is secured and any international business decisions and campaigns remains safe and secure. USPS maintains investigators in the US and in embassy posts around the world for protection, liaison, and intelligence.

7. **Joint Task Force Investigations:** USPS participates in joint task force investigations where laws applicable to the mail service are involved. These cases are often wide-ranging and involve every law enforcement agency of the federal government and uses the assets of Postal Inspection Service's Technical Services Unit (TSU) provides investigative support through the use of new technology and the operations of the national communication centers known as the National Law Enforcement Control Centers (NLECC).

Active Crime Prevention Campaigns – currently there are six active campaigns:

International Association of Financial Crimes Investigators (IAFCI) – IAFCI is a non-profit international organization, which provides services and shares information about financial fraud, fraud investigation, and fraud prevention methods.

Internet Covert Operations Program – The Postal Inspection Service's Internet Covert Operations Program (iCOP) is a surveillance program that monitors social media, cryptocurrency transactions, and USPS internal systems to facilitate *"the identification, disruption, and dismantling of individuals and organizations that use the mail or USPS online tools to facilitate black market Internet trade(eBay?) or other illegal activities"*.

National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW) – Established in 1998, National Consumer Protection Week is a federal program led by the Federal Trade Commission to educate consumers about various types of fraud, including sweepstakes/prize scams, foreign lottery fraud, mail and Internet fraud, identity theft, and work-at-home scams.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week – Established in 1981, National Crime Victims' Rights Week is a federal program with the Postal Inspection Service has partnered with the DOJ since the program's founding, helping to communicate the importance of early intervention and victim services in establishing trust with victims, which begins to restore their hope for healing and recovery.

Operation Protect Veterans (OPV) – In 2017, the AARP Fraud Watch Network and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service jointly announced the launch of Operation Protect Veterans – a national campaign to warn those who have served in the military about scams and fraud schemes that target veterans

Video PSAs – Born in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service created a video public service announcement (PSA) that provided the public important information about COVID scams. Due to the success of this PSA, the concept was expanded and more PSAs were created to cover a wide range of topics from romance scams to smishing scams. These PSAs are available on the Inspection Service's Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube channels, as well as on the USPS website.

New Issues

