

Perforations



The annual Brunch was held at the Golden Corral on Friday 12 December this year — a small crowd, but fun. It was noted that the variety of food items was diminished from last year.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **2 pm, Tuesday, 27 January**. The agenda includes the annual elections, a brief report on the status of Linn's and the Scott Catalogue, **bring and show your favorite album** and selection of topics for the new year.

The meeting room (**GRAYSLAKE HISTORICAL MUSEUM / 164 Hawley St / Grayslake IL**) has been booked for the fourth Tuesday of each month – except November (third Tuesday). Brunch discussion should begin at the October meeting.




Special Handling Stamps (QE) – To my uncle who raised BEEs — these were green BEE Stamps, required if you did not want your packaged queens to be shaken to death (or sitting on a shelf waiting) while transiting the postal system.

They were introduced by the United States Post Office in 1925. The initial stamp was a 25-cent denomination designed to provide accelerated processing for **fourth-class** mail, which primarily included parcels. Originally created at a time when parcel post volume was growing rapidly, special handling filled a critical need for *more delicate shipments*. While it offered faster service similar to today's Ground Advantage service, its primary guarantee was extra physical care rather than speed alone.

First, what was fourth-class mail? The service originated as a designated category in 1879 providing rules for merchandise, bulky, and heavier items. This was renamed as Parcel Post in 1913 (Scott Q stamps) that was carried as space allowed with priority given to higher classes of mail matter as perishable items were a concern for both the mailers and the postal officials — Live animals – being the epitome of “perishable”.

Over time, the definition of fourth-class mail became better defined. But, like now, the post office had to compete with the express companies for a share of

Next Show							Next Meeting						
February 26							January 26						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1				1	2	3	4
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
23	24	25	26	27	28		26	27	28	29	30	31	

<p>Janesville Stamp Club's Expo 14 February 10am - 4 pm Holiday Inn Express Conf Ctr 3100 Wellington Place Janesville WI</p>	<p>Elections, Bring/Show your favorite Album, etc</p> 
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Next Meeting:
2:00-PM on Tuesday, 27 January 2026
Grayslake Historical Society — Any Changes will be posted on: lcpshome.org



Officers:
Tom Willer - Presidents
Bill Schultz – Vice President
Dave Sadler – Secretary
Gary Olson – Treasurer

the business. Then, when an idea that was intended to provide better accounting found favor with the public, Parcel Post became the foundation of a boom in mail order business, particularly for customers in rural areas. But its low priority was a drawback for time-sensitive parcels as they were left to sit in the post office waiting for space on outbound conveyances. Senders would cajole the postal officials into finding space to send out their perishable items. The officials would sometimes relent, in part, because they did not want to deal with boxes of rotting whatever. Therefore, because the Post Office was already providing an extra service, why shouldn't they get paid for it?

Thus the original 25-cent stamp was followed by additional denominations of 10 cents, 15 cents, and 20 cents in 1928. All stamps in this series shared similar designs, with variations in color and printing methods over the years.

When affixed to a parcel, a special handling stamp allowed the item to be treated with the same priority as **first-class** mail, ensuring faster delivery. This was particularly important for items that could perish if not delivered quickly, such as **bees**, baby chicks and other forms of livestock. Packages with special handling service received distinct treatment within the mail stream, being marked by bright-green labels (recent 1955 versions were yellow-green), signaling postal workers to prioritize and safeguard them beyond standard parcel services.

The service was discontinued on 2022 July 10 though the last dedicated stamps were phased out in 1959.

Local Stamp Show 2026

2026 Feb 14

Janesville Stamp Club's 67th Annual Expo
 Holiday Inn Express
 Janesville Conference Center
 3100 WELLINGTON PL
 JANESVILLE, WI

2026 Jun 12-13

MSDA WI-IL Stateline Stamp Show
 First Christian Church
 13022 WILMOT RD (HIGHWAY C)
 KENOSHA, WI

2026 Feb 28

STAMPFEST 2026
 St Francis Lions Center
 3476 E HOWARD AVE
 ST FRANCIS, WI

2026 Sep 25-26

MILCOPEX 2026
 Brookfield Conference Center
 325 S MOORLAND RD
 BROOKFIELD, WI

2026 Mar 07-08

Rockford 2-3-4 Stamp Expo
 Hoffman House Event Center
 7550 EAST STATE ST
 ROCKFORD, IL

2026 Nov 20-22

CHICAGOPEX
 Westin Chicago Northwest
 400 PARK BLVD
 ITASCA IL

*Only seven local shows this year
 showing up on the APS events
 pages.*

2026 Apr 18-19

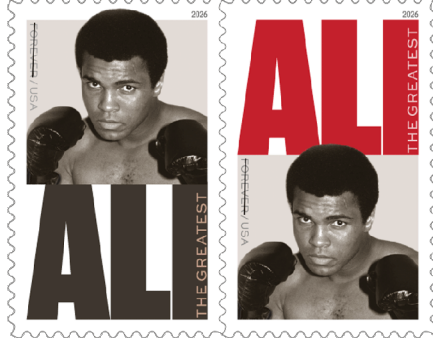
WISCOPEX 2026
 Radisson Hotel and Conference Center
 625 WEST ROLLING MEADOWS DR
 FOND DU LAC, WI

New Issues – 2026 January



2026.01.09

The 4c First Day of Issue event was at the MSDA show in Kenosha WI and was organized by Michael Mules of Fox River Stamps and the MSDA.



2026.01.15



2026.01.24

“Love”

2026.01.13



2026.01.29