

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County

The James Buchanan Chapter 173 of the American Philatelic Society

American Topical Association Chapter 118

Website: https://lcps-stamps.org

2nd Wednesday/Month-Meet in Person at Landis Homes at 6:30 p.m. 4th Wednesday/Month-Meet Virtually at 6:15 p.m.

The Veranda Chronicles

I enjoyed working on this column over the last two months regarding the possibility of a stamp-collecting gene. The fun lasted until someone asked me what I thought about the critical period theories of development and how they might fit into the stamp gene equation. It was there that I abruptly changed the subject. So, moving on . . .

We have our spring auction on Wednesday, June 11. This is your chance to sell your doubles, and/or pick up some bargains. Be sure to fill out your bidding slips in detail to help the auctioneer and buyers understand what you have to offer; the information you provide is like money in your pocket. Auction details and proceedings are found here in the newsletter and the first page of the website (https://lcps-stamps.org); this is valuable information that you'll need to read for a most successful auction experience.

An important matter facing our society is the fast-evolving presence of Artificial Intelligence, commonly referred to as AI. While AI is not entirely new, it is a double-edged sword as seen in the constant commentary online, and on the networks and cable stations alike with their cautionary reports. AI is here; it is here to stay, and it can improve our lives in countless ways: in our devices, our health and longevity, our food chain, our acquisition of knowledge, and our transportation among many others, though I am in no hurry to ride in a self-driving car!

Recall the sustained impact of previous societal and technical advances such as the wheel, gun powder, movable type, the telegraph, manned flight, nuclear energy, computers, DNA and the double helix, space travel, the internet, Starlink, and many others. Each advance has had profound and ongoing impacts on our lives, and some have come with a dark side. Further, some Al can be used for nefarious purposes, and we must be watchful over our enemies with similar

Al capabilities. Some projections can be quite scary. A generalized discussion of Al would fill this newsletter entirely. But recall as I have commented previously in this column about attempts to steal our identity and/or our financial resources: the rise of Al is going to require even greater vigilance on our part to meet this challenge, and this applies especially to seniors.

We are seeing AI trickle down into our hobby, and the curve will ramp up significantly in the next few years and through the coming decades. While there may be job losses within the Post Office, perhaps these will be accompanied by even greater efficiency. AI will have a substantial effect on the hobby from interactive philatelic databases and spreadsheets, enhanced inquiry capacity, more efficient and interactive auctioneering procedures, and rapid and more reliable stamp identification programs among others.

What I am hoping for is a definitive way to document the color of stamps, a satisfactory resolution that will include consistent terminology and measurement; one that is quick and easy to use and comprehend; and one that will address the color of worldwide stamps from the classics to the current date. AI is already present in the hobby, but hold on to your hats and stay tuned, as I expect that there will be new functions and services that none of us ever imagined. Where do you think AI will fit in, and what areas in the hobby and postal service would you like AI to engage? Please share your comments and suggestions with me. You know how to reach me.

Summer is upon us — enjoy, take trips, collect stamps and postal history, get wet, cook out, be vigilant in all you do. And perhaps the most important of all, stay in touch with the other members in the club. — *Dr. Charles J. DiComo*

Upcoming Programs

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County Spring Auction 11 June 2025

Landis Homes, first floor; Doors Open at 6:30 p.m. A short business meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. Auction starts promptly after the meeting.

This is our second in-house auction of 2025. The Society holds three (3) Auctions a year (January, June, and September). Participation in our auction is reserved for Society Members-only; however, anyone can become a member of the Society for \$10.00 on the night of an Auction. Material that our members bring for sale is generally broad in scope, from stamps, postal history, albums, ephemera, supplies, etc., and there is a variety of both international and U.S. There is always something for everyone at a reasonable price. Why not stop by, grab a paddle and have some fun with us?

Procedures:

Please register for a numbered paddle when you arrive. Place this number on all of your items to be auctioned and use this paddle during the auction when you are bidding. This will ensure that what you buy and what you sell are accurately credited and debited.

Be sure that all of your lots are accompanied by an accurate and detailed description, as this helps buyers to better understand what they are examining.

Auction lot description forms have already been emailed and a limited number of hard copies will be available at the meeting. You may also access this form on the website at any time. While the auction lot description sheets have been sent out and are available, you can make your own as long as the pertinent info is included.

Fiscal transactions will be completed after the last lot has been sold. No early settlements will be made.

The Auction Committee recommends that you:

- Bring cash to pay for the items that you win
- Keep a running total during the auction of the items and prices of the lots that you sell and win
- Attach your sales information <u>very securely</u> to the lots you are entering into the auction. This will help avoid misidentification with other sellers' lots.

Bidding Rules:

- Minimum bids are \$1.00 per lot
- The minimum bidding increment is 50 cents.
- Only dues-paying PSLC members may participate in the auction.
- Auction participants are limited to seven (7) lots.
- You may also donate items to the auction, as donations are a welcomed, necessary source of funds for our operations, and help defray the cost of special events, storage lockers, newsletter, and website expenses, as well as advance deposits to secure special event locations.

Stamps, Covers, and Ephemera of the 1939 New York World's Fair
By Dr. Paul Petersen
Sponsored by the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club
Cornwall Manor
June 17, 2025 – 6:30 p.m.

The Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club cordially invites the PSLC to join us at a special outdoor meeting of the club at Cornwall Manor in Cornwall, PA. This presentation will be a hands-on experience through a variety of items from the Fair, such as postage stamps, labels, postcards, covers, paper ephemera, books, tchotchkes, maps, knickknacks, photos, and more, along with some of the history and stories of this once in a lifetime storied event, the *World of Tomorrow*. Thirty-two pages of the presenter's exhibit will be featured. There will be party favors, door prizes, and give-away items for all. Please contact Scott Ney for more information or be on the lookout for the June edition of the combined Patent-Overprint newsletter of the Lebanon and Reading Stamp Collectors Clubs.



The Centennial of the 1925 Santa Barbara Earthquake By Rob Sternberg 25 June 2025 6:15 p.m. via Zoom

The June 29, 1925, Santa Barbara earthquake (magnitude 6.5) resulted in 13 deaths and heavily damaged the historic center of the city. Rob's collection of North American earthquake-related philatelic items includes 29 related to the Santa Barbara quake: postcards, real photo postcards, and postcard folders, some of which were posted with earthquake-related messages. During his visit to Santa Barbara last December, he compared his collection to the John C. Fritsche postcard collection at the Gledhill Library, Santa Barbara Historical Society, and photographed a number of locations that were shown on those postcards. On Wednesday, he'll be zooming in for his presentation from Santa Barbara, where he will be attending the commemoration (https://eq25.org/) of this historic event.

PSLC Calendar

All meetings on the second Wednesday of the month are in person at Landis Homes, and all meetings on the fourth Wednesday of the month are on Zoom. Descriptions for many of these programs are found on the <u>PSLC website</u>

11 June: Spring PSLC auction at Landis Homes

25 June: The centennial of the 1925 Santa Barbara earthquake. Rob Sternberg

09 July: Crash mail. Mike Wilson

23 July: Rounding Up Texas Post Offices: Identifying and Locating all the Sites that a County Has

to Offer. John Germann

13 August: PSLC Annual Summer Picnic

27 August: Civil War pension philately. Scott Ney **10 September:** Fall PSLC auction at Landis Homes

24 September: Graf Zeppelin & Hindenberg: U. S. Mails. Cheryl Ganz

08 October: 3.2 Wine and Beer Taxation. Ron Lesher

22 October: Everyone's servant: the 1950s U.S. Post Office. Rick Barrett

12 November: PSLC Open House and One-Page Exhibition

26 November: The DC-4 Skymaster Plane. Tom Nichols

10 December: PSLC Annual Holiday Dinner

24 December: Open

US Stamps at Discount Prices

By Wayne Heim

We have all heard the expression: "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is." This is an expression that applies to many things, but it's not something people usually associate with the purchase of online postage stamps. However, there seems to be a never-ending supply of US stamps available on the internet for prices that seem to be just too good.

Selling counterfeit United States stamps at "bargain prices" is one of the biggest money-making SCAMS on the internet. A quick Google search to purchase US postage stamps will yield numerous links for "discount stamps," even though the United States Postal Service NEVER offers its stamps at a discount. Despite the fact that the purchase or use of counterfeit stamps is a felony, it is estimated that the United States Postal Service loses somewhere between \$1 billion and \$3 billion per year from people buying counterfeit stamps online.

Almost all postal counterfeits are produced in China – fabricated copies of US stamps. While the most frequent stamps counterfeited typically have a United States flag on them, there is a counterfeit for virtually every US stamp produced since 2018. Scammers offer their counterfeits through third-party vendors, e-commerce sites, social media, and various other websites. Some promotions may offer fake stamps at a price as low as 50% off. The scammers are hoping that even sceptics can be persuaded by the word DISCOUNT.

So, how do we identify counterfeit stamps? Well, it is becoming more difficult every year. Each time the USPS modifies its stamps to prevent counterfeiting, the counterfeiters find a way to duplicate the changes they make. In fact, the writing of this article was initiated by a conversation with a friend regarding the level of sophistication of counterfeit stamps.

A friend told me his wife recently purchased some Forever Stamps online for considerably less than what they cost at the post office. He was skeptical about stamps being "on sale," so he took them to the post office. He asked if someone would check his stamps to see if they were legitimate US stamps. He described to me how the postal worker took out a "devise of some sort" and inspected the stamps. After doing so, the postal worker said "Yes, you can go ahead and use these, they are good". They were so good, in fact, that even the postal worker didn't recognize them as being counterfeit.

One interesting idea, designed to deter people from buying and using counterfeit stamps, is being implemented in Great Britian. When their postal system finds a letter or package with counterfeit postage, the cost for delivering the letter or package is charged to the recipient upon delivery.

According to Wayne Youngblood, one of the authorities on counterfeit stamps, there are no universal characteristics for identifying modern counterfeits. However, there are a few characteristics shared by many counterfeits when comparing them side-by-side with U.S. produced stamps.

- 1. Counterfeit stamps created prior to mid-2022 have no phosphorescent tagging, and the phosphorescent tagging on those printed after this date is considerably brighter than that on stamps produced in the US.
- 2. Counterfeit stamps are frequently printed on heavier stock (thicker) paper than that used for US stamps.
- 3. Counterfeit stamps are frequently printed on glossier papers than those used for US stamps.
- 4. Under magnification, counterfeit stamps will generally appear more grainy than their legitimate US counterparts. Although, more recent counterfeits are much less grainy than the older issues, with some even less grainy than their legitimate US counterpart.
- 5. Although not apparent to everyone, counterfeit stamps can have a peculiar smell that some describe as a sweet plastic odor.

If you suddenly discover that you are out of postage just when you desperately need a stamp, and the post office is closed, there are places to safely purchase US stamps, other than the post office. You can legally purchase stamps at some major retailers such as Kroger, CVS, Walgreens and COSTCO, although NOT AT A DISCOUNT.

In conclusion, to avoid committing a felony, be extremely wary of "great deals" promoted on social media because: "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is."

For additional and more in-depth information on modern US counterfeit stamps, the APS has a <u>discussion with Wayne Youngblood</u> on their YouTube page. Wayne is a respected and trusted name in the philatelic community.

A Gold Star Ration Book

By Scott Ney

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This book is the property of the United States Government. It is unlawful to sell it to any other person, or to use it or permit anyone else to use it, except to obtain rationed goods in accordance with regulations of the Office of Price Administration. Any person who finds a lost War Ration Book must return it to the War Price and Rationing Board which issued it. Persons who violate rationing regulations are subject to \$10,000 fine or imprisonment, or both.		Issu	ed by	LOCAL I	BOARD AC	CTION	(Date)	
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"By their victory, the 3^{rd} , 4^{th} , and 5^{th} Marine Divisions and other units of the 5^{th} Amphibious Corps have made an accounting to their country which only history will be able to value fully. Among the Americans who served on Iwo Island, uncommon valor was a common virtue." – Chester W. Nimitz, 16 March 1945

All of us have an item or two in our collections with value that transcends its catalog price or general scarcity. Some items have stories behind them that may turn an ordinary item into an extraordinary one. And sometimes, rare items have priceless stories attached to them.

I found the ration book pictured above among a small group of items in an online auction shortly after I started collecting ration books. Having joined the Society of Ration Token Collectors, and possessing some knowledge gleaned by browsing through the hundreds of pages of the SRTC catalog, I knew that a ration book with a star incorporated as part of its serial number was something special. The star signified that it was a replacement for a defective book, and they are

so elusive that the SRTC maintains a census of them in their *Catalog of U.S. Ration Currency and Tokens*.

After a few days of anxiously awaiting the end of this auction, I emerged the proud winner. Actually, no one else placed a bid, probably because the starting bid was a high one considering the items that could be seen pictured in the first photo of the listing. I was still a new collector, and in the regular habit of looking at just about everything, so I discovered the image of this book buried a few pictures into the carousel.

This "star book" belonged to Charles Dunwiddie and was among a small family group of war rationing items that belonged to Charles and his mother Gwendolyn, who lived in, of all places, Hollywood, California. Among the books was a letter from the U.S. Army Recruiting Station in Los Angeles, CA, dated May 25, 1942, informing Mrs. Dunwiddie that Charles had enlisted in the Regular Army of the United States of America as an infantryman. At the bottom of the letter are some notes about Charles' life insurance policy. Charles left the army after he was wounded in action in the Philippines and was issued this book as a civilian.

Charles had a younger brother, Clinton, who enlisted in the Army. His policy details were also scribbled at the bottom of that letter. Along with the letter and the ration books were five identical newspaper clippings that provide a brief report of Clinton's fate:

Clinton Dunnwiddie (sic), 18, a Marine, was killed in action on Iwo Jima, March 1, according to word received today by his mother, Gwendolyn Dunnwiddie, 1229 ½ Fairfax Avenue.

The clippings are not dated; the back of the clippings contain part of an advertisement for a film production relating to "our late president [Franklin] Delano Roosevelt" at the Warner Theatres, indicating that Mrs. Dunwiddie didn't learn of her youngest son's death for at least several weeks (thanks to the magic of Newspapers.com, I was able to locate this notice in the *Los Angeles Evening Citizen News* of Saturday, April 21, 1945 – the full context for the FDR item was a "newsreel special of his last rites"). The famous photo of Marines raising the flag on Iwo Jima was taken about a week before Clinton's death, on February 23, 1945, and was featured on a commemorative US postage stamp later that year in July.

More details regarding the life of <u>Pvt. Clinton M. Dunwiddie</u>, 5th Marine Division, can be found on the Internet by searching the popular Find-A-Grave site. He was born in New Mexico on November 21, 1926, and is buried in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii. His brother <u>Charles</u>, who was two and a half years older than Clinton, died in 1988, and is buried next to his mother in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Gwendolyn lived until 1978.

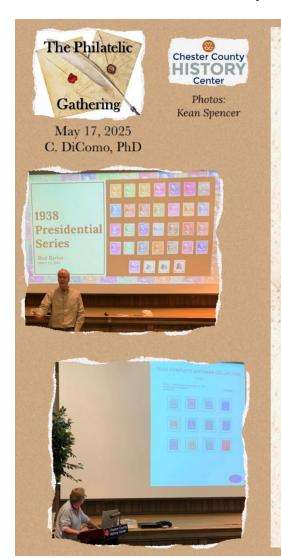
Fortunately, these items were not discarded and have remained together to serve as a reminder of one family's sacrifice in our national struggle to Win the War in the Pacific. That sacrifice makes this ration book a gem, regardless of the star printed next to its serial number.

Clinton Dunnwiddie, 18, Killed on Iwo Jima

Clinton Dunnwiddie, 18, a Marine, was killed in action on Iwo Jima, March 1, according to word received today by his mother, Mrs. Gwendolyn Dunnwiddie, 1229½ N. Fairfax Ave.

Editor's Note: An earlier version of this article appeared in The Ration Board, the journal of the Society of Ration Token Collectors. The SRTC is an affiliate of both the American Philatelic Society and the American Numismatic Association. If you are interested in learning more about the SRTC, please contact Scott Ney.

The May Philatelic Gathering



On a glorious Saturday morning following almost a week of heavy rain, a dozen-plus philatelic enthusiasts gathered at the Chester County History Center for a wonderful program featuring Bob Meyers, a noted collector of British Empire UPU specimens, and Bud Barker, a relative newcomer to stamp collecting.

Bob kicked off the morning with a presentation on West African specimens submitted to the UPU between the late 1800s and the late 1940s. His presentation was based on an article that he wrote for Cameo, the journal of the West Africa Study Circle. Bob discussed the printers, overprint and perforation types, and the number of specimen sets submitted by each country to the UPU. He also discussed the challenges of acquiring specimens, noting that it is best to purchase full sets. While Bob spoke, we had the opportunity to flip through an album of his West African specimens.

Bud, who said he had only been collecting for about five years, provided a wonderful overview of the U.S. Presidential Issue of 1938, the so-called "Prexies." Bud talked about Elaine Rawlinson who won a competition for the design of the series and the fact that the Prexies featured 29 presidents and three non-presidents (Benjamin Franklin, Martha Washington, and the White House). He talked about various ways of collecting Prexies (e.g., mint, used, on cover, precanceled, etc.) and closed with an amusing anecdote about the subject of each stamp.

Before a group adjourned to the Iron Hill Brewery for lunch and further conversation, the gathering had a discussion about Bob Meyer's work on a "Par Balloon Monte" catalog for the American Air Mail Society.

Dr. Charles J. DiComo

PSLC Member Anniversaries

<u>Name</u>	Date Joined	<u>Years</u>	
David Goodhart	6/12/2020	5	
Charles Kilgore	6/01/1991	34	
Joanne Murphy	6/21/2022	3	
Joseph Pitts	6/01/2011	14	

Upcoming Regional Stamp Shows

2025 K2 Lancaster Stamp Shows: These are held at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center of Lancaster County, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster 17601. The first show of 2025 was held on Sunday, February 9, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. **The next show will be on June 22**, followed by shows on August 3, October 12, and December 20 and 21, 2025.

For more info about the K2 Lancaster Stamp Shows, visit the <u>PSLC homepage</u>, or contact Kevin Kellman at <u>k2stamps@gmail.com</u> or +1 (301) 524-9562.

August 14 to 17, 2025: Great American Stamp Show '25. LOCATION: Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center, 1551 North Thoreau Dr., Schaumburg, IL, 60173. HOURS: Thursday to Saturday, 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM; Sunday, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. COST: Admission is FREE! Preregistration is recommended to help you save time and avoid on-site registration lines. Co-hosted by the American Philatelic Society (APS), the American Topical Association (ATA) and the American First Day Cover Society (AFDCS). Sponsored by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS).

For more information, visit the APS website.

Recent presentations posted on the PSLC website

- **"Some Unusual Newspaper Wrappers"**, by Cemil Betanov (2025-05-28, Show &Tell & Ask)
- **Example 2025-05-14 Example 2015-14 Example 3. Example 4. Example 5. Example 5. Example 6. Exam**
- **"Overprints on Newspaper Wrappers"**, by Cemil Betanov (2025-04-23)

Recent uploads to the PSLC YouTube Channel

Overprints on Newspaper Wrappters – Cemil Betanov

A Republican Soldier in the Spanish Civil War – Jaume Balsells

PSLC Meeting Minutes

Submitted by PSLC secretary David Weichert

PSLC Meeting Minutes – May 14, 2025 – Landis Homes

Attendance: 25 members and guests

Opening: On May 14, 2025, the Society held monthly in-person meeting. Members and guests began to gather about 6:30 PM to enjoy fellowship, refreshments, a bourse and giveaways. Society Treasurer Lou DiFelice called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 PM with a variety of greetings and announcements

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Lou DiFelice gave the April Treasurer's report.

6,272.09
385.00
<u>190.00</u>
6,467.09
6,091.99

The Treasurer's report was accepted as read.

Secretary's Reports: Secretary David Weichert presented the minutes of the April 9 and April 23 meetings. The minutes were accepted as presented.

An auction of donated items was held. There were five donated items auctioned off, resulting in \$153 generated for the benefit of the society.

Following the auction, Lou introduced Ron Lesher as the feature presenter for the evening. Feature presentation: "First Appearance of Abraham Lincoln on Stamps" by Ron Lesher

It was about six weeks after the assassination of President Lincoln that his vignette appeared on the 5¢, 10¢, and 50¢ designs for revenue stamped paper (Scott U.S. Specialized Catalogue, prefix RN). By mid-June 1865 the 5¢ design was on certificates of deposit by the American Exchange Bank of New York City! Ron discussed the production and distribution of the revenue stamped paper, and shared many examples of the three denominations.

There was a lively Q&A session, and after the meeting adjourned, many stayed around for further conversation and camaraderie.

PSLC Meeting Minutes – May 28, 2025 - virtual mtg via Zoom

Attendance: 35 members and guests

Opening: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM, with a time of greeting and announcements. We were then introduced to Rick Barrett as the main presenter for the evening.

Feature presentation: "The Ivory Stamp Club with Captain Tim Healy" by Rick Barrett

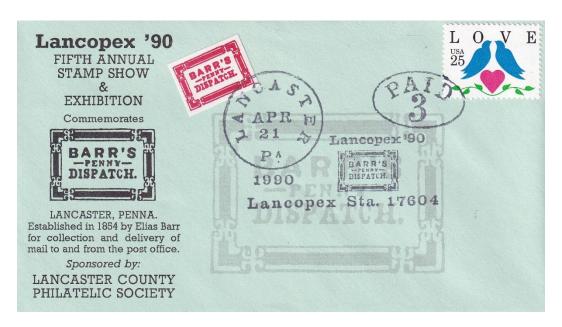
As always, Rick did not disappoint with a fun and fast-paced talk on a man who likely brought more people into philately than anyone else in his day! Together, Rick took us back in his time machine with captivating storyteller as he shared new pictures and information about the legendary Captain Tim Healy, a giant in our hobby, and a member of the APS Philatelic Hall of Fame!

Show and Tell: "Some Unusual Newspaper Wrappers" by Cemil Betanov. Cemil shared additional items from the topic of his presentation in the April 23 society meeting. He showed a number of examples with advertising and others with interesting watermarks.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted

David Weichert Secretary



Member Requests and Notices

Members of the PSLC may submit a notice of collecting interests and requests for research at no cost. Please email your requests to the newsletter editor for consideration. We will run your items for a minimum of three months unless otherwise directed.

Doug Keefer is looking for postal history items with the following Cumberland County Pennsylvania small town cancels: Grantham, Bowmansdale, Huttonsville, Shepherdstown, Williams Grove, and Williams Mill. Please contact Doug via email at keeferds@yahoo.com.

Research Request: U.S. Private Die Proprietary 'Match & Medicines' Revenues, issued stamps, posttax labels, facsimiles on original packaging (bottles, boxes, tins), wrappers, product inserts, almanacs, billheads, etc. Looking to see images and also acquire. Contact Dr. Charles J. DiComo at charlesdicomo@gmail.com or +1 (914) 450-3791

The Philatelic Relic: I maintain a modest kiosk "The Philatelic Relic" on eBay. I am a philatelist, researcher, collector, postal & social historian, lecturer, editor, award-winning author, etc. My archive of stamps, postal history, ephemera, etc. is available to all. Reach out to me anytime at charlesdicomo@gmail.com with your wants & needs. The accompanying montage shows just a few of the thousands of artifacts searching for new homes. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Link: The Philatelic Relic | eBay Stores

PSLC Officers

President	First Vice President	Second Vice President	
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General Information

Visitors are Always Welcome!

PSLC dues are \$10.00 a year. For existing members who want to renew their membership for 1 or more years, and/or make a donation to support our Society activities and programs, you can use PayPal-Friends by remitting payment to President Charles J. DiComo, PhD at charlesdicomo@gmail.com and denote in Notes section the reason for payment, your name, and how many years you are paying. Venmo can also be used @charlesdicomo. For new members, please mail/email your Membership Application along with a check or money order to Treasurer, Lou DiFelice.

We meet in-person on the 2nd Wednesday of the month (Except August & December) at 6:30 p.m. in the Crossings Meeting Room, Landis Homes, 1001 East Oregon Road, Lititz, PA 17542. See our website for directions.

We meet virtually on the 4th Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. For society information and meeting links, contact Paul Petersen (pcpetersen@comcast.net).

Visit us on YouTube: https://youtube.com/@philatelicsocietyoflancast7393

Visit us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/philatelicsocietylancastercounty

Our mailing address is: PO Box 6053, Lancaster, PA 17607



The PSLC is honored to be selected as a winner of the 2024 APS Star Route Awards for our website and newsletter. The Society website (leps-stamps.org), our 24 – 7 virtual presence where philatelists all over the world can access our resources, is the winner of a Large Gold award. Our monthly newsletter, which exists to inform you of upcoming Society events and give you a creative outlet to provide interesting philatelic content, is the winner of a Large Vermeil award.