



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.**



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The Veranda Chronicles

It is summer holiday time, and the DiComo's are enjoying a short vacation before I get on the road again. I hope that you and your loved ones are doing the same. And once we get refreshed, the summer will fade into autumn, which means more time to focus on our stamps and covers. If you are so inclined, why not write up a few paragraphs on your favorite stamp or cover, and send it to Editor Scott Ney to publish in the *PSLC Newsletter*? Share your love of philately with your fellow members.

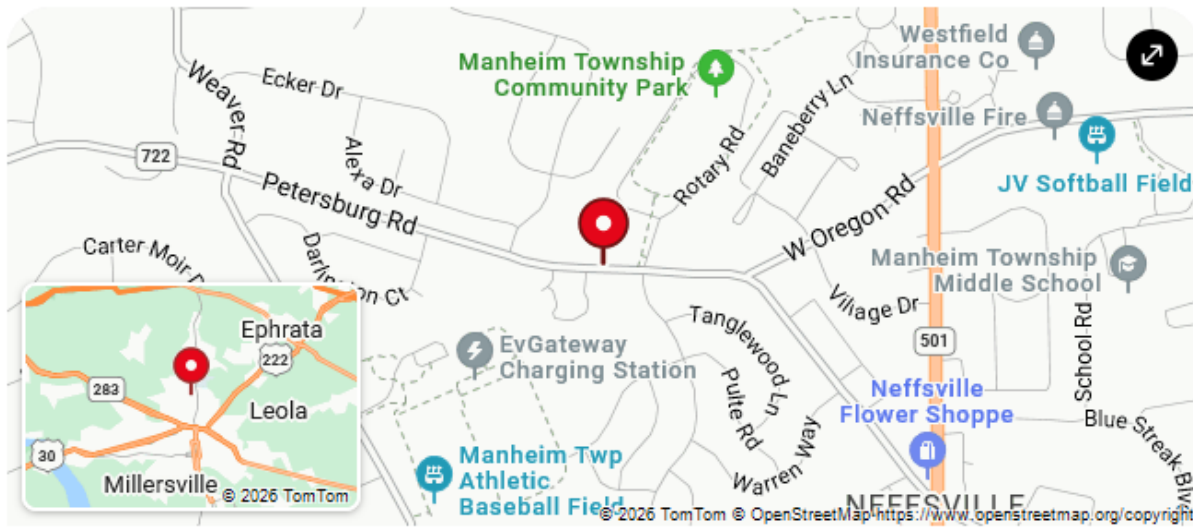
On that note, I hope you enjoy the reprint of my article titled "*Donation of 10,000 Postage Stamps Brings a Mother and Autistic Son Together*" and consider doing the same. There is nothing more rewarding than knowing a small donation of stamps and covers can have an impact on bringing a parent and child together in a meaningful way.

While you are keeping cool during these humid days, catch up on past lectures available on our website (lcps-stamps.org/presentations/), and video presentations on our YouTube channel (youtube.com/@philatelicsocietyoflancast7393/videos). If you haven't done so already, please subscribe, as 600+ other hobbyists have. And if you are on Facebook, stop by, enjoy the informative posts, and share with your friends (facebook.com/philatelicsocietylancastercounty). We have 1700+ followers – not bad!

In closing, a reminder that the Society's Annual Picnic will be on Wednesday, August 12, 2026, at the Manheim Township Community Park (new location). Details follow within these pages. To round out the month of August, why not support our local affiliate dealers by attending the K2 Lancaster Stamp Show, August 16, 2026, 10 AM to 4 PM at the Lancaster Farm & Home Center. Have a great picnic and the enjoy the remainder of your summer.

Dr. Charles J. DiComo, PhD | *President*
charlesdicomo@gmail.com

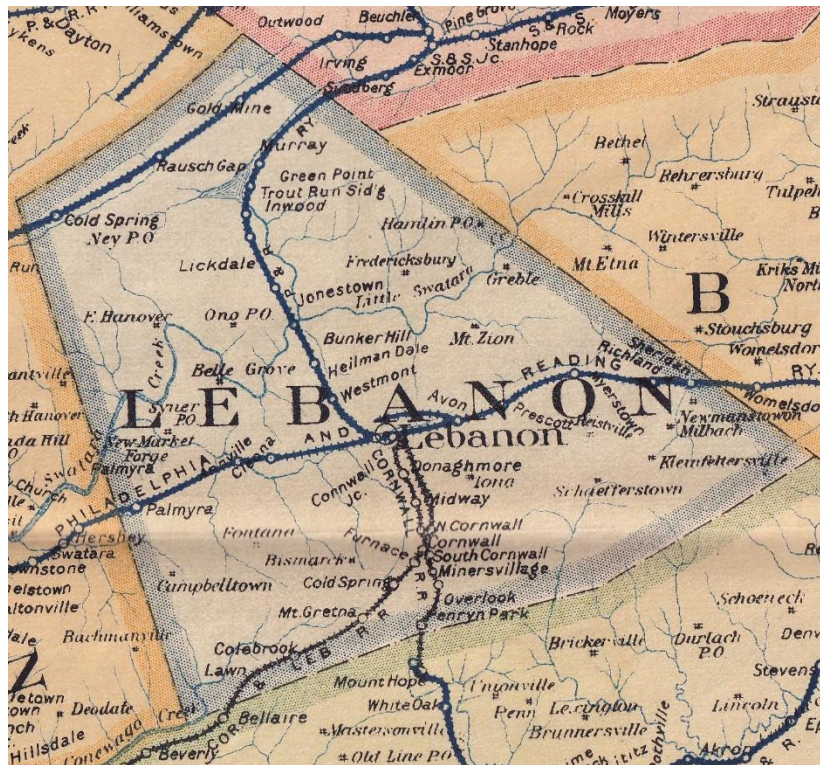
Upcoming Programs



Annual PSLC Picnic – August 12, 2026

*** This year a new location ***

The Annual PSLC Picnic on August 12, 2026 will be held at a new location. The new location is the Manheim Township Community Park which has an address of 201 Petersburg Road Lancaster, PA 17601. The park is on Route 722 which is the same road that Landis Homes, our regular meeting location, is located. The park is about 3 miles west of Landis Homes on Route 722 (Petersburg Road). We have reserved the Kitchen Pavillion which is the first pavilion as you arrive in the park. There is a small parking lot as you enter the park to the right and a larger one once you pass the pavilion. Arrival time is 5:30-ish p.m. with the burgers and hot dogs provided by the club being served at about 6:00 PM. All will be asked to bring a dish to share with the group. Sign-up sheets will be passed around at the July meeting. If you have already responded in June we have your name on the list. **Contact Dan Martin at drmartin6@comcast.net if you were not able to sign up at the meetings.** Dan will follow up with you on the items that we will ask you to bring to share with the group.



COLD SPRINGS HOTEL, COLD SPRINGS, NEY P. O., LEBANON CO., PA.

**The Mountain Post Offices of Cold Spring, Lebanon County Pennsylvania
Or
A Journey to the Ney Post Office**

By Scott Ney

**26 August 2026
6:15 p.m. via Zoom**

My journey to the Ney Post Office began about a quarter century ago, long before I became a philatelist. While browsing in an antique co-op I discovered a map of Pennsylvania that was taken from an old Century Atlas, and as I was examining Lebanon County, my eyes rested upon the name "Ney" in the northern part of the County. I knew my grandpa and his family came from there, so I immediately wondered if my family had a connection with it.

Despite the rural location of Ney, there have been four different Post Offices there: Cold Spring, Pearson, Ney, and Lotell. This presentation will consist of a short history of the area, and a story

of my journey discovering its history, and my family's connection to it. Of course, I will also show you some postal history items from there.

PSLC Calendar

Descriptions for many of these programs are found on the [PSLC website](#)

August 12: PSLC Annual Picnic at Manheim Township Community Park in Neffsville

August 26: The Mountain Post Offices of Cold Spring, Lebanon County, PA; or A Journey to the Ney Post Office. Scott Ney

September 9: Gary Loew

September 23: The Daily Mail Demolition Derby of 1919 – Jim Haxby

October 14: PSLC Fall Auction

October 28: An open discussion about philately and stamp collecting: how do you do it, what do you want to share about it, and what do you want to know about it, led by Rob Sternberg

November 11: Society Open House and Exhibition, hosted by Len Kasper

November 25: Elmer Long & His "Department Store of Philately". Rick Barrett

December 9: PSLC Annual Holiday Dinner. Len Kasper

December 23: Cemil Betanov

Donation of 10,000 Postage Stamps Brings a Mother and Autistic Son Together

By Dr. Charles J. DiComo, PhD

(First appeared in *PSLC Newsletter*, Mar.-Apr. 2022, Vol. 85, No.'s 3-4, pg. 6)

Ophelia saw one of my many posts on our Philatelic Society of Lancaster County Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/philatelicsocietylanastercounty> on December 26, 2021, where I was preparing shoe boxes full of thousands and thousands of U.S. and Worldwide Stamps, on and off paper, that I was hoping could find a new home, as a gift for anyone that was interested.

For years, I have been sorting and boxing thousands of stamps I have amassed, along with many other stamps that have been donated by our PSLC members and friends, usually the day after Christmas on "Boxing Day."

Ophelia reached out to me and mentioned that she was a collector, but more importantly her son Matthew, who is Autistic, and in his twenties, was also starting to show an interest. Organizing, soaking, pressing, and mounting stamps together were a fantastic way for her and her son to connect.

I wasted no time in mailing the biggest box of stamps I had to her son in Oklahoma, which he received a few days after the New Year.



Figure 1. Matthew receives his care package of stamps - Thumbs up!

Matthew was so excited to get his package. Ophelia relayed to me that “Matthew said he’s really enjoying looking at all the beautiful stamps while he sorts.”

He is absolutely over the moon and brags now about having more stamps from different countries than she has in her collection.

It is clear to say, that stamps have brought this mother and son even closer together. It brings a smile to my face and warms my heart that these little pieces of paper and the hobby we all love can have this effect.

My challenge to each of you – engage with someone today and share your passion for philately and postal history – you might just open up an entirely new world of enjoyment to them.



Figure 2. Matthew soaking and sorting his new stamps.

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About the Author: Charles is a lifelong philatelist, postal historian and award-winning author and editor. He enjoys researching, restoring, writing, publishing and presenting on a broad array of philatelic, social and postal history topics. He is President of the Philatelic Society of Lancaster County (PA); President of the Empire State Postal History Society (NY); Editor-in-Chief of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society (USPCS) award-winning 'The Chairman's Chatter' and Life Member; on the Board of the Pennsylvania Postal History Society (PaPHS); Immediate Past Board President of the North Museum of Nature & Science and the Millport Conservancy; and an Emeritus member of the Council of Philatelists of the Smithsonian National Postal Museum.

Dr. DiComo's Substack: <https://charlesdicomo.substack.com/>

WW I French Semi-Postal Stamps

Just trying to do a good thing

By Richard Colberg
President – Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club

I assume most of you have heard of Semi-Postal stamps. These are revenue-enhancing stamps, usually issued for a specific purpose. The face of the stamp shows an amount for postage and an amount for the “specific purpose”.

The first U.S. semi-postal stamp, issued in 1998 for Breast Cancer Research, brought in about \$700 million dollars for the cause.

World War I was devastating to France. 1.4 million soldiers were killed, 300,000 civilians were killed and another 4 million soldiers and civilians were injured. A by-product of these statistics is orphaned children.

In an effort to provide some assistance to the orphan situation, France issued a series of semi-postal stamps in 1917.



Inscribed *Orphelins de la Guerre* (War Orphans), this first set featured poignant scenes illustrating the protection and plight of WWI orphans. However, while the intention was noble, the surcharge for the orphans proved to be too high. In the case of the lowest value, the surcharge was more than the postage amount. While still reeling from the effects of the war, the French people just didn't have the extra cash for these stamps. This first effort was judged to be a commercial failure. The 2024 Scott catalogue value for the 8-stamp set is \$2,521 mint and \$2,355 used. (The 5f stamp accounts for almost half of those values.)

In 1922 the orphans set was reissued with new surcharge values overprinted on the stamps.



1922 – Second Orphan semi-postals: Scott #B12 – B19.

These new prices were apparently much more to the public's liking and the series stayed current for five years. The 2024 Scott Catalogue value for the set is \$219 mint and \$238 used.

In 1927 the series was revised and issued as a 4-stamp set. The surcharge values were now part of the stamp printing process. The 2024 Scott Catalogue value for the 4-stamp set is \$182 mint and \$156 used.



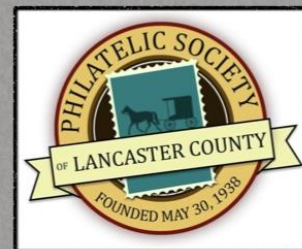
1927 – Third Orphan semi-postals: Scott #B20 – B23.

While a tad expensive, collecting the orphans set can be satisfying. It is finite, only 20 stamps.

As an aside, a collection of French semi-postals can be a satisfying endeavor. There are a lot of stamps, 831 through 2022. And some of them are not cheap. But, hey, a lot of philately is like that!

Illustrations: Behr Philately, Paris.

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County (PA) Michael L. Wilson lectures on “Wreck & Crash Mail.”



Montage: Dr. C. DiComo

Landis Homes | July 8, 2026

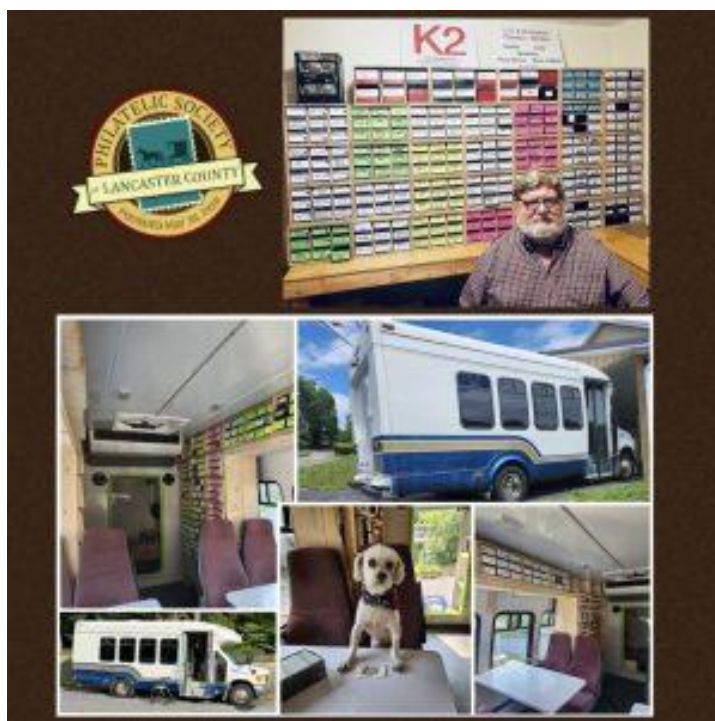
Montage created by Dr. Charles J. DiComo

Treasurer's Report: July 2026

Submitted by Lou DiFelice

Opening balance: 7/1	\$8,129.68
Income	\$199.00
Expenses	<u>\$77.65</u>
Ending balance: 7/31	\$8,251.03
CD's	\$6,246.16
#4101	\$3,834.21
#4901	\$2,411.95

Upcoming Regional Stamp Shows



August 16, 2026: K2 Lancaster Stamp Show, on Sunday from 10:00 AM-4:00 PM at the Farm & Home Center of Lancaster County, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA 17601. Affiliated Dealers: K2 Stamp Mobile (K2 Stamps & Collectibles), Doug McCullough, Frank Soeder, Leslie Botte, Hugh Clark, David Lengyel, Wayne Gehret, Tony Coccio, Jack Zerby & Ward Wilcox. Table fee is \$120 for 8 feet "L's" (8" front & 8" side) with an 8" back table. Setup starts 8:00 AM. For more info, contact Kevin Kellman at k2stamps@gmail.com or +1 (301) 524-9562.

The final K2 Sunday Lancaster Stamp Show for 2026 is scheduled for December 13.

Recent Presentations Posted on the PSLC Website

-  [“Wreck & Crash Mail: Not a Macabre Collectible,”](#) by Mike Wilson (2026-07-08)
-  [“The Greenland Parcel Post Stamps,”](#) by Dr. Jaume Balsells (2026-04-22)
-  [“Pennsylvania State Taxation of Full Strength Beer”](#), by Ronald E. Leshner (2026-04-08)

Uploads to the PSLC YouTube channel

-  [The Whimsical World Philatelic Artist, John Coulthard.](#) By Rick Barrett
-  [Collecting National Airmail Week Material: More Than Meets the Eye](#) by Jim Haxby
-  [“The Greenland Parcel Post Stamps,”](#) by Dr. Jaume Balsells



Find the PSLC on YouTube and Facebook

Our Facebook page has more than 1,700 followers – please join us! YouTube and Facebook provide the PSLC with a 24/7/365 presence on the world-wide web, and both are great places to learn from and interact with other collectors. Please check out our posts, and then follow us so that you keep up with all the latest PSLC news and information, at <https://www.facebook.com/philatelicsocietylanastercounty> and <https://www.youtube.com/@philatelicsocietyoflanast7393/videos>

Member Requests and Notices



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. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Link: [The Philatelic Relic | eBay Stores](#)

PSLC Officers

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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 (pcpcetersen@comcast.net).

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

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

Our mailing address: 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 (lcps-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.