

San Jose Stamp Club

APS Chapter 0264-025791

Founded 1927, Club show since 1928

November 2024

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Filatellic Fiesta 2024

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Postal Service Ready to Deliver for 2024 Holiday Season

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Postal Service is primed and ready to deliver exceptional service during the 2024 holiday rush, thanks to the substantial progress USPS has made under the Delivering for America plan — a \$40 billion investment aimed at revitalizing the national postal network.

Throughout 2024, USPS has been relentlessly working toward the objectives of its 10-year Delivering for America plan.

By harnessing the power of network modernization, an upgraded delivery fleet and the successful launch of the USPS Ground Advantage and USPS Connect services, the Postal Service is building a reenergized, nationwide integrated mail and package network.

This logical, efficient, cost-effective and reliable network will ensure dependable and affordable service throughout the holiday season. As a result, USPS is ideally suited to handle the increased volume of mail and packages typical of the holiday season, demonstrating its commitment to providing reliable, high-quality service to all customers.

“The Postal Service’s historic transformation — made possible by our Delivering for America plan — has allowed us to realize more package processing capacity than ever before,” said Postmaster General and CEO Louis DeJoy. “Our operational, transportation and delivery processes have never been more finely tuned, and I am fully confident in our ability to once again handle the peak holiday season surge. We are strongly positioned to deliver exceptional, affordable service to the American people during the holidays and beyond.”

Key accomplishments and areas of progress ahead of the 2024 peak holiday season include:

- **Increasing daily processing capacity to approximately 60 million:** USPS has expanded its daily package processing capacity to approximately 60 million. Since 2020, the Postal Service has nearly tripled its daily package processing capacity. Increased package processing capacity allows for packages to move through the postal network faster and USPS to lease temporary annexes to handle increases in holiday volume.
- **Planning to hire only 7,500 seasonal staff:** With a stabilized workforce and improved operating processes, the Postal Service plans to hire 7,500 seasonal staff, compared with 10,000 last year.

Continued on page 3

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Table of Contents

Page

4 Letter from Scott English

Club Blog & Website

Blog Updates No Activity

Website Updates

October 2024 Newsletter uploaded

Remember the dates!

President's Message

I am greatly disappointed to learn that next year we will be losing one of valued club members. You may have seen an announcement that APS Executive Director Scott English will be leaving to move onto another phase of his life. We have had the honor of knowing him since the beginning of his time with the APS. Once he took the helm of the APS, he extended an olive branch to coin collecting community by attending a major coin event in the east bay. When I heard our new APS leader would be visiting the Bay Area, I reached out to him and invited him to come speak to the membership of all the local clubs. It was a pleasant surprise that he was willing to extend his trip and come speak to us. Scott gave us an introduction to himself and plans for the APS. He made it his practice to join each club he visits. So, Scott has been a SJSC member for the past nine years. Consequently, I have to remind myself that when I send an email to club, it goes right to the Executive Director's office! I've had to watch what I say (no doubt a good thing)!

First, let me be clear, I greatly value what exhibiting brings to our hobby. I really like that philatelists have a venue to teach / record the history of stamps and mail.

However, my concern is that the only people who get elected to APS officer positions are always more interested in philatelic exhibiting than growing the hobby. Stamp collecting can have a tremendous future or it can wither away. This is especially critical as so many of us get older. Building a new generation of collectors needs us to create lots of doors in and approaching people of all ages on variety of fronts. Scott has tried to create a welcoming environment, but it is tough to buck the long standing indifference from virtually all the elected officers.

Our future will depend on our ability to buck the current trend away from "stuff". We've all seen music & movie stores close and book stores are a rarity as so many buy media in on-line formats. This can also be seen on your neighborhood street by the very few homes with a morning newspaper in the driveway. So, are hobbies centered on collections of "stuff" doomed? NO! But we've got to put out a better face to public that see how can value in the modern world.

The challenge for the next Executive Director will be to grow the hobby in this age "less stuff" and a panel of elected officials who show no inclination to work towards growth.

I want to thank Scott for his leadership during his tenure. The APS is in a much stronger financial position and membership. On a personal level, it has been genuine pleasure to talk about a variety of topics with Scott. He's not leaving immediately, so I'll have to continue to watch what I write in club communications a little while longer.

Brian

Up Coming Events:

Nov 06: SJ Stamp Club Meeting, Community Room, Pearl Ave Library
4270 Pearl Ave, San Jose; starts at 7:00pm
Alan Smith will present "The Evolution of Definitive Stamps
During the Reign of QEII, Part 1: 1952-1969, The Wilding Issues
This include a comparison with US Definitive Development

Nov 16 – 17 Filatelic Fiesta, Napradak Hall
770 Montegue Expressway, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4

Dec 07 – 08: PENPEX Stamp Show, Redwood City Community Center
1400 Roosevelt Ave, Redwood City, Sat 10-5, Sun 10-3:30

Filatelic Fiesta

It's just days away from our annual show. We've a great bourse lined up and 2 societies hosting meetings. I really need everyone to contribute when and where you can. Please use the Sign-Up Genius for when and where you can help. I don't want anybody to feel stuck anyplace for the lack of help. Let's be a team that takes care of each other and share the work load.

From Page 1

- **Revamping the postal delivery and processing network:** The organization has dedicated nearly \$17.3 billion from the plan's \$40 billion self-funded investment budget to drive the transformation of the postal network. This commitment is fueling the ongoing development of a modernized, efficient and technologically advanced postal network.
- **Enhancing the postal delivery fleet:** USPS is significantly upgrading the fleet with the addition of 106,000 new, more reliable vehicles. This includes 66,000 zero-emission electric vehicles, demonstrating the organization's commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility while ensuring reliable service.
- **Offering new shipping services:** The successful implementation of USPS Ground Advantage and USPS Connect has led to a notable surge in shipping volumes. These initiatives have not only expanded the Postal Service's capacity but also improved its efficiency, ensuring a seamless shipping experience for customers.

USPS has also prioritized morning parcel delivery, enhanced scanning technology and extended retail and pick-up delivery hours at popular Post Office locations, while continuing to offer the lowest postage rates in the industrialized world.

For tips on preparing shipments, including recommended mailing and shipping dates, packaging guidelines, ordering free shipping supplies and information on local Post Office location hours, visit usps.com.

The following message from APS Executive Director Scott English is from his **upcoming December 2024 The American Philatelist column**.

A New Chapter

After nearly 10 years with the American Philatelic Society and the American Philatelic Research Library, I've made the difficult decision to move on to the next chapter in life. As many of you may know, I concluded in 2023 that it was time to move on, but after discussions with the APS Board, I agreed to stay on to complete some much-needed work through 2026. I appreciate the Board's faith in me to stay for two more years. As we complete those projects in the months ahead, it is time for me to step aside for new leadership prepared to lead the organization, growing our community of collectors for the next decade.

It's not the end, but the beginning of the end of my time with the APS. I plan to stay with the APS while the Board searches for the next Executive Director. This can be a challenging process that should be carefully conducted, so it could take a year to successfully transition from one Executive Director to another. In the meantime, I will work with the APS Board and our team in Bellefonte to ensure this can be concluded with a smooth handoff.

Over the months ahead, I'll connect with and share with the APS members about my time as the Executive Director. For now, I want to share a few thoughts with you.

With Gratitude

The APS is for members by members. From my first day on the job, I've met enthusiastic collectors who believe in this great hobby and the APS. The selflessness of your time to contribute your thoughts, actions, and passion is beyond words. The stamp-collecting community is warm and welcoming. Every interaction has been a learning experience, and I'm grateful for your kindness and hospitality.

Wherever you serve the hobby, please know you're making a difference in the lives of others. Members have shared thousands of stories with me over the years, and the thing they remember most is who helped them along the way and why they gave their time in return.

With Pride

In my time here, we've celebrated some great wins:

- Construction of a state-of-the-art research library
- Recovering and sale of Position 76 of the McCoy Block of the Inverted Jenny

- Thrived during the pandemic, adapting to the changing circumstances
- Retiring the \$5.4 million mortgage debt on the Match Factory
- Replacing the Tiffany Dinner with the Stamp Soiree, which annually raises more than \$100,000 for important APS and APRL missions
- Recovering from the COVID-era tenant loss, going from 40 percent occupancy at the end of 2021 to more than 90 percent this year
- Partnering with the American Topical Association and the American First Day Cover Society to form the Great American Stamp Show, North America's largest annual stamp show
- Launching Stamp Chats and StampEd, which are accessible online resources for collectors to learn about stamps and their hobby

These are just a few examples of how we've transformed the APS and the hobby. Each one took the hard work of many people in the hobby, including you. Thank you for your support, enthusiasm, and faith.

With Optimism

The APS and APRL are in better financial shape than in decades. We are debt-free and generate income from our third-party tenants to support the library. Our investments are paying great dividends, and we are building our cash reserves to prepare for future needs.

Thanks to the kindness of Al and Dottie Kugel, we've secured more than \$2.2 million to date for a website replacement and replacing the roof on a portion of the Match Factory. There will be more news on the Kugel Estate sale in the coming months, and we'll share those updates with you. I've been working with Dottie to find the proper way to honor Al, and we will do so before I leave.

Thanks to Karen Campbell, who pledged \$100,000 to start the Stephen Campbell Home of Online Learning (Stamp SCHOOL). Her pledge launched a campaign to raise \$250,000 to build an education program for collectors of all levels. I pledge to complete this campaign in the months ahead to offer members a full menu of options worldwide.

Thanks to Bob Mason, whose estate helped us complete the mortgage debt payments in 2020, we launched the current digital library project, now known as the Robert A. Mason Digital Library (RAMDL). We've hired a grant writer to help boost the mission even more, allowing us to improve the user experience, increase the number of objects available to search, and begin to develop preservation policies for orphaned digital projects. We'll have more exciting news to share soon on additional content housed in the RAMDL.

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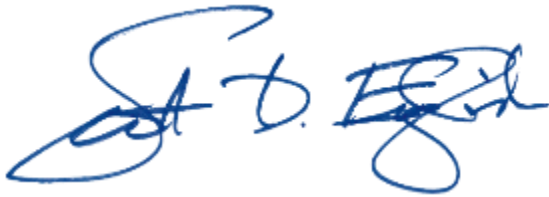
November 2024

Thanks to the APS and APRL boards for providing vigilant and thoughtful leadership over the years. Members only occasionally see the work involved in developing our strategies, managing the finances, and looking toward the future. Still, our boards have worked effectively to resolve some of our time's greatest challenges and opportunities. They are all volunteers who give their time, so the reward for hard work is often more hard work.

Thanks to the dedicated APS and APRL staff and volunteers. Our staff and volunteers in Bellefonte work enthusiastically daily to serve the members and our community. They are more than just staff; they've become like family to me. My routine joke is, "If something goes well, good job! If something goes wrong, it's my fault." I would like to single out Leonard and Darlene Bloom, our extraordinary volunteers, who show up every day to manage donations, sell through the Stamp and Cover shop, and help in more ways than I can count.

Thanks to my wife, Kendra. She's supported the long hours, the travel, and the time spent with me at stamp shows and stamp clubs around the country. While I would meet with members, she picked up an interest in collecting stamps, covers, and postcards, recruiting new members for the APS, and meeting and talking with collectors at any hour of the day or night. I could not have possibly done any of this without her support. We've made friendships that will last beyond my time as Executive Director.

This is not goodbye since I will still be around, at least through the Great American Stamp Show. In the meantime, I will continue to work on your behalf and for the hobby I've come to love. Thank you for all you do for the APS, APRL, and the hobby!



First U.S. Se-Tenant

On November 9, 1964, the US Post Office issued its first se-tenant, which was also America's third Christmas issue. Today, the USPS issues at least one se-tenant every year.



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