

The Messenger



February 2025

The Greater Kansas City, Missouri Area's Stamp Club

Next Meeting

Jeff Jaax, President (jeff.jaax@gmail.com)
Armen Hovsepian, 1st Vice President (info@armenstamp.com)
Rodger McReynolds, 2nd Vice President (rodger_mcreynolds@hotmail.com)
Hans Vergara, Treasurer (iwc1868@yahoo.com)
Perry Kilpatrick, Secretary (kilpatrickp61@gmail.com)
Jim McKinzie, Newsletter Editor (jimmckinzie1@att.net)

February 1st
Room available 10:00AM
Meeting starts 2:00PM
See Details Inside
On page 2

What You Missed at Our January Meeting:

Attendance: 19 members and no guests. Very low attendance due to bad weather.

The meeting began at 1:45 due to the threat of weather to see if we could finish things before it become too bad.

President – Rodger McReynolds stepped in for Jeff Jaax who could not make the meeting. February 1st will be the next meeting.

First VP – Arman reported that we have purchased over \$300 from the APS books which was a lot better than he thought with the minimal number of attending members.

Second VP – No report.

Secretary – No report.

Treasurer – No report. Please pay your dues.

Impromptu comment from Jim Jupe that we need to look into getting a method for proper cancelling the meeting in the future. Note was made that if no notice of a cancellation is sent out, then the meeting will be held.

Librarian – No report.

Historian – No report.

Newsletter – Please get your items in before the 15th. This is needed to get the newsletter prepared for next month. Jim said he will be holding tighter to this this coming year.

Treasurer – Hans showed up and was able to report. He had registered for the club with the APS. He reiterated that we all needed to get the dues in very soon. Hans looked into the interest rates for CDs which was requested last month. At present the rate is 3.5%. Stephen Slack volunteered to check in to more rates since he is doing it for another group he is part of, and report back next month.

Website – Rodger Archived all the 2024 newsletters. They are all available but located in the archived area. It was noted that the calendar needed updating on the website it is still showing 2022.

Exhibits – No report, but Hans did pay George Corney for winning the best presentation for 2024 last month.

New Business – Impromptu comment from Jim Jupe that we need to look into getting a method for proper cancelling the meeting in the future. Note was made that if no notice of a cancellation is sent out, then the meeting will be held.

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**Join us on
February 1, 2025 for
Tomas Griebing's program
"From Mark of Oppression to Symbol of Gay Pride - The Pink Triangle"**

Meeting Location and Time:

MEETING PLACE & TIME for Midwest Philatelic Society

MPS Meeting Schedule for Saturday, February 1st.

**Meeting is to be held at 1st Presbyterian Church-Westminster Hall
417 W Lexington Ave
Independence, MO 64050**

10:00am—1pm Dealers and members, buy, sell and trade.

1:00pm— 2pm Auction Lots displayed and available to view.

2:00pm—5pm Business meeting, show-n-tell and club auction.

We must be out by 5pm, so be ready to bid, pay with cash and pickup your auction lots.

What you will find if you come early to the meeting:

Several members with material for sale. Bring your want lists. Let those members know what you are looking for ahead of the meeting. It is hard to bring it all, for some.

Philatelic Happenings:

February 1-2

**MSDA St. Louis Stamp Show
Westbury Center (Knights of Columbus)
20 Westbury Drive
Saint Charles, MO 63301
11 Dealers with 18 tables scheduled**

February 14-15

**The Cessna Coin & Stamp Show
Cessna Activity Center
2744 George Washington Blvd
Wichita, KS
Unknown amount of dealers**

February 28-March 1

**LINPEX 2025
Comfort Inn & Suites
5353 N 27th St.
Lincoln, NE
8 Dealers with 16 tables scheduled**



Please update your membership information by filling out the membership form at the end of this newsletter. Then turn in at our next meeting to Hans (Treasurer) or mail to him with your dues. If you have already done so, THANKS!

The Midwest Philatelic Society Website, Marketplace & Blog is

www.midwestphilatelicsociety.com

Find previous newsletters, links to other stamp info and more on our website.

Boston World Expo 2026 Looking for Stamp Donations:

If you have extra stamps laying around used or new that you just don't know what to do with, consider donating them to the big International Stamp Show being held in Boston 2026. They are looking for off paper donations for youth and beginners' areas during the show. We will collect any of your donations and send them in at the appropriate time, at the end of this year. Jim will collect and store them for our group. There is a show in Latvia being held in 2026 also but they are receiving on paper also. It was suggested that we collect both and send out the off-paper to Boston and the on-paper to Latvia.

Please separate your donations by US and non-US for what is sent to Boston. Tongs and glassines are welcome also.

Let's send the biggest box ever!



Minutes continued from pg. 1

Jim McKinzie brought to the club that the World Stamp Expo will be coming to Boston on May 23 of 2026. The Expo is asking for any extra stamps that clubs may have to be donated for packets at the expo. They are looking for off paper stamps from all countries to be sent. Rick Karlslyst added another stamp show is also looking for stamps and they are willing to except stamps on paper.

*Motion was made to have the MPS pay to have any stamps the group collects to be mailed out to the various groups. Jim McKinzie second the motion and the group voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Barry Fitzgerald mentioned that Grouper has coupons that will pay you to stay active and this may help in stamp collection no one in the MPS seemed to know much about this. The APS has been promoting this.

Armen Hovsepan – Brought to the attention of the group that the MPS is tax exempt and if needed the members can obtain a letter for any donations they may have given. Please just ask the treasurer if needed.

Things you are looking for – Jim Jupe is looking for a specialized catalog for Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia.

Show and tell – Zack Lawrence showed several covers, one with a 6 cent Columbian usage and several other covers of interest. Armen showed his dual country stamp issues and brought up several questions of ownership and usage that may keep you up at night. Armen gave the stamp to Rodger McReynolds if he would write an article on them. Jim Jupe showed a Cache, a Cinderella and a stamp from Mexico challenging the group to help identify them.

At this point the presentation was given by Rick Karlslyst.

The auction was suspended till next month due to the weather.

Respectfully submitted by,
Perry Kilpatrick

Polly Woodside Joint Issue of 1999 by Rodger McReynolds

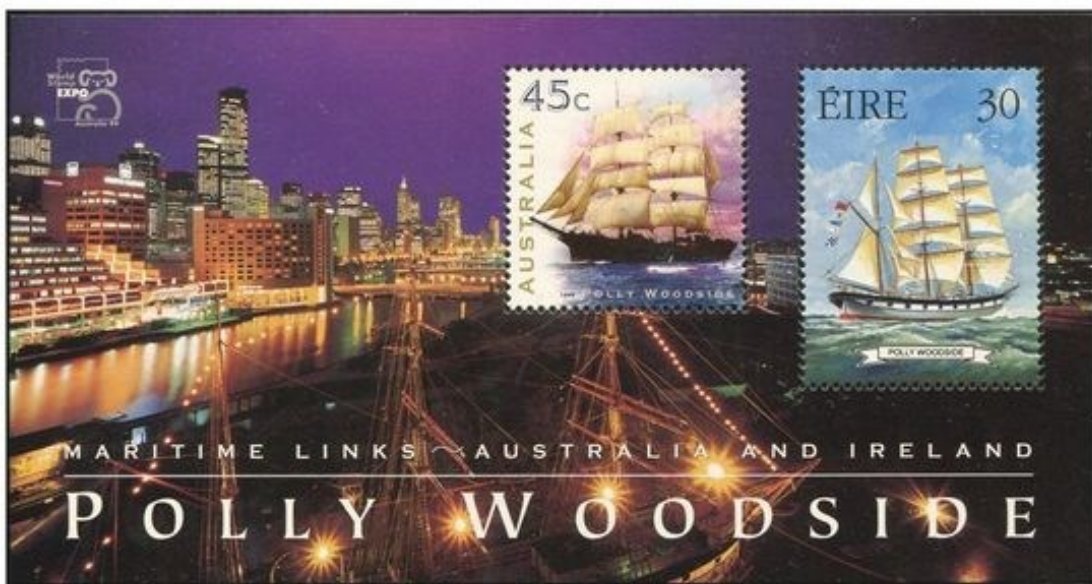
In 1999, Ireland and Australia collaborated on a unique joint stamp issue to commemorate the Polly Woodside, a ship with a storied maritime history. Built in Belfast, Ireland, in 1885, the Polly Woodside undertook numerous voyages around the world before finding a new life as a celebrated maritime museum in Melbourne, Australia. This joint issue not only honored the vessel's legacy but also highlighted the strong maritime connections between the two nations.

Ireland issued its 30-pence stamp on March 17, 1999—St. Patrick's Day—while Australia followed on March 19 with a 45-cent stamp as part of its *Sailing Ships of Australia* series. Both stamps featured detailed illustrations of the Polly Woodside, showcasing its iconic design and cultural significance. A special miniature sheet combining both stamps was also released during the *Australia 99 World Stamp Expo* (March 19–24 in Melbourne). This collaborative piece, produced by Australia Post's printing division Sprintpak in partnership with SNP Ausprint, became a prized item among collectors. The Australian stamp, designed by Beth McKinlay of Australia Post's Graphic Design team, was printed by SNP Ausprint, while the Irish stamp featured artwork by Vincent Killowry.

Today, the Ireland 1999 Polly Woodside souvenir sheet can be found listed on eBay, mint and never hinged, for \$3.00 USD. Similarly, Avion Stamps offers the joint issue miniature sheet, unmounted mint, for £2.95 GBP.

For philatelists, this joint issue offered intriguing details. The Australian stamp was produced by Note Printing Australia Ltd., renowned for its precision and high-quality techniques, while Irish Security Stamp Printing Ltd. handled the Irish version, delivering vibrant and intricate designs. Despite the collaboration, the stamps were not interchangeable: Irish stamps were valid only within Ireland, and Australian stamps could only be used within Australia. Although no postal surcharges were imposed for collectors purchasing stamps from the other country, dealer premiums often led to higher prices. While the Polly Woodside joint issue stands out as a notable example of philatelic collaboration, it is not the only instance of Ireland and Australia participating in international partnerships. Both countries have engaged in numerous joint stamp issues with other nations, celebrating shared histories, cultural ties, and significant milestones.

Ireland's joint efforts have included partnerships with the United States, Canada, Belgium, and India.



For example, in 1992, Ireland and the United States issued a stamp commemorating the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's voyage. In 1997, Ireland collaborated with Canada to honor Irish emigration and its impact on Canadian culture. Other noteworthy collaborations include a 2002 issue with Iceland and the Faroe Islands, celebrating Celtic cultural connections, and a 2013 partnership with

Mexico to commemorate the San Patricio Battalion, a group of Irish soldiers who fought for Mexico during the Mexican-American War.

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Australia also boasts an impressive history of joint stamp issues. Notable collaborations include a 1958 issue with New Zealand to mark the 50th anniversary of the first trans-Tasman flight and a 1988 partnership with the United States to commemorate Australia's bicentennial. In 2015, Australia and New Zealand issued stamps together once more, this time to celebrate the ANZAC centenary, honoring the shared sacrifices of their soldiers. Other collaborations with China, France, and the United Kingdom have further strengthened Australia's ties to the global community.

The Polly Woodside joint issue remains the only collaboration between Ireland and Australia. However, its significance is magnified when viewed in the broader context of both nations' histories of international philatelic partnerships. For collectors, this issue is not merely a tribute to maritime heritage but also a testament to the enduring power of stamps to forge connections and preserve shared histories across borders.

Philatelic Ramblings:

"Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds" I will bet that you, as I, thought that was the official creed or motto of the U.S.P.S. It's not! Especially when you consider the last few weeks in Missouri and Kansas. The large amount of ice and then snow certainly caused a lot of delays, including the delivery of the mail. I have never heard so many complaints outside of philatelic circles. We as stamp collectors have always been somewhat critical of the Post Office. But if you are ever on a neighborhood blog as I was during this snow storm, you got a quick assessment of how unhappy your neighbors were with the delivery of their mail. And in some ways, you can't blame them. While the postal service encourages you to order from Amazon, get your prescriptions by mail and other retail services, it becomes frustrating to that elderly neighbor who depends on that service and then nothing shows up.

I only got mail one day the week of the snow. Usually there is not a day that I don't get something. Granted most of the time it is junk mail. Except, at the first of the month when all the philatelic journals and magazines are coming in and of course the bills. Yes, I am still old fashioned, I want a paper bill delivered to me. Mainly, so that I don't forget to pay them.



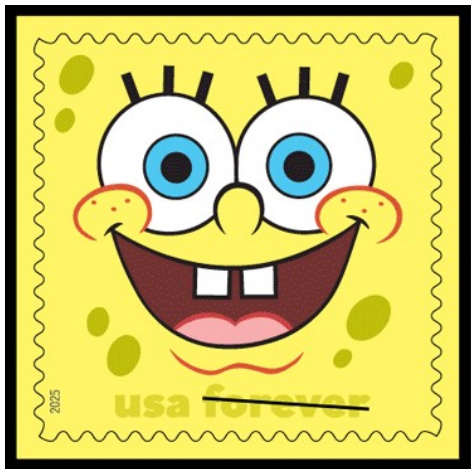
Now back to the motto. It is a phrase long associated with the American postal worker but it is not the official motto. The Postal Service does acknowledge it as an informal motto. But where did this come from? The phrase derives from a passage in George Herbert Palmer's translation of Herodotus's *Histories*. The passage was referring to the courier service of the ancient Persian Empire. Then in 1914, New York City opened the new James A Farley Post Office Building. The building's architectural firm, McKim, Mead & White, designed the new post office and one of their architects, William M. Kendall added it to the front of the building.

President Trump made a comment this week about replacing Postmaster DeJoy. That is something that Trump doesn't have the direct power to do but how long will DeJoy last after that comment. Probably not long. I find it interesting because when DeJoy became Postmaster General, he was celebrated as the right person to reform the Post Office. Even Trump praised him back then. On the stamp blogs, my liberal philatelic friends have railed against Trump and DeJoy. They would complain that DeJoy was a product of the Trump era. What they forgot is, Trump's favorite phrase is "Your Fired!" If you are not doing the job, he gets rid of you, like most successful business persons.

Why did I bring up Trump? Because unless he can get Congress to make legislative changes to how the USPS is structured, it will continue to lumber along like it has been since it was formed in 1970. DeJoy isn't the problem. While they semi-privatized the Post Office in the '70's, many aspects are still controlled by Congress and it is still structured and run like a government agency. That is not efficient and impossible to compete against UPS and FEDEX.

When you look back, there use to be variable rates. It cost more to send a letter from St Joe to Sacramento, than say New York City to Boston. Then somewhere down the line, rates were standardized. You mail a letter any where in the United States including Hawaii or Alaska, it is the same rate for a 1 ounce letter. But does it cost the Post Office the same to deliver a letter from Kansas City to St Louis, as it does to mail a letter from Kansas City to Hooker in the Oklahoma panhandle? Since you can fill up a whole truck daily going from KC to St. Louis, it is cost effective. But what if anything goes to Hooker, OK from KC? But yet, it is the same rate. Hooker has a population of 1,802 as of the 2020 census. Does the post office in Hooker pay for it's self? Do they sell lots of stamps, money orders and other items to be open? Can they justify the hours that they are open? Monday thru Friday from 8:30am to 1pm and 1:30pm to 4pm, closed a half hour for lunch and closed Saturday and Sunday. So if you want to keep service to all and have postal outlets convenient for all, what do you do from a business stand point.

With mail volume dropping off more and more each year, perhaps it is time for either the politicians in Washington to bring it back, as a full fledged agency of the US government and fund it fully or we the people need to start to expect less service at a much higher cost. It can't be both much longer.



One of four new designs coming out this year honoring SpongeBob from the USPS

Two of fifteen new designs coming out this year honoring American Revolution from the USPS

This month only two new issues from the USPS. I will let you guess which one I like and which one I don't. I am still looking for the issues for the 250th anniversary of the founding of this country. Only one is scheduled to come out this year and at this rate I doubt many more will come out next year. But then where does the USPS make money on stamps? Sadly, they will sell much more of SpongeBob than American Revolution Battlefields. While I don't particularly like the SpongeBob stamps, I do get it. Stamps like these spill over to other collectors that may never get used. Yes, there are people that collect SpongeBob stuff, just like I collect Coca-Cola. I might not get it and you might not get what I collect but then how many of your friends and family understand your philatelic obsession!

JMc



#25 Cape of Good Hope

A cape, near the southern point of Africa, later named the Cape of Good Hope, was noted in 1488 by Portuguese explorer Dias as the best route to India in the East. (Cape of Good Hope was not the southernmost point of Africa, but presented itself with a bay on either side of the cape.) It was originally settled by the Dutch beginning in 1652. The new Cape Town and surrounding area were called Dutch East Indies Company. In 1795 the British, wishing to have control of the shipping routes to the East, invaded the country. Their occupation briefly ended in 1803 but was permanently re-acquired in 1806 and named Cape Colony. In 1853, Cape Colony became a British Crown colony formally named Cape of Good Hope. The colony became Cape Province with the creation of the Union of South Africa in 1910. In size, Cape Colony grew from 75,000 sq. mi. in 1806 to about 297,000 sq. mi. in 1910 due to expansion and annexation north of the Orange River and east to the Indian Ocean. The population grew from 60,000 to over 2.5 million people in that time.



Scott #1, 1853

In 1853, the first stamps issued in Cape of Good Hope were also the first triangular stamp issued ever! A 1p and a 4p stamp were printed on blue tinted paper, imperforate. A later printing (1855-58) on white paper added a 6p and 1sh to the 1p & 4p in slightly different colors. An 1861 (presumably) local printing by Saul Solomon & Co. attempted



Scott #5b, 1858



Scott #7, 1861 pair

to copy the original design. However the typographed result was so crude, it looks like they were printed from carved wooden blocks, thus the name for these stamps was "Wood Blocks". (See the comments under #9 in the Scott Catalogue for a different reason for the name.) These two stamps carry a high catalog value and excellent counterfeits exist. The colony went back to Britain in 1863-4 for new issues of the original design. The same four denominations were printed on "Anchor" watermarked paper. A new design utilizing a similar allegorical "Hope" figure in the standard definitive-sized stamp appeared in 1864-77, with the same four denominations, with a "Crown & CC" watermark. This design had a frame line around the design that did not appear in later issues, which were:



Scott #19 1864

1871-78 – wmk. Crown & CC, 6 stamps; 1882-83 – wmk. Crown & CA, 6 stamps; and 1884-98 – Wmk.

Anchor, 14 stamps. Between 1868 and 1893 eleven of the stamps with the "Hope" designs were surcharged with various fonts and denominations.



Scott #57 1896



Scott #60 1893



#17 #27
(Frame) (no frame)

In 1892 a 2 1/2p "Hope" stamp (with a box containing the numeral denomination added to the design.) It appeared with a new color in 1896. An 1893-1902 set of three depicted "Hope" standing up. The 1p "Table Mountain & Bay" (with coat-of-arms) came out in 1900. Finally, the British King Edward was pictured on nine stamps (in various frames) 1902-1904.



Scott #62 1900



Scott #70 1902

Cape of Good Hope stamps were replaced with Union of South Africa stamps in 1910.

[Back-of-the-book items were not covered in this article due to my penchant for doing everything at the last minute.]

New issues for February 2025:



American Vistas

Presorted Standard

Two Designs-Coil of 3,000 & 10,000

Issue Date February 21st

First Day of Issue City:

San Diego, CA

Print Quantity—21,000,000 for 3,000 coil
1,000,000,000 for 10,000 coil

The new business mail stamps depict stylized, minimalist scenes of mountains and a beach. DKNJ Studios made screen prints from vector illustrations and were designed by Greg Breeding, an art director for the USPS.



The Appalachian Trail

Forever First Class Rate

Fifteen Designs-Pane of 15

Issue Date February 28th

First Day of Issue City:

Amicalola Falls State Park

Dawsonville, GA

Print Quantity—unknown at print time.

Antonio Alcala, an art director for USPS, designed the stamps with images from various photographers. This pane of 15 stamps includes a photographic view from each of the 14 states along the Maine-to-Georgia trail with an additional stamp showing stretches of trail through dense forest. The Appalachian Trail covers almost 2,200 miles of footpath through this ancient mountain range. The trail is maintained by a network of volunteer clubs, led by the nonprofit Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

Information Released on Higher Denominations:

The information on print quantity for the Priority Mail and Priority Mail Express issues is now available.



Print quantity for Priority Mail issue is 2,400,000 and the Priority Mail Express issue is 600,000.

Elusive Issues of Benin by Jim McKinzie:

As many of you know, I have collected the Bicentennial issues of American Revolution since I was a kid. You would think that having collected these issues all my life, I would have them all. Not so! Because of my obsession to have them all, variations, overprints, proofs and now EFO's, I doubt that this collection will ever be complete. Although it is closer to complete as I recently found on Hipstamp one of the very hard to find overprints of Benin.

Many countries issued stamps in honor of our 200th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. I have always suspected that many of the countries in Africa did so as a "finger in the eye" of their colonial masters. The 1970's was a time that many had either recently become independent or were struggling to do so. Dahomey was a country that had gained their independence from France in 1960. Then in 1975 they decided to change the name of the country from Dahomey to Benin but not before they had issued a set of four stamps in honor of the U.S. Bicentennial. The name Benin was deemed politically neutral from all the ethnic groups in the state.

Dahomey issued four airmail stamps in honor of the Bicentennial on November of 1975. Only two more stamps were issued under the name of Dahomey, which were for the 1976 Montreal Summer Olympics. They were issued a week after the Bicentennial issues. The bicentennial issue had four denomination rates, 75fr, 135fr, 300fr and 500fr.

Twelve days after the bicentennial issues were released, the country's name was changed to People's Republic of Benin. So what to do with all these stamps with the wrong country name? They overprinted the three higher denominations with the name "Republique Populaire du Benin" and



Dahomey
Infantry and Stars
Airmail Issues C262-265
Issued November 18, 1975

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with a different denomination on the 210fr and the 380fr. The 135fr was only overprinted with the new country name. The lowest denomination of the original Dahomey series probably had sold out or there were not enough left in stock to use. At least that was the assumption for several years. They printed the overprints and issued them on July 4, 1976.



**People's Republic of Benin
Infantry and Stars
Overprints of Dahomey
Airmail Issues C247-249
Issued July 4, 1976**



These overprints can be found very easily. There are plenty out there in dealers stocks both used and mint.

In 1989 the regime in power was in trouble and then the banking system collapsed. A new constitution was formed and the name of the country changed again. On March 1, 1990 it became known as the Republic of Benin.

Four more overprints are listed in Scott's. Starting in 1988 and ending in 1996. These have been very elusive and impossible to find. Benin overprinted many of their earlier stamp issues until 2009.

I have looked through many a dealer's stock over the years. I have checked ebay and Hipstamp. I have looked through collections but to no avail. Then suddenly the stamp on the right showed up on Hipstamp. Used! Not my

preferred way to collect, especially with modern issues. But so what! Had I found this issue before? Heck, no!! Then just buy it. I placed the order. Oh, it's a dealer in Canada. No problem. Yes, it will probably cost me a little more in shipping but he was offering it at less than the catalogue value and how long had I been looking for it. The next day I get a message from the dealer. I was almost afraid to look at it, in fear that he had already sold it or it was lost in his stock. Nope, it was to inform me of the Canadian Postal strike and to assure me that it was ready to go and would go out as soon as the strike was over.

I finally received it and it is a very nice used copy with a light cancel of the overprinted issue. But that still leaves the following issues that I have not been able to find. C385, C412 and C478. And guess what, the C385 is the original 75fr lowest denomination of the Dahomey series. It is overprinted with "Populaire du Benin" and 125fr. Issued in 1988. C412 is overprinted similarly to the C453 pictured on the right. It is overprinted with 300fr on 300fr. C478 is overprinted 150fr on 135fr. It was the last one overprinted sometime in 1996. If you should see any of these last three overprints, please let me know.



**Republic of Benin
Infantry and Stars
Overprints of Dahomey
Airmail Issue C453
Issued in 1996?**

YES ☐ I would like to JOIN OR CONTINUE my membership in Midwest Philatelic Society.

Copy and save this form as a pdf or jpg document and send to: Bring to meeting with dues.

Or mail to: Hans Vergara

Treasurer

11916 W 109th St #204

Overland Park, KS 66210

☐ 2025 dues (individual)\$25.00.....\$ _____
☐ 2025 dues (family).....\$30.00.....\$ _____
☐ Life Member (contact Hans first for eligibility) \$175.00...\$ _____
☐ 2025 Donation to My MPS Club\$ _____
☐ 2025 Donation to MPS Library\$ _____
☐ Upcharge for Mailing Newsletter \$10.00.....\$ _____
.....Total Remittance \$ _____

Current Life Member ☐
(As outlined in By-Laws)

We are updating our records and will appreciate if you complete the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

My collecting interests: _____

ALL MEMBERS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY, IF YOU WANT TO BE INCLUDED BUT WANT SOME INFORMATION TO BE WITHHELD PLEASE INDICATE WHAT YOU DO NOT WANT TO BE INCLUDED:

I ONLY WANT MY NAME and COLLECTING INTERESTS TO BE INCLUDED IN MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY _____ Include picture of myself in directory YES _____ NO _____

YOUR COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER WILL COME BY EMAIL UNLESS YOU WOULD PREFER IT TO COME BY TRADITIONAL MAIL.

I AM UNABLE TO RECEIVE EMAIL, SEND MY NEWSLETTER BY MAIL _____

There is an additional \$10 charge to receive the newsletter by mail.