

Lincoln Stamp Club

SOUVENIR SHEET
JUNE 2013
Monthly News of the
Lincoln Stamp Club

2013 OFFICERS

President:

Helen Marks ('13)

Vice President:

Ken Pruess ('13)

Secretary:

David Frye ('13)

Treasurer:

Ron Ecklund ('13)

Board Member:

Joel Johnson ('14)

Board Member:

Carl Marks ('13)

MEETINGS

The Club meets the
first and third Thurs-
days, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

LOCATION

St. Paul United
Methodist Church
1144 M St.
Lincoln, Neb.

CONTACT

E-mail:

questions@lincoln-
stampclub.org

Web:

www.lincolnstamp-
club.org

Mail:

PO Box 57434
Lincoln, NE
68505-7434

AFFILIATION

The Club is an affili-
ate of the American
Philatelic Society:
APS #0799-064882.

Uncovering the details behind a longtime, familiar, local post office fixture Official USPS Poster Presents US Motto to the Public

by David M. Frye

Every time I go the post office in Denton, Nebraska, the color poster depicting the often-used artwork from the Liberty series draws my eye to its iconic depiction of the Statue of Liberty, the word “Liberty,” and the U.S. motto, “In God We Trust.” I’ve wondered why this poster remains, when the other ephemera in the lobby have their day and then meet their end in the trash can. Finally I looked more closely and noted some details in the red margin. There wasn’t much to go on, but I began to search. Here’s what I found.

“POS 129” is the poster’s USPS item number. The edition is December 2002 and the title is “In God We Trust.” The size is 12"x14". The stock number is 7690-05-000-5601 (*Publication 223: Directives and Forms Catalog*.)

This information confirmed the official nature of the poster, but I wanted to discover why the Postal Service might have issued the poster. A little more digging uncovered details from *The Houston Chronicle* (Nov. 2002):

... a retired engineer may have started a national movement. Just recently, Frank Williamson was thwarted in his bid to display posters depicting the national motto, “In God We Trust,” at Montgomery County post offices. Now, not only will he see the phrase in his local county; it will be placed in all 38,000 post offices across the country. On Friday, Williamson received word from authorities in Washington that the U.S. Postal Service designed its own poster depicting the national motto and would cover the cost to distribute it to every post office in the country (www.postcom.com/archive/news2002/news11-02.htm).

Earlier, in the wake of 9/11, this retired engineer had purchased numerous privately produced posters that carried the U.S. motto, “In God We Trust,” and had posted them



POS 129: A rendering of the design of the Post Office Department’s 8c Liberty Series issue of April 9, 1954 (without the “8c”) appears as a poster in the Denton, Nebraska (68339) Post Office. The fine print at the bottom margin of the poster carries a notice stating, “Do not remove.”

locally in various public buildings. When one postmaster removed the poster, Williamson protested. Finally, on November 13, 2002, Congress passed Public Law 107-293, noting:

On July 20, 1956, Congress proclaimed that the national motto of the United States is “In God We Trust,” and that motto is inscribed above the main door of the Senate, behind the Chair of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and on the currency of the United States (www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-107publ293/pdf/PLAW-107publ293.pdf).

Then The Postal Service, having reviewed the matter, announced two days later it would distribute its own poster to 38,000 post offices ... including the post office in Denton, Nebraska.

National News

USPS Raises Revenue, Reduces Expenses, and Seeks Comprehensive Legislation

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Postal Service ended the second quarter of its 2013 fiscal year (Jan. 1–March 31) with a net loss of \$1.9 billion. The Postal Service continues to grow revenue and reduce expenses by using the tools available to it under existing law. However, without passage of comprehensive legislation to provide the Postal Service with a workable business model for today’s marketplace, large quarterly financial losses will continue.

“To return the Postal Service to solvency requires a comprehensive approach, which is reflected in our updated Five-Year Business Plan,” said Postmaster General and CEO Patrick Donahoe. “The plan provides an achievable road map to restore financial stability and preserve affordable mail service for the American public. The major elements of the plan must be pursued and executed within a short window of opportunity to avoid unsustainable losses and potentially becoming a long-term burden to the American taxpayer.”

The Postal Service needs to save \$20 billion annually by 2016. Many of the savings cannot be achieved without the following legislative actions:

- Require a USPS Health Care Plan (resolves the Retiree Health Plan prepayment issue);
- Refund the FERS overpayment and adjust the FERS payment schedule;
- Adjust delivery frequency (six-day package/five-day mail delivery);
- Streamline the governance model;
- Allow USPS the authority to expand products and services;
- Require a defined contribution retirement plan for future postal employees;
- Provide instructions to arbitrators to consider USPS’s financial condi-

tion in interest arbitration awards;

- Reform workers’ compensation.

The Postal Service has already reached its debt limit of \$15 billion. It also has defaulted on \$11.1 billion due for retiree health benefits in 2012 and also expects to default on an additional \$5.6 billion on September 30, 2013. In addition, the Postal Service owes an estimated \$17 billion on future workers’ compensation claims. “These obligations of nearly \$50 billion and continuing losses highlight the need for immediate legislative reform to give us the latitude to execute on our Five-Year Plan and improve our ability to repay these obligations and return to profitability,” said Joe Corbett, Chief Financial Officer.

Corbett says the plan also requires aggressive actions to increase operational efficiency and improve the Postal Service’s liquidity position, including the accelerated consolidation of mail processing, retail and delivery networks in order to better align them with mail volumes and changing customer needs and continued administrative reductions.

The Postal Service also continues to reduce costs by reducing work hours. In the second quarter, work hours were reduced by approximately 7 million hours, a 2.4 percent reduction compared to the same period last year. “Even with a 6.2 percent volume increase in Shipping and Packages compared to the same period last year, we were able to reduce these work hours to increase efficiency,” Corbett added, noting that work-hour reductions have been the single largest contributor to the ongoing achievement of savings targets.

The number of career employees decreased by approximately 25,000 in the second quarter and by 46,000

in the last year. These reductions have been accomplished primarily through attrition and separation incentives. The Postal Service now has the lowest number of career employees since 1966.

Second Quarter Results of Operations Compared to Same Period Last Year

- Total mail volume of 38.8 billion pieces compared to 39.4 billion pieces
- First-Class Mail revenue declined 2.7 percent on a volume decline of 4.1 percent
- Standard Mail revenue increased 2.4 percent on a volume increase of 1.0 percent
- Shipping and Package revenue increased 9.3 percent on a volume increase of 6.2 percent
- Operating revenue of \$16.3 billion, an increase of \$121 million or 0.7 percent. The slight increase is attributable to the strong growth in Postal Service Shipping and Packages business supplemented by a modest increase in Standard Mail revenue, offset by the decline in First-Class Mail.
- Operating expenses of \$18.2 billion compared to \$19.4 billion, a decrease of 6.2 percent. The large decrease reflects last year’s accrual for the additional retiree health benefit pre-funding payment and reduced 2013 work hours.

While the continuing shift to electronic communication alternatives had a pronounced negative effect on First-Class Mail volume and revenue, the growth of e-commerce and successful marketing campaigns continued to grow Postal Service Shipping and Package business. Total Shipping and Packages revenue in the second quarter increased \$267 million, or 9.3 percent, compared to the same period

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last year. For the six months ended March 31, Shipping and Package revenue was up 6.9 percent. The increases are reflective of successful efforts to take advantage of the growing area of shipping and packages and compete in the ground shipping services and “last-mile” e-commerce fulfillment markets.

Standard (Advertising) Mail revenue in the second quarter increased over the same quarter in the previous year, the second consecutive quarter of growth. Standard Mail revenues were \$96 million, or 2.4 percent, greater in the second quarter compared to the same time last year. The year-to-date revenue increase totals 2.8 percent, on a volume increase of 2.4 percent. The year-to-date increase is largely attributable to political and election mail in the first quarter. Promotional incentives for advertisers introduced in the second quarter designed to promote the integration of mobile technologies into marketers’ direct mail pieces are expected to further boost Standard Mail revenue later in the fiscal year.

First-Class Mail revenue, the Postal Service’s most profitable service

June Exchange

The Club offers the following items at its monthly exchange. Payments may be made in cash or in personal checks made out to the Club. Items with no Open are donations to the Lincoln Stamp Club; proceeds benefit the Club’s general work.

Lot #	Description	Open	Final	Buyer
• 01	U.S. Sc. 285, VF, OG, H (Cat. \$25.00)	\$4.00	_____	_____
• 02	U.S. Sc. 286, Av-F, OG, H (Cat. \$25.00)	\$2.50	_____	_____
• 03	U.S. Sc. 328–330 Jamestown, Av, OG, H (Cat. \$215)	\$20.00	_____	_____
• 04	U.S. Sc. 372, Av-F, OG, H (Cat. \$10.00)	\$1.00	_____	_____
• 05	U.S. Sc. 397–400, Av, OG, H (Cat. \$255.00)	\$25.00	_____	_____
• 06	U.S. Sc. CE1, VF, OG, H (Cat. \$0.70)	\$0.20	_____	_____
• 07	U.S. Sc. E15–16, VF, M (Cat. \$1.35)	\$0.35	_____	_____
• 08	U.S. Sc. E17–19, VF, M (Cat. \$4.60)	\$1.00	_____	_____
• 09	U.S. Sc. E21, Pl. Bl., VF, M	\$1.25	_____	_____
• 10	U.S. Sc. Q1, Av, No Gum (Cat. \$1.75)	\$0.25	_____	_____
• 11	Comoro Sc. 42, OG, H (Cat. \$12.50)	—	_____	_____
• 12	France Offices, Crete, 3¢, OG, H (Cat. \$2.50)	—	_____	_____
• 13	French Colonies, Sc. B2, OG, H (Cat. \$1.50)	—	_____	_____
• 14	French Colonies, Sc. B3–6, OG, H (Cat. \$2.20)	—	_____	_____
• 15	French India, Sc. B14, OG, H (Cat. \$0.60)	—	_____	_____
• 16	Libya Sc. C3–5 (Cat. \$3.35)	—	_____	_____
• 17	Manchukuo 117//121, 4 var U (Cat. \$10.00)	—	_____	_____
• 18	New Caledonia Sc. 299, U (Cat. \$3.75)	—	_____	_____
• 19	Obock Sc. 32, 34–35, OG, H (Cat. \$10.00)	—	_____	_____
• 20	Ponta Delgado 13//26, 5 var, OG, H (Cat. \$8.30)	—	_____	_____
• 21	Southern Nigeria, 2 var, U (Cat. \$3.50)	—	_____	_____
• 22	Wallis & Futuna, Sc. 149, OG, H (Cat. \$3.00)	—	_____	_____
• 23	Stamp Tongs	—	_____	_____
• 24	Perf Gauge	—	_____	_____
• 25	Stanley Gibbons Color Key	—	_____	_____
• 26	U.S. Sc. U572–575 (Cat. \$2.00)	—	_____	_____
• 27	U.S. Sc. U595 (Cat. \$0.60)	—	_____	_____
• 28	U.S. Sc. 1711 FDC (Cat. \$1.00)	—	_____	_____
• 29	U.S. Sc. 2747 FDC (Cat. \$1.25)	—	_____	_____
• 30	U.S. Sc. UC23 (Cat. \$0.85)	—	_____	_____
• 31	U.S. Sc. UC25 (Cat. \$0.90)	—	_____	_____

category, decreased \$198 million, or 2.7 percent, in the second quarter compared to the same period last year, with a volume decrease of 713 million pieces, or 4.1 percent. The most significant factor contributing to the ongoing decline continues to

be the migration toward electronic communication and transactional alternatives.

Source: Release 13-051, May 10, 2013

USPS: www.usps.com

Form 10-Q: about.usps.com/who-we-are/financials/welcome.htm.

Meetings: France and the American Legion

The Club meets at a central location:
St. Paul United Methodist Church
1144 M St., Lincoln, Neb.

Go south on 11th Street, then turn left into the church's parking garage between N and M Streets. Take the elevator to the *main* floor. Street parking is available too.

- **Business Meeting and Exchange:** Thurs., June 6, 2013, 7–8:30 p.m.
- **Program:** *France and the American Legion*, Carl Marks, Thurs., June 20, 2013, 7–8:30 p.m.
- **Independence Day:** *No Meeting.*
- **Business Meeting, Program, and**

Exchange: July 18, 7–9 p.m.
Stamp Collecting at Easterday Recreation Center, Joel Johnson.

- **Business Meeting and Exchange:** Thurs., August 1, 2013, 7–8:30 p.m.
- **Program:** *Presenter's Choice*, Cynthia Carlson, Thurs., August 15, 2013, 7–8:30 p.m.
- **Coming Up:** September 5, 19; October 3, 17; November 7, 21; and December 5, 19.
- **Programs:** Visit with one of the Club's leaders to secure your spot on the schedule later this year.

WANTED

Items for Monthly Exchanges

If you would like to include items in the monthly exchanges, send your descriptions and prices to questions@lincolnstampclub.org by **June 25 for the Exchange on July 18.**

Info about more significant items, which might require members to research ahead of time, should be sent by **June 25 for the August 1 Exchange.**

Forms for your items are available online:

- www.lincolnstampclub.org/downloads/SmallExchangeSheets.pdf
- www.lincolnstampclub.org/downloads/ExchangeSheet.pdf

USPS Releases New Postal Issues: June and July '13

June 5: *Johnny Cash*; single forever (46¢) comm.; Music Icons Series; pane of 16; Nashville, Tenn.

June 20: *West Virginia Statehood*; single forever (46¢) comm.; pane of 20; Charleston, W. Va.

June 28: *Common Goldeneye*; Two \$15 federal migratory waterfowl

hunting and conservation; pane of 20; Ashland, Va.

July 13: *New England Coastal Lighthouses*; five forever (46¢) comm.; Cape Elizabeth, Maine, New Castle, N.H., Wakefield, R.I., New London, Conn., and Boston, Mass.

www.beyondtheperf.com/2013-preview/

LOCAL SHOWS

Omaha Stamp Show: Get the exhibitor's prospectus for the **Sept. 7–8** show at www.omahaphilatelicsociety.org or from Mike Ley by e-mail at giscougar@aol.com.

Hold the Date: The Lincoln Stamp Club will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary in 2014 with LINPEX '14. The show, featuring an expanded bourse, exhibits, and an anniversary observance, will be **Feb. 22–23, 2014.**



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PO BOX 57434

LINCOLN STAMP CLUB