

# The PhilateliKid

**The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)**

**Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)**

[www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org](http://www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org)

December 1, 2019

## Letters to the Editor

Bob –

Thank you for including me in your distribution of *The PhilateliKid* newsletter. Your most recent issue (*Issue 58, dated October 1, 2019*) takes issue with the APS for not doing outreach to young children. As with your commentary on AmeriStamp Expo, you missed some facts that are worth noting. For your benefit, I have attached a draft copy of my December column outlining some of the things we've been doing recently on Youth Collection.

Here are some summary points to note:

- We helped start two education programs in suburban Maryland and Stoughton, Massachusetts to launch stamp collecting projects centered around the Holocaust, providing 3 million stamps total,
- We supplied stamps and material to 60 stamp clubs this year to support youth and beginner programs,
- Provided Stamps Teach packages to 300 educators for lessons to more than 5,300 students to date,
- Provide a visible presence in the Centre County region for area students in the classroom and at co-sponsored events with Penn State University,
- Provided free stamp album pages to over 3,000 people this year,
- Provide lesson plans for educators and parents for use in the classroom, at home, or with youth programs in the area.
- Celebrated the 10th year of our YPLF program. Through the program, one of our students developed a color recognition device that will, hopefully, be available to collectors soon. We also have alum working in the auction business, the Philatelic Foundation, a president of an auction house, chairing WSP shows, and one actively dealing stamps to support his college education. Through our program, one student, who graduated from college at the age of 20, is now employed in the Inspector General's office of the US Postal Service. Each of these young people credits the APS and the YPLF for helping them on their life path, and we're proud of them for being a part of our community.

I'd also like to address the finances aspect of your commentary. The implication the APS and APRL are somehow hoarding money is absurd on its face. It's pointless to rehash the decision to purchase the Match Factory and accept it is our home, and it came with a cost. To that point, in December 2016, our mortgage debt held by the APRL was five mortgages totaling \$5.4 million, with a payment completion date of September 2034. Today, our debt is just slightly above \$2 million (with one mortgage and a much lower interest rate) with a projected payoff date of May 2025. I can say confidently we will beat that payoff date, and I hope to have the debt retired within the next two years. In 2016, I challenged the

Board and our members to eliminate the debt by December 2025, and the response has been overwhelming!

What does that mean? With the current 2025 payoff date, the APS will have avoided about \$1.3 million in interest payments through the initial life cycle of the loans. It also puts more than \$400,000 annually into the hands of the Society to invest appropriately.

Have we focused our energies solely on that? Absolutely not. Over the past two years, we have significantly invested in our website, outreach, and services to make sure our members and the collecting public can receive more services for the same affordable \$45 a year. Across-the-board, our staff, has made significant improvements from our summer show to thousands of journals available online to an online education platform for members to supporting a YouTube Series, Exploring Stamps that has grown from 4,200 subscribers to 8,600 subscribers since we started working with it last year.

When I arrived at the APS, we were muddled in our debt, and our outreach efforts were not impressive. Today, we are blazing a path in so many directions, I have to contain myself from annoying folks with it all. Having said that, your comments are not a reflection of the APS and are demoralizing to the hardworking staff that has given 100 percent effort to serving our membership, the public, and the hobby. You should be a champion of the work we're doing here. If our efforts are misplaced, I welcome specific suggestions on how we might improve our programs. At the very least, inquire with us before you opine.

### **How Can You Help?**

I know you're a supporter of getting stamps into the hands of school-aged children. As it happens, our Giving Tuesday campaign on 4 December 2019 will be to raise money for the Stamps Teach program. For only \$25, you can provide a great packet to an educator that contains stamps, lesson, plans, and more so they can educate their students. This year, we are soliciting help from great supporters like you to create a matching fund to raise money for the program. To date, APS members have pledged \$2,500 to match donations from the public at large.

Would you be willing to make a pledge for the matching donation? We'll even name you as part of the promotions we are doing leading up and on the day of Giving Tuesday. With a \$500, \$1,000, or \$2,000 pledge, we can provide significant support for the Stamps Teach program in 2020.

You could also promote our youth programs in a positive light in the newsletter so that we can increase awareness and pick up some business.

I do hope you can help with both of those items and look forward to a favorable response. If you have any questions, I am happy to answer them. Thank you for your commitment to the hobby.

Scott English, Executive Director, American Philatelic Society

## **A HAPPY HANUKKAH, MERRY CHRISTMAS, KWANZAA AND NEW YEAR TO ALL ! BE WELL AND BE SAFE!!**

Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are greatly appreciated and if \$10 or more you will be sent a written receipt. You also can donate via PayPal on our website - [www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org](http://www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org) or [www.yummystampcollecting.org](http://www.yummystampcollecting.org) which will redirect you to the same site.