

The February meeting featured Abraham Lincoln (aka Dr Tom Willer) describing the 1858 incident in Saxon IL where past relatives of Thomas Willer provided the lamp to the future president to help guide him safely back his lodging Kewanee IL.

Additionally Mr Lincoln talked about himself, family, his genealogy (including the disputed version), the Lincoln-Douglas debates and of course, that now famous day trip that lead to this presentation.

Richard also introduced a large display stand (with info) that he'd been working on the last few weeks.

This month Bill Schultz will present "The American Philatelic Center and Its Bellefonte PA Neighborhood".



Treasures' Report: Checking – \$2,017.14 Savings – 1,526.25 — Total: 3,542.39

American Philatelic Society - The APS roots can be traced back to within five years of the issuance of the first postage stamp in the United States when a group collectors began exchanging information and thoughts on stamps. This small group expanded and by the 1880s there were an estimated 25,000 stamp collectors in the United States.

In 1886 several prominent stamp collectors began discussing the possibility of forming a national organization of philatelists. Thus by April of 1886 they had formed The Committee on National Organization (S.B. Bradt, O.S. Hellwig, and R.R. Shuman) and printed an announcement of the possible formation of a national organization which lead to some 400 collectors indicated their willingness to assist in founding such an organization.

The committee met in New York City on September 13, 1886, and adopted the name "American Philatelic Association" for the newly formed organization. The following day, John K. Tiffany, a prominent St. Louis attorney, and ardent philatelist, was elected president, a position he held for the next ten years.

One of the goals of the new organization was to publish a journal on stamp related issues. The first five issues of the APA's journal, The American Philatelist were published in Altoona, Pennsylvania, commencing on January 10, 1887, but a mail vote in June of that year resulted in the choice of The Western Philatelist as the society's official publication. Dissension caused by this action led the membership at the second annual convention, held in Chicago in August 1887, to vote to resume publication of The American Philatelist as the society's official journal.

The Association was incorporated in West Virginia November 2, 1891, and re-incorporated in Minnesota in 1897. In 1897 the name of the organization was changed briefly to American Philatelic Society, but then changed back to American Philatelic Association after only a few months. The name was finally changed in 1908 and remains as the American Philatelic Society.

Local Stamp Shows	MSDA Show Wingate Inn 600 Milwaukee Ave Prospect Heights IL April 4-5	COMPEX 2009 District 214 Field House 2121 S Goebbert Rd Arlington Heights IL May 22-24	MSDA Show Wingate Inn 600 Milwaukee Ave Prospect Heights IL July 25-26	Midwest	CHICAGOPEX 2009 Sheraton Northwest 3400 West Euclid Ave Arlington Heights IL November 20-22
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Next meeting: 7-PM on Tuesday 24 March 2009 at the Warren-Newport Library 224 North O'Plaine Road, Gurnee IL



Officers: Dr Tom Willer – President Bill Schultz – Vice President Dave Sadler – Secretary Walter F. Veile - Treasurer **US 2009 Stamp Program**. There will be no new issues in March and the USPS has indicated that this years stamp schedule may be reduced in the light of economic problems. Thus far there have been 13 issues (see below).

03 Jan 08 Jan 14 Jan 16 Jan 16 Jan	Scott 4374 4375 4376 4377 U666 4378 4379	Issue 42¢ Alaska Statehood 42¢ Lunar New Year: Ox 42¢ Oregon Statehood 42¢ Edgar Allan Poe \$4.95 Priority Mail Pre-Printed Envelope \$4.95 California Redwood Forest Priority Mail \$17.50 Old Faithful, Yellowstone Express Mail	Official Mail US	A ↓ SA ↓ S	4128b	Table Comp (12) Perforation
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21 Fet	9 4384	27¢ Miami University Postal Card 42¢ Civil Rights Pioneers (six designs - pane) a. 42¢ Mary Church Terrell and Mary White Ovi b. 42¢ J. R. Clifford and Joel Elias Spingarn c. 42¢ Oswald Garrison Villard and Daisy Gatso d. 42¢ Charles Hamilton Houston and Walter W e. 42¢ Medgar Evans and Fannie Lou Hamer f. 42¢ Ella Baker and Ruby Hurley	on Bates			2
24 Feb	0 0163 0 4385 0 4128c	1¢ Official (10¢) Patriotic Banner (42¢) Forever (2009 date) (PSA ATM/18) or 412	28b single	4384	1	

On May 11, the postal rates will go to 44¢ for a first class letter. This will bring out the usual number of 'rate change' issues. Sample of what is in the collector's future include:



Digital News. Linn's Stamp News has improved its digital/electronic version to where one can actually read the articles on the computer.

They shelved the Olive Tree rendering software and have gone to Mattercast.

To receive this service, one must subscribe to Linn's and sign up. The digital version is available on the publication date with the link via e-mail. All you have to do is click on the link and read.

Article are hyper-linked making it easier to navigate and advertisers who have websites are directly linked.

Another feature is the ability to look at past issues that are stored in Linn's achieves.



Additional publication are also available