

THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

MINUTES FOR THE:

Tuesday June 6, 2023 Meeting.

Meeting called to order at 7:32 PM by President Michael Drabick, with nine WPNS Members present and one Guest. Mike D. starts the meeting with a short talk about D-Day, as today is the 79th anniversary of “Operation Overlord” also known as “D-Day”, when some 156,000 American, British and Canadian forces landed on five beaches along a 50-mile stretch of the heavily fortified coast of France’s Normandy beaches. Mike recited from memory a short poem which his father had written and spoke each day as he woke while he served in Europe at the end of WWII, praying that he and his fellow soldiers would soon be returned safely to America victorious.

Meeting held at the Mount Lebanon United Methodist Church at 3319 West Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15216

- 1) **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – Minutes from the May 2, 2023 meeting were read and accepted.
- 2) **TREASURER’S REPORT** – Larry H. reports May 31, 2023 Dollar Bank balance of \$2256.56. New checks from Dollar Bank have been received as WPNS had been using Allegheny Valley Bank checks to pay expenses. (AVB was the predecessor to Standard Bank which was the predecessor to Dollar Bank.) \$20 was received tonight as three items were auctioned off.
- 3) **COMMITTEE REPORTS** – No committee reports.
- 4) **CORRESPONDENCE** –
 - a. Mike D. received five certificates from the ANA recognizing “Speaker Meeting Presentations” and passed these out to WPNS Members who had given presentations in the last few months.
 - b. The ANA Election Ballot is due June 30, 2023. The candidates up for this election were reviewed and recommendations were made on who to vote – for any WPNS members who had not cast their ANA Ballot yet.
 - c. Two WPNS Members were certified at the May PAN show by Brett I. to be Exhibit Judges at future ANA and PAN shows – Mike D. and Isabelo T.
 - d. Richard J. requested that anyone willing to volunteer and help at the ANA World Fair of Money to be held at the David Lawrence Convention Center August 8-12 contact him. Pages (youths age 11 thru 22) will be needed as well as Adult Volunteers. All volunteers (including pages) must be ANA members.

5) **OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. The WPNS meeting for July will be held July 6th (THURSDAY NIGHT) at the Heinz History Center. **THE TENTATIVE TIMES FOR THIS JULY 6TH MEETING ARE – DOORS OPEN AT 6PM, WE WILL HAVE A SHORT WPNS MEETING AT 6:30PM, AND BOB STAKELY’S TOUR OF THE HHC WILL START AT 7PM.** We are normally at the HHC for the June meeting each year but our host, Robert Stakely, had a conflict for June. The HHC Exhibit will be the “Green Book” which deals with Black History and Slavery.
- b. The Officer Election for WPNS will be held at the HHC Meeting on July 6th. With the departure of recording secretary Malcolm J., Gosha F. has volunteered to be the new recording secretary in the future for all WPNS meetings she will attend. She will be doing some traveling in the next year and will have to miss some of the scheduled WPNS meetings.

6) **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **President Mike D. has requested that members think about signing up on our WPNS Program List for MONTHLY SPEAKERS as we will need a new slate of speakers starting with the September 2023 meeting.**
- b. Mike D. will try to firm up our plan to invite the UMC Boy Scouts to the August meeting. The Eagle Scout merit badge for coin collecting will be discussed as well as other pertinent information for Young Numismatics. Richard G. is scheduled to give the presentation that month on “P.T. Barnum” which should be interesting to YN. Larry H. is to inquire as to whether the St. Bernard Boy Scout group has any interest in attending.

7) **PRESENTATION** – Richard J. gives an excellent presentation on “Silver Classic Commemoratives.”

- a. Richard starts off by stating that Classic Commemoratives (CC) officially started with the production of the 1892 Columbian Half Dollar and the Isabella Quarter (to kick off the Columbian Exposition in 1893 – also known as the Chicago World’s Fair). However, the 1848 (CAL) Quarter Eagle gold coin has been recognized as the FIRST UNOFFICIAL CC.
- b. Collection tips for CC are as follows – you will need to acquire 50 Commemorative Coins (CC’s) if your intent is to purchase 1 for each of the 50 years in which CC’s were produced. But 144 CC’s will need to be acquired to obtain a complete collection for each year’s CC further delineated by the Mint.
- c. Many famous individuals have been memorialized on CC – Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, Lafayette. The 1900 Lafayette Dollar was produced to raise money to fund a Lafayette Statue in Paris France. Many New York City school children were called to participate here as they were part of the fundraising team – raising small dollars each as part of this project.
- d. CONGRESS had instructed that CC submissions be done to recognize “NATIONAL EVENTS” but PAROCHIALISM kicked in on the part of Congress as many later CC

nominations were made under a narrow focus FOR STATE OR LOCAL EVENTS, undermining the idea that CC's were to memorialize NATIONAL EVENTS. So, Congress made a move to "SUSPEND CC'S EXCEPT FOR "EXCEPTIONS"." One Exception was the Booker T. Washington CC.

- e. Two of Richard J.'s favorite CC are the "Oregon Trail CC" designed jointly by Mr./Mrs. Fraser. Mrs. Fraser did design 3 or 4 later CC's on her own but the Oregon Trail CC was the only joint design by the Fraser's. The Grant Memorial Dollar is another favorite of Richard J.
 - f. There were also a few gold CC's issued – such as the Lewis and Clarke CC and the McKinley CC, but Richard J. has focused his talk only on SILVER CC's.
 - g. Finally, a few of the Mint Engraver's associated with CC's are Morgan, Barber and Adam Peets.
- 8) **SHOW & TELL** – Richard C. brought an 1887 Christopher Columbus Medal and various Pittsburgh Medals for the club to review. Gosha F. brought a 1944 Replica of Nicolaus Copernicus' Astronomy Manuscript. This is an actual replica of Copernicus' writings on Astronomy **in LATIN**. A second volume on the work of Copernicus was published in 1948. EIGHT VOLUMES of Copernicus' studies were initially anticipated to be published, but only 2 books were ever produced, as the final 6 volumes never came to fruition.
- 9) **ADJOURNMENT** – The Meeting is adjourned at 9 PM.