

SVCC Meeting Minutes of September 13, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

Gold: \$1,913.21 Silver: \$ 23.00

Club Officers in attendance:

President – Bruce Williams

Vice President – Troy Dinin

Treasurer – Marlain Minardi

Corresponding Secretary, Mike Grieneisen

Recording Secretary, Patrick Carpenter

Assistant Treasurer, Nick Shel was not present. Bob Shanks filled in for Nick. Thanks, Bob!

Guests: Three guests attended the meeting: Bill Hawk, Elias Durham and Jeremiah Durham.

Attendance – Forty-two club members and the three guests listed above attended the meeting, for a total attendance of forty-five folks at our meeting.

Past Meeting Minutes: Minutes of our last regular club meeting on August 23, 2023, were provided to club members by email several days before the meeting. The reading of the minutes of our last meeting were waived and the minutes were approved.

Newsletter – Bruce commented that Mike Grieneisen once again did a great job with our club's newsletter. John Bither seconded that and other members noted how they both enjoyed receiving the newsletter and that is a great reminder of our upcoming club meetings.

Coin Fair – Our upcoming coin fair on October 25 was discussed. This is an opportunity for coin club members to bring in coins to sell. So far, three tables have sold and a signup sheet was passed around for folks to indicate their interest in filling a table with their coins to be offered for sale.

Financial Report - Marlain let the membership know that the club's checking account now stands at \$35,182.37. There is an additional \$6,000.73 in savings (that's our rainy-day fund for coin shows). Received bourse fees for the coin show total \$17,010. The Treasurer noted that the figures will change significantly when bills for the coin show come due. The bills to pay include rental of the hall from the hotel, payment for security services, and other coin show related outlays.

Great Coin Giveaway – The club's treasurer noted that fifty-four books of tickets for the upcoming Great Coin Giveaway have now been sold. Our goal remains eighty books sold prior to the start of the coin show. It was noted that getting your tickets at a club meeting is advantageous, as opposed to waiting until the coin show to buy the tickets. That is because we will have a drawing for an extra prize at our next club meeting of a one-tenth ounce gold coin. Everyone who has bought a book of tickets will be entered into the drawing for this bonus prize. Those who have bought multiple books of tickets will have multiple chances to win.

Coin Show – Bob Shanks reminded us of the great news that we now have all of our dealer tables filled. Patrick Carpenter announced that there is still a need for folks to volunteer to assist with the coin show. We have six open slots – three on Friday and three on Saturday. Members were reminded that by volunteering they get into the show for free and will receive a "thank you" gift from the club. The signup list was passed around and no one signed up. Later in the evening Club President Bruce asked again for folks to help out and one person volunteered to work one shift. We will continue to ask our members to help make the show a success by giving up a little time to assist with the coin show.

Show and Tell

Sydney Winkler – A 1915 commemorative one-dollar gold piece was shared by Sydney. The coin celebrates the Panama-Pacific International Exposition that was held in San Francisco to honor the completion of the Panama Canal. The coin's obverse depicts a typical canal construction worker and the reverse includes two dolphins, symbolizing the joining of the two oceans by the canal. Sydney also shared nice photos of a recent visit to the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco, the only remaining building from the 1915 expo.

Mike Grieneisen – A hint of what is to come... Mike previewed his educational talk that is scheduled for our next club meeting by showing several examples of coins or currency with more than one language on their designs. Mike showed a 1,000 Kronen note from 1902 Austria-Hungary that had German and eight other languages. Mike told us that U.S. coins and currency have at least thirteen languages. Of course, there is English and then there's Latin, such as "E Pluribus Unum." Mike reminded us of the Hawaiian words found on the reverse of the 2008 Hawaii quarter. If you want to find out about the other ten languages on our money, and see many more examples of "Multilingual Coins & Notes" – come to our next club meeting.

Rick Astorino – Political memorabilia is an interesting part of many coin collections. Rick shared a 1908 token the on one side depicted William Howard Taft and on the other had his opponent, William Jennings Bryan. Bryan was a lawyer, orator and politician, running unsuccessfully three times for the U.S. presidency. In 1925, he argued the case against John Scopes, a high school teacher who had instructed his class about human evolution. He won that case for the State of Tennessee, but he lost in the court of public opinion. Rick pointed out that that the token is unusual in that most political pieces support one candidate and this token's design included both major party candidates.

Robert Lizarraga – Robert shared two interesting tokens. One celebrated the 1898 semicentennial (50-year anniversary) of the discovery of gold in California. The other was a badge from a convention held in 1897 for miners. It is great to be able to see these mementos from a bygone time.

Christopher Hayes – What do you make of a coin that is more than eighty years old and has turned black and yet still maintains full mint luster? That question was posed by Christopher who brought in a curious 1939 S cent. It was in nearly uncirculated condition and yet had turned very dark. This is another case of seeing that many old coins have stories to tell if only we could know more about their history.

Ross Woodman – Have you ever gotten a bargain in a "fire sale"? Ross brought in a very unusual gold certificate. It was a \$10,000 note, series 1900, that was never put into public circulation. This series was created for transferring large sums between banks and has a printed design on only one side of the note. This note found its way into the hands of collectors via a post office fire. In 1935 there was a fire in a post office building near the U.S. Treasury in Washington D.C. Employees threw burning boxes out of the windows including a box of high-denomination currency that was in storage in that federal building. The public scooped up the notes hoping they were now rich. The notes were worthless as they had all been marked as "canceled". Many decades later, these notes will cost a collector more than three thousand dollars as there are only several hundred known. They are the only example of circulating U.S. currency that is worth less than its face value.

Glenn Stuter – Silver Strike is the term for a special type of gaming token that were used in casinos decades ago. These tokens are silver, and some have been electroplated with gold and encased in a brass ring to make them even more attractive. These tokens were used in certain slot machines that could pay out a bucket full of these wonderful rounds, but very rarely did. Glenn brought in a Silver Strike that had a design of four queens, originating at the Four Queens Casino in Las Vegas. The token is extra special for Glenn as it reminds him of a memorable dinner that he shared with his

grandparents nearly a half century ago in the historic Four Queens Casino that included a very fancy menu and three delicious bottles of Dom Perignon champagne.

\$2 Bill Walden – When is a graded coin not in a slab? That would be coins certified in the 1970s and 1980s. Bill brought in a ANACS “photograde” coin. He explained that ANACS started certifying coins as genuine in 1972 and added grading to that service in 1979. Coins from that era were not sealed in rigid plastic slabs, but were encased in flexible sealed plastic envelopes with information about the coin and a photo of it to help ensure that the correct coin was matched with the certification. The rigid plastic slabs replaced the use of the “photograde” envelopes in 1989. Bill’s coin in this almost forgotten style of third-party coin guarantee was a Morgan dollar.

Weston Stepp – As a great contrast from the very early days of coin grading as seen in Bill’s Morgan dollar, Weston showed our club members the latest type of coin grading – a CAC holder. The Certified Acceptance Corporation (CAC) has, for many years, been known for identifying the very best of coins by placing a small sticker (the “green bean”) on slabbed coins that they judged to be exceptional examples of the graded coin. Starting just recently CAC has been doing the coin grading and, if the coin meets their high standards, returning those coins in a CAC slab rather than just adding a sticker to another company’s slab. Weston picked up this latest look in collectible coins at a recent coin show.

Gary Cathey – For collectors that enjoy large note currency, the 1899 \$5 gold certificate is held in high regard. The note is to date the only one to feature an indigenous figure on U.S. currency. The central figure on the obverse is Running Antelope, a beautifully rendered Indian chief. Gary told how this note has long been on his “want list” and how happy he is to now have it in his collection. Gary’s note is graded 65 EPQ. The EPQ stands for “exceptional paper quality” and means that his is an excellent example of this prized large note.

Club President, Bruce Williams, was happy to give a 1907 Barber half dollar to Gary Cathey, the winner of the random drawing from among tonight’s participants in Show and Tell.

Break started at 7:37 p.m. and was over at 7:51 p.m.

Auction started at 7:52 p.m. with John Degen, as our club’s auctioneer. There were ten items that were donated to the club, including two more coin cases that the coin club no longer uses. Both coin cases sold, but one of the buyers forgot to bring their coin case home with them. Rick and John kindly took it with them to hold at their coin shop for the owner to reclaim. Fifty-one lots were offered in the auction by members selling some part of their collection. The auction concluded at 8:35 p.m.

Raffle – Gary Cathey was the lucky winner of the grand prize, a lovely bullion 1/10th ounce gold piece.

Next Meeting – Bruce let the membership know that our next meeting will be on September 27. Mike Grieneisen will be providing an educational presentation about coins and currency that include wording text from different languages. Surely, it will be interesting. This is also the meeting where one of the folks who have bought a full book of tickets for our upcoming Grand Coin Giveaway will win a one-tenth gold coin. Of course, there will also be a lively auction, door prizes, member prizes and a raffle with wonderful coins that will be awarded to lucky club members.

The meeting ended a bit earlier than most at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, September 14, 2023
Patrick Carpenter, Recording Secretary SVCC