

## **SVCC Meeting Minutes of July 24, 2024**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. This meeting convened at our regular meeting spot, Swanston Community Center in Sacramento. It was a very warm evening outside, and so it was a good time to be inside enjoying our hobby.

Gold: \$ 2,398.76                      Silver: \$ 28.91

### **Club Officers in attendance:**

President – Bruce Williams	Vice President – Troy Dinin
Treasurer – Marlain Minardi	Assistant Treasurer – Nick Shel
Recording Secretary – Patrick Carpenter	

Corresponding Secretary, Mike Grieneisen, was absent.

**Guests:** We had four guests at the meeting. We were glad to welcome back a former club member, Bev Haris. Returning for her sixth meeting of the year was Keitha Hunter, a long-time supporter of the club and chauffeur to our gimpy recording secretary. Also, back for their second club meeting this year were Annur Malik and Monique Cox. Welcome to them all.

**Attendance** – Fifty-six club members plus four guests were in attendance, for a total of sixty people enjoying the club meeting. This was our highest number of club members in attendance this year. Included in the group of club members were Jerry and Perry Bowens. These two club members have been missed over these past four years – it is great to have them back in the club.

**New Club Members** – We were pleased to vote in two new club members – Kayla and Alyssa Gonzalez, daughters of club member David Gonzalez. These two sisters add to our growing number of active youth numismatists. When asked what coins they like to collect, they answered, “pennies” and “silver.”

**Past Meeting Minutes** - Minutes of our last regular club meeting on July 10, 2024, were provided to club members by email several days before the meeting. The reading of the minutes of our last meeting was waived and the minutes were approved without any changes.

**Report of Summer Coin Fun** – Patrick Carpenter and Sydney Winkler told the club members about their recent experiences at the ANA’s annual Summer Seminar. Patrick explained that the American Numismatic Association (ANA) has been hosting numismatists for two weeks of coin study and fellowship every summer for over fifty years. This was Patrick’s first time and Sydney’s second time attending. The event is located on the campus of Colorado College in Colorado Springs. Students come from many nations around the world and nearly every state in the US. Meeting and sharing stories about coin collecting with so many dedicated hobbyists is one of the great joys of the whole experience.

Patrick’s class focused on the grading of world coins and was taught by the top world coin grader at PCGS. Sydney’s class was the second in the series of grading US coins – a very popular class at the Summer Seminar. Both thoroughly enjoyed their classes and plan on attending again in the near future.

Right next door to the campus is ANA’s Money Museum with many of the finest examples of coins and currency on display. Admission is free for all Summer Seminar participants. Patrick

shared photos of a pair of 1804 dollars, a 1913 Liberty nickel, a 1792 half dime, and a 90-pound Yap stone. Sydney told how she went back to the museum as often as possible as there was so much to see. She shared photos of some of her favorite exhibits including the full set of commemoratives from the 1915 Panama Pacific Exposition – with the rarely seen pair of \$50 gold commemorative coins and the original presentation box. She also shared photos of a hike she enjoyed at the Garden of the Gods, a natural rock wonderland about fifteen miles from campus. The spectacular scenery of the area makes a visit here a memorable experience.

The course offerings change from year to year, so Patrick and Sydney will alert the club members when the 2025 course catalogue is released. Patrick noted that the cost of his full week of coin fun, including airfare, classes, room, meals, a bonus tour of the Denver Mint, and staying an extra day to attend a coin show, was well under \$1,900. Patrick and Sydney both recommend that all club members seriously consider attending ANA's Summer Seminar. See you all in Colorado next June!

### **Educational Presentation – John Bither and “My 1795 Dollar”**

John started his presentation with a “secret” for all the young numismatists in the audience – there will be an extra prize for all the kids who visit the Club Table during the Saturday scavenger hunt at our club's next coin show.

Prior to showing us the wonderful early American coin for which John Bither is justly proud, John instructed the club members about the minting process that was used in the very early years of the US Mint. The coin press was powered by beasts of burden, horses and oxen, and the labor of two men. One would set the heated coin blank (known as a planchette) in the open collar of the press while the other drove the screw-press' hubs together multiple times in getting the proper impression of the coin. This was a labor intensive, slow, and inexact method that was used from 1792 through the 1830's when steam power was first adapted to greatly improve the coining process. John detailed that even before the unstruck coin blank could get to the press, there were multiple problems with inconsistent thicknesses of the planchettes. It all goes back to the sheets of metal from which the coin blanks were cut – it just wasn't possible to get these sheets to have an acceptably uniform thickness. This resulted in many cut coins being too light, requiring them to be pulled from production and sent back for remelting to be part of another sheet of metal. Other coin blanks came out too heavy, requiring them to be shaved down by mint workers using crude metal files. The coins that required filing, went into the coin press with many deep gouges on their faces. Many times, the underpowered coin press would be unable to fully impress the desired image on the coin, leaving telltale adjustment marks on the finished product.

After giving us a peek into the crude and difficult minting process used in the early years of our Mint, John shared a photo of his 1795 dollar. It has the “Flowing Hair” design created by the Mint's Chief Engraver Robert Scot. This design was only used to produce silver dollars in 1794 and part of 1795. John's special coin has been graded by CAC as Extra Fine 40. John pointed out that the left wing of the eagle on the reverse appears somewhat worn, but that the coin still retains great “eye appeal.” John remarked that coin grading is based on a coin's strike, luster and bag marks, but it is a coin's “eye appeal” which is the paramount quality that make a coin a collectable treasure. John also pointed out how the denticles, the tiny toothlike marks just inside the rim of the coin, appear shorter on the top of the reverse side than on the bottom of that side of the coin. John explained that the reverse was struck slightly off-center. Another

interesting aspect of the coin is that on the obverse several short horizontal adjustment marks can be seen in Miss Liberty's hair, just below her right ear. These are examples of the crude coin filing that was done on overly thick planchets prior to coining. Another curious feature of the coin is that on its reverse there are two laurel leaves under each of the eagle's wings. The more commonly found coins of this design have three leaves at these locations, therefore John's coin is the slightly more valuable variety.

In grading coins made prior to the steam driven press, John believes that one should be more forgiving of a coin's appearance. As they were just about "hand made," it just isn't appropriate to hold these early coins to a high standard for conformity of appearance that one uses on coins made after the steam driven coin presses came into the production process for the US Mint. John feels that his coin is properly graded and is justifiably proud of it. In closing, John wished to thank Americana Rare Coin for their assistance in helping him obtain this great addition to his collection. John promises to bring the coin to a club meeting in the near future so we all can see it in person.

Many thanks to John Bither for the fascinating history lesson and for sharing the story of his very special coin.

**Break** time started at 8:05 p.m. and ended at 8:17 p.m. During the break, club members enjoyed homemade cookies prepared by Bruce's wife. This was a real treat – many thanks to our club's favorite baker!

**Auction** - The auction began at 8:18 p.m. with John Degan presiding as our busy auctioneer. There were twenty-one donated items, a record number for this year, followed by forty-eight lots of numismatic items that club members submitted for bidding and purchase. The auction was done at 9:04 p.m.

**Raffle** – The top prize, a U.S. 1/10<sup>th</sup>-ounce gold bullion coin, was won by Steve Weaver. Congratulations to Steve – he's a lucky fellow having won this prize quite a few times this year.

The meeting concluded at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, July 25, 2024  
Patrick Carpenter, Recording Secretary SVCC