

PCNS Minutes for July 27, 2022

The board meeting for July 27, 2022, was called to order via Zoom at 7:15 PM by President Jason Macario. In attendance were Secretary Charlie Catlett, Treasurer Stephen Huston, past president Dan Hipple, Governors Bob Somers and Mike McDaniel, and Michael Wehner.

The minutes for the May and June meetings were approved.

Financial reports for July and the 2nd Quarter of 2022 were discussed.

Membership: New member- Rob Cummings, Oakland

New member application: Jim Anderson, Santa Rosa- he will become a member at the August meeting.

November 2022 meeting: The fourth Thursday in November is a day before Thanksgiving, and there is a fifth Thursday in the month. The board was in favor of moving the November meeting to the fifth Thursday and will bring it up at the general meeting.

New business: there was discussion as to holding the December meeting on December 21 or December 28, as well as whether to meet in person (for a party) or via Zoom. Elections will be held that month. There was little enthusiasm about an in-person meeting. With the need to decide soon in mind, Jason essentially ruled for a Zoom meeting. This in part is due to very poor December attendance at Fort Mason the last 1-2 years as well as continued uncertainty about the level and risks of Covid.

Adjournment 7:28 PM.

At 7:32 PM, general meeting #1275 was called to order. Present, in addition to the members from the board meeting via Zoom were Doug Ward, Herb Miles, Scott Safe, Robert Jesinger, and Harold Tuchfeld.

Jason announced our newest member, Rob Cummings from Oakland.

We have a new member application from Jim Anderson of Santa Rosa, who will become a member as of the next meeting.

There was discussion about a preference for a meeting date in November. The fourth Wednesday is a day before Thanksgiving, and there will be a fifth Wednesday that month. The consensus was to hold the meeting the fifth Wednesday, November 30.

Featured speaker: Charlie Catlett

The 1933 Santa Monica Breakwater H&K Dollar

Charlie talked about seeing the 1933 Santa Monica Breakwater H&K Dollar in Jeff Shevlin's case at a coin show. The token brought back childhood memories of going to Santa Monica Beach, but there was something that did not make sense about it. The obverse featured the Santa Monica Municipal Pier and the breakwater. The reverse featured a woman in a swimsuit

sitting on a beach, with a *different* pier in the background with a roller coaster on it, and motto "SOUVENIR FROM CALIFORNIA'S PLAYGROUND/OCEAN PARK. This prompted a look into the three different local piers in the Santa Monica area.

The Venice Pier was built in 1904 by millionaire Abbott Kinney, who also built the Venice canals. Storms and fire destroyed a few versions of the pier, then the City of Los Angeles declined to renew the tidelands lease the pier was on. So, the pier was removed in 1946-7. A fishing pier was built in 1965 and is still in place today.

Ocean Park was a 1-1/2 mile parcel of marshy Santa Monica beachfront developed by Abbott Kinney. A former business partner, Alexander Fraser, built his Million Dollar Pier there in 1911 as a direct competition to the Venice Pier. An adjacent pier was soon added on to it, only for both to be destroyed by fire- over and over. A 1925 rebuilt pier eventually went downhill, only to be revived in 1956 as Pacific Ocean Park (P.O.P), which outdrew Disneyland in attendance the first week it opened. It too went downhill and closed in 1967, followed by a series of arson fires that destroyed anything remaining.

The Santa Monica Pier was built in 1909 over a large sewer pipe draining raw sewage into the ocean. A second pier was added on to it in 1916, including amusements and the Loof Hippodrome with a carousel. A 1923 upgrade included building the La Monica Ballroom at the end of the pier, the largest ballroom in the U.S. at the time. Business declined, and after the depression little remained on the pier except for the carousel. A 1983 storm destroyed part of the pier, leading to a civic restoration process and return of an amusement park. Pacific Park opened in 1996 and is still running today.

The breakwater at the end of the Santa Monica Pier was started in 1933, finished in 1934. Finishing celebrations included nine days of boat races. The breakwater was a disaster because ocean turbulence from it reshaped many local beaches. It eventually started sinking into the sandy seafloor and was washed away over the years from various storms, finally being swept away in 1982.

The 1933-dated medal features an aerial view of the Santa Monica Pier (by then devoid of amusement rides) and the breakwater, which wasn't completed until 1934. The reverse shows a woman in a swimsuit (looking like Charlie's grandmother, seen in a photo of her in 1928-9 with similar attire) but a different pier in the background. An old photo of the Ocean Park pier matches the design of the medal. The medal was made by the Los Angeles Rubber Stamp Company (L.A.R.S. Co), which went out of business in 1960. All the L.A.R.S. Co dies were purchased by someone named Anillo, but any other info about this medal's sponsor and mintage numbers have been lost.

The 1933 Santa Monica Breakwater H&K dollar was produced in silver, brass, bronze, copper, nickel, brass with bronze center, brass with aluminum center, aluminum with brass center, and aluminum. Several the aluminum medals were also anodized in blue, yellow, and orange, according to the literature available. At the end of the talk Robert Jesinger showed us medals in orange (a photo with that color had been unavailable for the initial presentation), with green and red ones as well! The green and red medals also had counterstamps, of unknown purpose.

The talk was recorded and is available on the videos page of our Society's website.

Member Exhibits:

Stephen showed us several CSNA medals. For each of the northern or southern California conventions, a medal would be produced—hopefully with an appealing image so that the medals would sell. He showed us-

- 2012 (Long Beach) Skunk Train design

- 2011 (Long Beach) Route 66 design. Route 66 starts in Santa Monica, ends in Chicago. The tiny lettering of cities on the map route shown in the medal was done by hand
- 2009 (San Jose) Santa Monica Pier Centennial! It was produced in four metals - golden bronze, antiqued bronze (oxidized), silver, and aluminum. He showed all but the silver. And ironically it also has the reverse featuring the woman in a swimsuit sitting in front of the *Ocean Park* Pier.

Bob showed us his recently acquired proof 1972 White House medal in 40% silver, 33mm. He had been looking for this for a long time and was happy to get it. The reverse features the seal of the United States. There were also pewter and bronze versions of this medal

Scott showed us his 1964 New York World's Fair 30th Anniversary medals in bronze and silver. He also showed a 1974-76 Central City Colorado 1 ounce silver round. He talked about looking for all the local varieties of silver rounds produced in the region, and this is one of two he had been looking for.

Michael showed us a Nobel Prize medal and gave a quick preview of his talk on the Nobel medals in November.

The August talk will be on So-Called Dollars of the Mega Red Book, and Federico will give a talk in September.

The general meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie Catlett, Secretary PCNS