The board meeting for December 27, 2023, was called to order via Zoom at 7:15 PM by President Jason Macario. In attendance were Vice President Bill Hyder, Treasurer Stephen Huston, Secretary Charlie Catlett, Governors Bob Somers, Mike McDaniel and Ed Treuting, and member Michael Wehner.

The minutes for the November meeting were approved.

Financial report: the report was sent to board members prior to the meeting and was discussed.

Speakers for 2024 are still needed.

Jason sent the board sample score sheets used for the papers contest, in anticipating a need for a score sheet for the 2023 Annual Presentation Contest. There were comments on appropriate things to consider for judging the presentations, which differ from the papers judging. A proper score sheet will be developed, with Stephen offering to be a judge and helping with this matter.

There are two new applications for membership: Toti Paliza and Miralyn Sarino.

New Business: none

Adjournment 7:27 PM

At 7:32 PM, general meeting #1292 was called to order. Present in addition to the members from the board meeting via Zoom were Charlie Ludvic, Scott Safe, John Duff, Jeff Pritchard, Federico Castillo, Doug Ward, Paul Turner, Dean Ristenpart, Sergio Valverde-Alpizar, Toti Paliza, and Marilyn Sarino.

Speakers are still needed for 2024- please let us know if you can give a presentation.

Judges are needed for the Annual Presentation Contest, which will entail reviewing eleven programs from 2023. More to come about this at future meetings.

We have received two new member applications: Toti Paliza from San Francisco and his sister Miralyn Sarino from the Philippines. They will become members as of the January meeting.

Nominations were opened for officers of the society. The current board members all agreed to serve another one-year term. As there were no new nominations, the current slate of officers was re-elected unanimously. They are Jason Macario, President; Bill Hyder, Vice-President; Stephen Huston, Treasurer; Charlie Catlett, Secretary; and Governors Bob Somers, Ed Treuting, and Mike McDaniel.

Featured Speaker: Federico Castillo "California's Lumber Industry Through Its Tokens"

Federico collects several different topical kinds of tokens, mostly from Costa Rica and often related to businesses like coffee and bananas. And he collects tokens from the California lumber industry. He briefly described the main types of forest trees and gave a Northern California logging timeline beginning in 1851 with Henry Meiggs and his logging camp.

Most California lumber companies were financed from the East Coast or the American South. There were two main sectors of logging: Coastal/Northern, which included some counties on the coast; and Interior Northern which did not have any coastal counties. But there were similarities with the two sectors. To transport lumber, they used railroads, inclines, water, and flumes, as well as some horse/mule drawn teams. The companies were the most important or sole owner of the logging town, owning the company store, churches, recreation halls, etc. This was important for keeping the workers in place as sometimes labor supply became a big issue.

Federico stated that lumber tokens shared the same elements as tokens of other industries like mining, sugar cane, bananas, and coffee. He then showed us a nice selection of his collection. Some of the lumber companies were huge, like the 600,000-acre McCloud River Lumber Company. Other notable companies in his collection were Hutchinson, Weed, Anderson, and Red River Lumber.

In conclusion, Federico discussed some reasons for the decline of the lumber industry. There were several questions at the end of this excellent presentation. The recorded talk will be available on the Society's Videos webpage.

Member Exhibits:

Charlie showed two items. First was a tiny 6mm silver coin from Cilicia, 4th century BC, with a Janiform head (conjoined heads, facing opposite directions), and nice detail for such a small coin. Next was a medal being produced for the Redwood Empire Coin Club's 75th Anniversary in March, featuring a bear on the obverse and a giant redwood tree in a grove on the reverse.

Bill showed us an 1880 Oregon souvenir logging medal. His grandfather was a logger, and he described details of growing up around small logging towns.

Michael W showed two art medals with forests. The first depicted a French castle with a wooded pathway. The other French medal depicted trees forming a hollow path/tunnel.

Doug showed his 1882 California Gold charm depicting the Man in the Moon and a star. It is a "Period 2 charm" not used as fractional currency. But it was a beautiful design which several members commented on, and more is to be learned about the origin of the design.

The general meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM. The next meeting will be January 24, 2024.

Respectfully submitted, Charlie Catlett, Secretary PCNS