

PCNS Minutes for January 28, 2026

The board meeting for January 28, 2026, 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 Mike McDaniel, Ed Treuting, and Jeff Pritchard, and Past President Dan Hipple.

The minutes for the December meeting were approved.

A 2025 Annual Report was sent to the board, followed by a January 2026 report. These were briefly discussed, followed by a discussion of expenses related to printing of the Schimmel book.

Speakers are needed for April 2026 and beyond.

Judges are needed for the presentation contest.

Summer BBQ: we discussed the possibility of moving the 2026 Summer BBQ to May or July, due to potential conflicts in June. With a unanimous vote it was decided to keep the BBQ in June and reconsider a change next year. Federico Castillo has graciously agreed to host the BBQ again on June 27, 2026.

New Business: none.

Adjournment 7:38 PM.

At 7:39 PM general meeting #1317 was called to order. Present in addition to the members from the board meeting via Zoom were Henry Goodman, Dean Neald, Greg Burns, Herb Miles, and Federico Castillo.

Judges are needed for the presentation contest.

Speakers are needed for April 2026 and beyond.

Banana Republics Through Their Exonomia
By Federico Castillo

Federico collects Central American tokens, and has several from banana plantations. He explained the term "Banana Republic", which has become a derogatory term. The first person to use the expression was author O. Henry (William Sidney Potter) while hiding from authorities in Honduras as he wrote *Cabbages and Kings*.

It all began in Costa Rica in the 1840s-1880s when a railroad was needed to transport coffee from the central valley to the Atlantic coast to facilitate trade in Europe. Federico outlined the detailed history of attempts to build railroads and the varied means of obtaining financing (legally and through bribery and political manipulation) in Costa Rica and eventually in Honduras and Guatemala as well. Bananas, coffee, and sugar cane became lucrative crops.

Along with the history, Federico shared many medals and tokens related to the railroad builders, politicians, and plantations involved. A recording of his detailed talk will be available on the Society's webpage.

Member Exhibits

Henry showed us a large 1929/1930 Juan Gomez pattern medallion by Goetz.

Bill showed his 1836 Central American Republic eight reales coin.

Charlie displayed a Roman gold aureus of Hadrian featuring an image of Janus on the reverse.

Stephen showed an exhibit of planned 2026 U.S. Mint coins, our semiquincentennial (250-year anniversary).

Federico showed a Masonic badge from Peru, from the Henry Meiggs chapter. Henry was the first builder of the railroad in Costa Rica, along with other characters in Federico's talk. Check out the YouTube video!

The general meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM. The next meeting will be on February 25, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie Catlett, Secretary PCNS