

PCNS Minutes for July 22, 2026

The July 22, 2026 PCNS Board Meeting (Via Zoom), was called to order at 7:15 PM by President Jason Macario.

In attendance were Acting Secretary Mike McDaniel, Treasurer Stephen Huston, Past President Dan Hipple, and Vice President Bill Hyder. Herb Miles, Jeff Pritchard, Michael Wehner, and Scott Safe also sat in at the board meeting.

- The minutes for the June meeting were approved.
- The financial report for July was discussed and no changes were recommended.
- We need presentations for PCNS monthly meetings from Sept-Dec 2026 and beyond.
- The Board discussed whether the PCNS should publish (print) the seventeen papers that have been submitted in the last four years and have not been published in hard copy.
 - Pros and cons were discussed
 - **Action:** Stephen to report the total number of pages in these seventeen papers in the August PCNS board meeting
- A similar topic was also discussed: should the PCNS continue to periodically publish numismatic monographs
 - **Tabled:** Once a member proposes a suitable topic and work product, the idea will be revisited
- Adjournment 7:33 PM.
- At 7:39, general meeting #1323 was called to order. Present, in addition to the board meeting attendees, were John Duff, Charlie Ludvik, Doug Ward, and guest Alex Stacks.
- Members were informed that speakers are needed for Sept-Dec 2026 and beyond
- Guest Alex Sacks promoted his August 1 SF Coin Club Show. It will be held at Fort Mason Gallery #308, from 10 AM – 4 PM, with early-bird entrance at 8:30 AM for an additional fee.

Leshar Referendum Dollars “Pikes-Peak Silver Mine Scene” Finally Explained

Scott Safe

Scott gave a remarkably interesting talk on the Leshar Referendum Dollars (LRDs), their political background, with a focus on their Pikes-Peak silver mine scene.

- I. Biography of Joseph Leshner
 - a. Leshner was born in Fremont Ohio on July 12, 1838, and died in his home in Victor Colorado on July 4, 1918
 - b. In between he spent different periods in OH and CO
 - c. Often worked in mining-related and other activities in CO, was a Democrat proponent of bi-metallic money policy and free silver coinage
 - d. Leshner dollars were done to promote the intrinsic value of silver
- II. Leshner Referendum Dollars
 - a. LRDs are one of several coins, medals, and patterns issued by private and public parties to address the question of bimetallic policy
 - b. There are six types and twelve varieties
 - c. The engraver was Otto Hall
 - d. Leshner tried to comply with guidance to avoid trouble with the federal government and but had run-ins with the US Secret Service who patrol counterfeiting
 - i. His use of phrase "At face value" resulted in the dies being seized by the Secret Service
 - e. Total mintage for all six types is unknown
 - f. F. Zerbe published a paper on the pieces in 1917 and his attribution numbering system is still used by enthusiasts
- III. Silver mining scene device on pieces
 - a. In the last 126 years, only 49 words were published regarding the silver mining scene device of these pieces
 - b. Seems to a perspective from a vantage point Cripple Creek, CO
 - c. Scott Safe's great-grandfather John Johnson Epley built the first silver smelter in Silverton, CO in 1874
 - d. Scott Safe's research has provided new insights into this device, which is an illustration of Epley's works
- IV. Festival Mountain and Plain (Mardis Gras-like festival)
 - a. Began in 1895 and became an annual event until 1900
 - b. Secret society called Slaves of the Silver Serpent was modelled after "Rex" society in New Orleans
 - c. Medals and ribbons from the FM&P are rare and collectable
- V. Herman Otto
 - a. Exactly why did Leshner choose the Pikes-Peak Silver Mine Scene device?
 - b. How did Herman Otto turn around three brand new dies and have 1,000 pieces struck in Denver in a two week window when requested by Leshner?
- VI. Discovery and conclusions
 - a. Scott Safe purchase a Festival Mountain and Plain medal on e-Bay
 - b. After carefully studying his new possession, he realized that a small HO on the piece was the signature of Herman Otto
 - c. Further study revealed that the major lines and elements align in the Pikes-Peak device on the LRD and the FM&P Medal
 - d. Conclusion: Herman Otto used his models from the 1899 Festival Mountain and Plain medal as the basis for his die work on the 1900-1901 Leshner Referendum Dollars

The talk was recorded for posting on the PCNS website.

Member Exhibits:

- Bill showed a 1922 “Days of ‘49” medal from Sacramento and a photograph of a woman who owns a complete set of 1913 Edward Sawyer Indian Medals
- Michael shared a Bumstead variety Leshher Dollar, with the serial number #20, the lowest of 210 known for that Leshher Dollar type
- Guest Alex Stacks shared a slabbed Zerbe #3 variety, with a grade of XF-45 by PCGS

The general meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike McDaniel, Acting-Secretary PCNS