

PCNS Minutes for October 27, 2021

The board meeting for October 27, 2021, was called to order via Zoom at 7:06 PM by President Jason Macario. Remote attendance included Treasurer Stephen Huston, Secretary Charlie Catlett, Governors Paul Turner and Bob Somers as well as Bill Hyder and Michael Wehner. Governor Ed Treuting sent his regrets for not being able to attend, and Past President Dan Hipple was also unable to attend.

The minutes for the August and September meetings were approved.

The treasurer's report had very little change (no pun intended).

Return to Fort Mason: It is still planned for November 2021. Jason plans to arrive early, and we will plan on having Zoom capability during the in-person meeting.

Status of Medals order: Bill will contact the minter and will forward us information as soon as he receives it. The dies were received.

There was a new member application by Fred Truex announced in the PCNS Bulletin. His membership will be announced at the general meeting.

2019-2021 Papers printing layout PDF: Michael completed the PDF layout of the papers. Ed has presented his cost proposal (on-line) and will help with finalizing the decision of a few remaining details. In the past, three printed copies of the PCNS Papers went to each author who had a paper in print. Michael will query the authors to determine if any of those additional copies need to be included in the print run. The Board voted to approve Michael moving forward to finalize the remaining details and have the papers printed.

Vacancies coming in 2022:

Papers Contest Coordination

Drawing Prize Coordinator

Archives Storage and Maintenance: we discussed Stephen's proposal should nobody offer to take the position.

In addition, a position of Vice President is vacant, and a candidate would be welcomed.

New Business: none

Adjournment 7:33 PM

At 7:34 PM, general meeting #1266 was called to order via Zoom. In attendance along with those from the board meeting were Fred Truex, Mike McDaniel, Doug Ward, and Dean Neald.

We welcomed new member Fred Truex from North Hills, CA (Southern California). He collects late date large cents by die variety, and California good-for tokens.

In-person meetings are scheduled to return to Fort Mason in November.

Vacancies coming in 2022:

Papers Contest Coordinator

Raffle Prize Coordinator- Mike volunteered for the position

Archives Storage and Maintenance- we discussed Stephen's proposal should nobody else offer to take the position. Doug expressed interest in the position, but he lives a long distance away. Stephen and Doug will take the discussion off-line to see if some kind of arrangement can be made. We have until the end of the year to decide.

In addition, all Board positions are open for nomination, and elections will be held in December. The current Board Members all expressed willingness to serve again next year. There is a vacancy in the Vice-President position, and duties/responsibilities were discussed.

We need an in-person presenter for the November Fort Mason meeting, as well as future presenters and back-ups. Please let Jason or Stephen know if you are available or know of a speaker.

Featured speaker: Michael Wehner
"Mexican-American War Generals"

Michael began the talk by describing the Mexican-American War of 1846-1848, provoked by the U.S. annexation of Texas. There were lots of other factors contributing to the war. It seems like a relatively obscure event taught in U.S. schools but is an important historical event to Mexicans. Tens of thousands of soldiers were involved on both sides, and Mexico lost 51% of its land mass in defeat (but not that large a population since there was much sparsely inhabited land). The U.S. gained California, New Mexico, and parts of other states as well.

There were two generals on the U.S. side. Major General Zachary Taylor was presented with three Congressional Gold Medals for battles he won. Michael showed the three medals and discussed the Battle of Buena Vista in detail, as it was the last one in northern Mexico and its celebration helped elect Taylor president.

The Battle of Buena Vista featured Taylor's army stationed above the surrounding plain, and Mexican General Santa Ana's army marching through tough desert and on the flatlands to get to the Americans. The first day was rather brutal, with lots of casualties, but no victor. The next day Santa Ana declared victory and withdrew his depleted army. Taylor, with his depleted forces, also declared victory. Had Santa Ana known how weak Taylor's forces were and attacked a second day, the outcome could have been far different.

The reverse of the 89.5mm Congressional Medal for the Battle of Buena Vista was incredibly detailed. It shows the mountains in the distance, what appears to be thousands of soldiers on the plains, and even Taylor can be seen on horseback.

Major General Winfield Scott led the other army in the war, crossing through the middle of Mexico and capturing Mexico City- which forced Mexico to cede defeat. He was an older soldier, having won a Congressional Gold Medal for the War of 1812. He was given an 89.5mm Congressional Medal for his Mexican campaign. The reverse listed many battles of that campaign.

Michael went on to discuss the various known engravers of these medals. He also described Taylor's Louisiana medal, made before the Buena Vista medal, and Scott's Virginia medal. Finally, he showed some political campaign tokens of both men from 1852- Taylor won the presidential election.

General Santa Ana had two different medals struck, both rarer than the Taylor/Scott medals. And one battle from the war is celebrated as a national holiday in Mexico. Dia de los Niños Héroes celebrates the six young valiant cadets who fought and died for their country as martyrs (rather than celebrating the questionable generals who lost the war).

The presentation was recorded and should be available in the near future for viewing on the internet.

Member Exhibits:

Bill H began with a shell card, featuring a bust of George Washington on the metal obverse. The cardboard reverse was for John Lotka with Munn & Co, NY. Munn & Co was the publisher of Scientific American until 1940, as well as a business of attorneys. John Lotka was one of the attorneys, and this was a form of a business card for him.

Mike M showed a 55mm bronze medal from Buenos Aires celebrating the opening of La Plata Port in 1890.

Michael W showed a ~60mm Art Deco style Medallion Art Company medal for its 50th Anniversary. The image on the obverse was shown as a medal with the same image (being held in hand) on the reverse

The general meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie Catlett, Secretary PCNS