

# THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Mount Lebanon United Methodist Church at 3319 West Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15216

## Minutes from August 5, 2025

WPNS President Michael Drabick called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm. Twelve members and one guest present.

### Minutes from the Previous Meeting

Minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved. (Motion Krivoniak, second Crosby.)

### Treasurer's Report

- Account balance as of July 31 was \$1,870.72. Several checks have not yet cleared.
- Three members have yet to pay 2025 dues, one of whom was present (and paid before meeting's end).
- The club needs to pay the church for the meeting space, normally done in July or August.

Correspondence: None.

### Old business:

- Still no candidate for sergeant at arms.
- Planned presentations titles should be sent to Corleen as soon as possible.
- Discussion on donations, i.e. someone donating items with numismatic value to the club.  
How best to handle? Several suggestions were put forth:
  - Sell directly via eBay.
  - Michael suggested to filter through a collector, get a fair price, rather than go through eBay which takes a percentage.
  - Re-donate as give-aways or a raffle twice a year.
  - Possibly sell at a coin show at a WPNS table, using typical eBay sale prices for each item, then marking down the eBay percentage.
  - The last item was put to a vote, and over half voted Aye.
  - Do we need a formal policy? If so, we can always modify it.
- Preparations for the banquet.
  - The date has already been agreed upon, Thursday November 6.
  - Location discussed. Michael will make arrangements with Scolio's in Upper St. Clair.
  - No speaker yet; this does not need to be a numismatic topic since non-collecting spouses or guests may be present.
  - Ryan may be able to contact Rick Sebak but we should have more options.

Committee Reports: None.

## Announcements:

- Ryan Spak will go to the Oklahoma City ANA show. Michael and Tom Uram have a joint trip planned, as well.
- Upcoming coin shows: Castle Shannon on August 10, September 14, October 5, November 16, December 7. Indiana PA on September 14. PAN on October 16-18.

Presentation – Jackie Wesche-Thobaben, “Making Sense of an Inherited Coin Collection”. Her father passed in 2016 leaving bags, boxes, literal piles of silver and gold. How best to inventory? This was scary work, as the inventory her father kept did not match the reality of what was on hand. Daughter had no numismatic knowledge. The following is a more detailed summary of her presentation. (This need not be part of the official minutes, but included for the benefit of those who were not physically present.)

*Jackie presented her talk "Making Sense of an Inherited Coin Collection." She was clear, when she started the talk, that she was an amateur coin collector and the purpose of the talk was to make everyone think and NOT to impart knowledge of any coins. The results of her anonymous pre-talk survey showed that there was 475 years of experience in the room:*

- *75% of members have given some thought to how to dispose of the collection,*
- *58% have someone that is knowledgeable about their coin collection,*
- *58% have a completed will.*

*Jackie dedicated the talk to her father who left her and her sisters an overwhelming coin collection. She talked about things that scare people and admitted she was scared when she saw the volume of coins she and her sisters inherited. Her knowledge of coins was very limited at best. She talked about how she searched out the local coin clubs and attended many meetings to learn as much as possible. She won the Red Book at her first PAN show and also met Tom Uram, who was instrumental in helping her to understand and dispose of some of her coins. She talked about the hours of time that it took to determine if there was anything really valuable. Working a full-time job at the same time made it difficult to determine what to do with the collection. She pointed out that this places undue stress on the heir/heirress and may even make them frustrated and overwhelmed at what to do with the collection. Do you as a collector want to do that to your heir/heirress?*

*If the collector wants the heir/heirress to get the most from the collection after the collector is deceased and has put an inordinate number of hours into collecting the coins, they should make preparations for this. They should do an inventory of the collection, select their heir/heirress, and educate their heir/heirress. If the heir/heirress doesn't get the best price for the coins, it certainly is not their fault. Jackie found out there is not much available in the way of resources for the beginner who knows nothing.*

*Improvements that could be made to help the beginner are more digital and print material, market the ANA to local elder-care attorneys where overwhelmed coin collectors show up and start a mentorship program for beginners that join. It seemed like the club enjoyed the talk and that it made them think - just as Jackie wanted members to do.*

Adjourned 8:55.

Minutes submitted by Stuart Strickland, Recording Secretary.