

THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

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

Minutes from December 2, 2025

WPNS President Michael Drabick called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm. Eight members and two guests present.

Minutes from the Previous Meeting

Minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report

- Account balance as of September 30 was \$1,291.80. No transactions since.

Correspondence: None.

Committee Reports: None.

Announcements:

- Upcoming coin shows: Castle Shannon, January 4 and February 15; West Penn, January 24-25; South Hills, February 7; ANA, February 25, Savannah GA; North Hills, March 29; PAN, May 28-30.
- The FUN show (Florida United Numismatists) will take place starting January 8. All 525 tables are sold out. Our Pat McBride is scheduled to attend as Ben Franklin.

Old business:

- At the October meeting, we had an informal contest to guess the closing daily spot price of gold on the day of the banquet, November 6. That turned out to be \$3,950/ounce. A list of whose guess was the closest was not available at meeting time.
- The banquet was well attended. We had to add a table. Other than the slight glitch of all the hors d'oeuvres being served at once, the event and venue went well. Attendance 17, including the guest speaker. We expected 14, though were hoping for 16.
- Programs for the 2026 year have been printed. We have a few on simple paper for handing out informally but have dozens available on thicker stock.
- A date has been agreed to for next year's meeting at the Heinz History Center but various details have not, such as exact time, which room will be made available, or staff availability. Discussions concerned how to publicize the event without having unexpected drop-ins.

New business:

- The church now has a new electronic sign. Should we advertise the club? Some differing opinions. Krivoniak said no, that we should keep it within our word-of-mouth community. Strickland opposed, saying we should widen the pool of people interested in the hobby. No consensus, no vote taken.
- Motion to reimburse Carol Drabick for her regular dessert preparations for each club meeting. Passed on a voice vote.
- Two guests present. Their paperwork is pending. We will vote on them next meeting, if present.

Presentation – Ed Krivoniak, “Error coins”. A review of basics of coin manufacturing techniques both modern and ancient. For both, there is an anvil die fixed in place, a planchet placed upon it, then struck with a hammer die. In ancient days and up until mechanized coinage in approximately the 17th century, this was done by a man with an actual hammer.

Errors are categorized according to the P-D-S method: Planchet, Die, and Strike.

- Planchet errors consist of things like the wrong planchet (e.g., a dime planchet used for a cent strike), a bad mix of alloys, and clipped edges when the blanks are struck from metal sheets.
- Die errors consist of things like chipped or cracked dies, die clashes from the planchet being missing when the dies came together, and intentional changes to dies such as overdates and doubled mintmarks. Also, die errors result when the die was made in the first place such as doubled images when a second strike of the die from its parent hub is slightly shifted from the first.
- Strike errors while the coin is being struck, including off-center strikes and a single planchet struck twice in different places, and brockages, when a struck coin sticks to a die and is hammered into the next coin.
- All of these have dozens of variations depending on many factors – human error, wear & tear, and mechanical malfunction, or a combination thereof.

Ed passed around dozens of examples, including ancients and more modern strikes from overseas mints. A critical reference source is the book “Error Coin Encyclopedia” by Arnold Margolis and Fred Weinberg, 2004. Stu mentioned a second book, “The Official Identification and Price Guide to Minting Varieties and Errors” by Alan Herbert, 1991.

Shortened show & tell.

Meeting was called at 9:00 on account of time.

Adjourned 9:00.

Minutes submitted by Stuart Strickland, Recording Secretary.