

# SPMC Bi-Monthly Board of Governors Executive Meeting

## Wednesday, May 8, 2024, 7:00 PM (CT) Zoom Conference Call

### Meeting Minutes Recorded by Governor Derek Higgins

- Welcome
  - *Reminder to please mute if not speaking.*

President Vandevender called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM (CT). The following Board Members attended the meeting making a sufficient quorum required to conduct the meeting:

- Robert Vandevender
- Robert Calderman
- Bob Moon
- Benny Bolin
- Derek Higgins
- Mark Drengson
- Wendell Wolka
- Loren Gatch
- Bill Litt
- Cody Regennitter
- Andy Timmerman
- Shawn Hewitt (Immediate Past President)

President Vandevender started the meeting by mentioning the recent vehicle burglary of Ed Rothburg, the owner of Emporium Coin & Currency. Ed was traveling home from the Central States Numismatic Society coin show and was the victim of a vehicle burglary in Des Plaines, IL. He stopped at a restaurant and while inside and suspects broke out the window to his vehicle and removed several bags containing a large inventory of currency.

Stolen currency included a wide selection of Nationals, Obsoletes, Large & Small Type notes, Colonials, Fractionals, Errors, and Canadian notes. Shawn provided an update that about 95% of his currency inventory was taken but he's actively working with the authorities to track the items and the offenders. A reminder was made to be vigilant when arriving and leaving from shows.

- SPMC Board Governor Vacancy
  - President Vandevender appoints Shawn Hewitt to complete the term of the late Jerry Fochtman. Board to vote.

This term that Shawn is filling runs through 2025. The appointment was put up to a vote, with all those in attendance voting to confirm the appointment unanimously.

A list of Governor and Executive position terms and their end dates was sent out before the meeting. We have four positions up for election this year. Three of the four have indicated they intend to run again, with Governor Pierre Fricke electing not to run again this year (leaving open one spot up for election this summer).

Benny made sure to point out that we need to have an election, and that per the bylaws it needs to be published in the magazine. Shawn said the technology is not quite ready for a website-based vote. It was briefly discussed that Loren might put out a notice or information when we get to that point through the weekly emails (topic to be discussed later after finalization of election plans).

President Vandevender called for the formation of a Nominating Committee to find potential candidates to run for the open position on the board. He requested that Robert Calderman chair the committee (to which he agreed), and also asked that Cody Regennitter and Andy Timmerman serve on this committee as well (to which both agreed to do so). The Nominating Committee's findings will be reported at the next board meeting.

*For those that are interested in running for the Board of Governors, please contact Secretary Robert Calderman for further details.*

- **Shows**
  - **ANA Show Colorado Springs (March 14-16) (Derek)**
    - Derek and Jessica Higgins staffed.

Derek presented a small PowerPoint presentation with pictures of the table setup as well as some of the winter condition experienced in Colorado Springs. He was the only one staffing the table for the first two days of the show, as the weather was too bad for Jessica (his wife) to make it down from Denver. On Saturday both Derek and Jessica staffed the table.

Overall, the show was a touch slower than it probably would have been had it not snowed for the first two days. No in-person membership signups but talked to 50-75 kids and families participating in the ANA Treasure Hunt throughout the show. Gave out some Venezuelan notes that featured animals as prizes for the kids. Also talked with a number of adults about becoming members.

Derek also came up with table information sheets and displays that highlighted the QR code for membership as well as an information sheet specifically targeting our youth membership and those benefits for a young paper collector. He noted that about 15 families took pictures of the sheet/QR code as well as took information to potentially follow up later with youth memberships.

- **Long Beach (June 6-8)**
  - Bob V. and Nancy P. to staff table – (Bob V.)

President Vandevender and Nancy Purington plan to staff the Long Beach Show table in June.

- **Summer FUN (July 11-13)**
  - No current plans for SPMC Table

Discussed if the Summer FUN show in Orlando was something we felt needed to have a club table. SPMC has not traditionally done a club table at this event. Decided that we would continue to not do a table at this show.

- **World's Fair of Money - Chicago (August 6-10)**
  - Table Staff:
    - Robert Vandevender
    - Nancy Purington
    - Bob Moon
    - Mark Drengson

Robert Calderman will be driving to the show, so he will bring the Tablecloth and banner, as well as other table materials. We'll work on getting some cheap world notes that are fun and colorful for prizes for the kids scavenger hunt.

- Do we want to participate in Youth Treasure Scavenger Hunt?

Yes, emailed ANA to confirm that as well as question and answer we will be using. This will be the same question and answer we have used at the other shows this year.

- Do we need a room for any presentations?

No decision reached at this time. Table until next meeting.

Governor Higgins advocated for having some kind of meeting or get together, possibly with a presentation (but not necessary) to continue to expand and provide member benefits for in person meetings and educational opportunities.

Treasurer Moon brought up that the Winter FUN (January 2025) table signup would be due in August, so we need to be deciding who will be staffing that table. Wendell volunteered to staff that table. Further decisions will be made later.

- **Digital projector** – Assign owner of this issue.

Calderman asked the question whether we still need to explore making this purchase.

Original plan had been to have a nice, high-quality projector that could be set up at shows for presentations during meetings. The FUN show charges a considerable amount for the rental of a projector, so if we want to start/continue doing presentations for our annual meeting it might be worth looking into having one of our own.

Calderman said he would check and see what we currently have, as well as do some research to see what is available out there for potential purchase.

- **Advertising**
  - New client: Michael Barbieri Whatnot – Have we received payment?
  - Lyn Knight: Have we received payment for overdue bill?

Benny advised that all advertisers are currently paid up except for PCDA (Professional Currency Dealers Association).

Derek asked about whether the recent acquisition of World Banknote Auctions by Stacks Bowers would affect anything with their current advertising with SPMC. Benny said they are all paid up, and nothing should change at this time.

A full advertisement page exchange with SCCS (Souvenir Card Collectors Society) was discussed. They have a similar membership level as SPMC as well as many similar collectors. Historically SPMC has issued Souvenir Cards at the old Memphis shows, so it does have some overlap in collector base. Determined it would be a good thing to pursue if the numbers make sense for both.

- ANA Ad exchange
  - No reciprocal advertising agreement at this time. (Mar 1<sup>st</sup> Wendell email)

Per email with ANA Executive Director Kim Kiick, a reciprocal advertising agreement does not make sense financially at this time for the ANA.

Benny advised that he has entered Paper Money into both the ANA and NLG Literary Competitions for the year.

- **Treasurer** – Bob Moon
  - Larry Adams Estate \$5000 to SPMC not yet received (no action required at this time)

Cody advised that we should not expect anything to come of this, either soon or potentially later down the road based on information he knows regarding the Larry Adams Estate.

Bob Moon advised that we received a check for \$5000 from the Shiva Foundation. Wolka moved, Calderman seconded, unanimous approval for acceptance of these funds.

- Charles Derby/Mike McNeil Grant Application
  - Board to discuss and vote.

Wendell advised that this research fills an area that has not thoroughly been researched before, and that it would be a valuable and useful tool. Shawn also brought up that both gentlemen have a proven track record of putting out quality work. Wolka moved, Higgins seconded, unanimous approval for approval of the funds requested.

After brief discussion, the board realized that funds had not gone out yet to Peter Huntoon for his earlier grant application at the beginning of the year. Unsure as to whether we had voted for approval on the appropriation of those funds, a unanimous vote was taken to make sure we did approve such funds and projects. All voted in favor of this measure.

### **Cost of Magazine/Mailing Costs**

Benny gave an update regarding International mailing costs of the printed magazine, informing that international shipping rates are going up again. An exact number of international members who receive the printed copy of the magazine was not available, but SPMC has about 50 international Life Members plus however many yearly subscriptions to manage. Loren pointed out that data shows that roughly 10% of the people who open up the News & Notes weekly emails are international.

President Vandevender discussed potential options that we could look at going forward regarding ways of mitigating some of these rising costs while still putting out an exceptional hard copy product for those that still want that option. One option that had been discussed, most recently at the meeting in January at the FUN show, was giving Life Members the option to voluntarily switch to the online only version of the magazine (giving up the paper copy).

### **Library**

The SPMC library was also briefly discussed, with the question being posed, how much is this resource utilized, are we getting back the materials after people have checked them out? A follow-up with Librarian Jeff Brueggeman is needed to further gather information, however Wendell mentioned that he knew of a few things that had been checked out recently, as well as some items that got returned recently, so it is being used.

### **Social Media**

Derek gave a short presentation regarding his efforts at managing the X (Twitter) account for SPMC. Daily “Note of the Day” posts have been loaded and shared every day since roughly December 2022. Monthly themes are chosen to keep a consistent hashtag throughout the month. “Membership Monday” posts are shared every Monday with the link to the SPMC website for membership signups. Overall impressions, or how many times these posts have been seen organically by folks using X, were roughly 1500 per month. Need to double check and make sure that links for the society’s social media pages are up to date on the website, and we might look at highlighting some of the activities on X in the weekly News & Notes emails with Loren.

### **Future Meeting Dates**

President Vandevender will communicate potential dates and times for the next meeting, and Derek will send out a scheduling poll to find the best day that works for the next meeting. Please be on the lookout for that.

A motion to adjourn was made by Wendell, seconded by Bob Moon. Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM (CT)