



THE FRESNO NUMISMATIST

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FRESNO NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

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MEETS **THIRD** TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 7:00 PM

MEETING LOCATION: Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1084 W. Bullard Ave., Fresno CA 93711

Steve Mendyk- President
Carolyn Vance- Treasurer
Sandra Arie- Auction Coordinator

James Obler- Vice President/Editor
Tambra Eddy- Secretary
Bob Holston- Coin Show Chairman

Volume 65

September 2026

Number 9

Septmber, 2026 Meeting:

Redeemer Lutheran Church

1084 W. Bullard Ave.,

Fresno, CA 93711

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at Redeemer Lutheran. Our scheduled activities include a silent auction, member reports, Show & Tell, and our prize raffle and membership drawing. Since we did not do a membership drawing at the August meeting President Mendyk promises we will draw two membership prizes for September.

I want to start this newsletter with the sad news that FNS Life Member Dennis Olswang has passed away, after a long illness. Dennis was our resident expert on Canadian coinage but he dabbled in coins from around the world. He had a knack for finding good deals on United States coins, as well. He was also our best FNS resource for stamp collecting. Whenever

someone contacted FNS about a stamp collection we would always refer them to Dennis for sage advice.

I first met Dennis almost 30 years ago, when he was working with Howard Dunklee at Howard's shop, Yosemite Coins and Antiques, in the shopping center at First and Gettysburg in Fresno. I bought some of my first "nice" coins from Dennis and Howard, such as a BU 1914 Indian gold eagle and a 1942/1 Mercury dime. I also bought an antique banjo clock when the shop offered a half-off sale. I always appreciated how both gentlemen were patient and courteous with a novice collector.

For years Dennis was a vital asset to our club, always coming in early to set up our meetings back when we were at the Masonic Center on Shields. Declining health prevented him from attending meetings over the last few years. He will be missed by every collector who knew him.

Well, our 59th annual Coin Show is coming up on October 2 & 3, so this September meeting will be

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our last opportunity to discuss show preparations as a group. We need to cover any and all outstanding show issues and concerns at the September meeting. The first priority is our member volunteer sign-up roster. We will pass around the roster at the meeting and we encourage our members to commit to helping out with one or more assignments.

We need FNS members to cover the show entrance table, with pairs of members taking 2-hour shifts. We might actually want 3 people for opening shifts if it gets crowded. We need our people to greet arriving show attendees and sell them a \$5 general admission (per person) which includes a show raffle ticket. Additional tickets may be purchased for \$5 each. Please show off our fabulous raffle prizes to encourage people to buy more tickets and let them know they don't need to be present to win. Each raffle ticket stub needs a legible name and phone number so we can contact the winners. Children 16 and under get in free. Every attendee also gets a ticket for our hourly drawings.

We want attendees to write down their email addresses on a separate ledger we will provide. We also want our entrance staff to record how attendees heard about our show. That information will help determine what types of advertising are most effective. Our shows can only succeed if they are well-attended, so we need to know what ad choices work.

We need people to set up the show. We will have access to East Hall at AL Post 509 starting at 11:00AM on Thursday, 10/01. We will have our trailer with show equipment plus rental tables on hand. We will arrange tables, lay electrical cables and carpets, place tablecloths and dealer signs, and do everything else needed to prepare for dealer arrival on Friday morning. The whole process usually takes about 2 hours. We will also need people to reverse the process starting at 5:00PM on Saturday 10/03. Please volunteer to help!

During the show we would like volunteers to wear the yellow "Security" vests we purchased. We will of course have paid, armed security guards on duty on both days. Nevertheless, having a few extra people walking

around with these conspicuous vests should help discourage any potential shoplifters.

Carolyn V. and Dave C. will be running our Young Numismatist operations, including the Coin Safari activity for kids. We are well stocked with proof sets and mint sets to give out as Safari prizes. Your Editor will be assisting with this process as needed. Hopefully we will get a little live news coverage during the show which might help draw in a few more attendees.

FNS is planning to sponsor lunches for our dealers on both Friday and Saturday. FNS will procure donuts and coffee for dealers on both mornings. I believe AL Post 509 will be hosting their usual spaghetti dinner on Saturday evening, directly across the corridor from the coin show. If you are in the mood for Italian you can take advantage. This event is a Post 509 fundraiser. The cost last year was \$20 and I expect it will be the same for 2026.

Please remember that the September meeting will be the second and last opportunity for FNS members to purchase show raffle tickets at a discount. Tickets will be sold in groups of 5 tickets for \$20 which is a whopping 20% discount. All tickets sold at the show and anywhere else will be full price. This is your opportunity to increase your chances for winning a prize or two at the show.

We don't have a formal presentation planned for the September meeting since we want to have plenty of time to cover all questions and issues about the show. Rebecca Cassidy has volunteered to bring refreshments. Scott Eddy has arranged for some members to prepare exhibits; we will have display cases available at the meeting for those exhibitors to borrow. If you agreed to make an exhibit please follow through. You can consult Scott if you have questions. Scott has prepared special elongated pennies which commemorate the 80th anniversary of FNS. These souvenirs will be handed out at the show and will serve as readmission tickets so people can re-enter the bourse both Friday and Saturday.

Our annual Coin Show is the biggest FNS event of the year. Proceeds from the show provide most of our operating funds so it's important we do a good job. Please volunteer if you can and make sure to attend. Bring a few friends if possible and help make our 59th the best show ever!

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Last Month's Meeting

Our August 18, 2026 meeting kicked off at 7:05 PM. President Mendyk greeted about 37 attendees, including former FNS member Andy Guzik, a type coin collector named Isiah, another guest named Robert, and Brennen Jones who signed up on the spot as a new member. Brennen has an interest in Walking Liberty halves and W-mint quarters. Welcome aboard!

We heard a brief coin show status report from Bourse Chairman Bob Holston. Bob says the tables are all sold and there is a waiting list. We will need member volunteers for various show duties and we are circulating a sign-up list. We will be able to enter the bourse hall on Thursday 10/01 at about 11AM to begin our set-up.

Your Editor made some remarks about our old friend Dennis Olswang who passed away earlier in August. I will offer some thoughts about Dennis for the September newsletter.

The rest of the meeting was taken up with the White Elephant fundraising auction. We spent a few minutes inspecting the huge assortment of auction lots, which filled at least six 8-foot tables. There were dozens of Whitman-style coin albums plus fancier Dansco-type albums. I saw many PCGS and NGC boxes for slabbed coins. One very fancy rosewood coin cabinet was offered, as well as other wooden, metal, and plastic storage and display containers. There were Capitol Plastics holders and ordinary cardboard 2X2 holders and plastic flips. A large assortment of numismatic books offered bidders a chance to build their libraries. A number of modern proof sets and mint sets were available. There were even a few pies, plates of cookies, and brownie assortments for bidders with a sweet tooth.

We had a whole table of donated items from Dennis Olswang's estate. These included many reference books focused on Canadian coins plus a comprehensive Krause world coin book. As I recall there was an NGC population report, lots of 2X2 holders and coin tubes, and wallets and folders designed for stamps. There was some kind of UV lamp unit which I presume was designed for inspecting stamps. There were both new and canceled stamps from many different countries, plus a large number of "first day cover" collectibles.

Perhaps the strangest items were a pair of "bull rings" which apparently are attached to the nose of a bull so the animal can be tied to a rope and more easily controlled.

Many of the lesser items sold for just a couple dollars. Quite a few fell into the \$20-50 range and a few topped \$100. Basically, there was something for everyone. Auctioneer Randy Clifton did a great job and really moved the auction along, even managing to entertain the attendees in the process. Every lot was sold and a good time was had by all.

The meeting wrapped up at the end of the auction, around 9:15PM. According to Treasurer Carolyn, our total "take" for the auction was \$1526, an excellent result.

August Prize Winners:

We did not conduct a prize raffle or membership drawing in August due to the White Elephant Auction.

Coin Show Schedule

Van Nuys Coin Show

DATE- September 20, 2026

LOCATION- Van Nuys Masonic Hall
14750 Sherman Way, Van Nuys, CA 91405

Sacramento Valley Coin Club – Fall Show

DATE- September 24-26, 2026

LOCATION- Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, 4900 Duckhorn Drive, Sacramento, CA 95834

Fresno Numismatic Society 59th Annual Coin Show

DATE- October 2-3, 2026

LOCATION- American Legion Post 509, 3509 N. First Street, Fresno, CA 93726

Contra Costa Coin & Collectibles Show

DATE- October 9-10, 2026

LOCATION- Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Dr., Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Heartland Coin Show

DATE- October 17-18, 2026.

LOCATION- El Cajon Elks Lodge 1812, 1400 E Washington Ave, El Cajon, CA 92019

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