



Worcester County Numismatic Society

Founded 1946

Meets 2nd Friday of the month except July and August

December
2019

WCNS
Monthly
Newsletter

Club Address: WCNS, P.O. Box 1079, Douglas MA 01516

Club Website: www.worcestercoinclub.org

Contact phone number: Mike at 508-667-9968

Email address: wcns@worchestercoinclub.org

Next Meeting: Friday December 13

St. Josephs Parish Center
68 Central Street, Auburn MA

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting: 7:00 p.m.

YN meeting: 6:15 p.m.

Educational Program:

Expanded Show & Tell

YN program:

"Fun with Coins!"

WCNS Leadership

Officers

Co-Presidents: Mike Simpson & John Frost

Vice President: Jim Turner

Secretary: Maria Matys

Treasurer: Stanley Sobiech

Director at Large: Bob Moffatt

Programs

Speaker Bureau: Bob Moffatt

YN Coordinator: Mark Matys

Newsletter Editor: John Frost

Hi everyone –

As this is being written, we have just had our big December snowstorm. Winter is really here and we are at the end of year, and 2020 is just around the corner. Where did the time go? Let's hope that the big storm is not an omen for the upcoming winter, and that we won't have meetings impacted by the weather like they were a number of years ago.

On Friday December 13th, we will have our December meeting and holiday party. Our traditional pasta feast will be the order of the day, along with the higher-end holiday gift-wrapped raffle prizes, and our popular dime raffle. Also part of the meeting is our year-end Show & Tell, where we encourage our members to share something that they found this year with the club. We are asking everyone to bring a pot-luck dessert to round out the feast. A splendid time is guaranteed for all. Sorry, I was just listening to the *Sgt. Pepper's* album. Nobody submitted any lots for the Bid Board, so there won't be one this month, which is fine given the festivities. The Bid Board and Auction will return next month.

One brief, but important, piece of business to be voted on relates to the revisions of the Constitution and By-laws, primarily to reflect current practices and changes that we've already voted on, but hadn't yet reflected in the Constitution or by-laws documents themselves. We reviewed them at the November meeting and discussed the changes. After formal notification and review, we will vote to accept the changes at the December meeting. The proposed changes are posted on our website, and a link to them accompanies this newsletter.

We hope to see you all on the 13th -- come hungry and toting a dessert!

- John and Mike

Upcoming Events

- Auburn/Greater Worcester Coin Show, Elks Club, Auburn MA, December 8, 9:30 a.m.
- Nashua Coin Show, Holiday Inn, Nashua NH, December 15, 8:00 a.m.
- Blackstone Valley 3rd Wednesday Show, VFW Post #1385, Uxbridge MA, Wednesday Dec. 18, 3-8 p.m.
- Devens Coin Show, Devens Common Center, Andrews Parkway, Devens MA, December 22, 9:00 a.m.
- WCNS January meeting, Friday January 10



2019 December meeting and Holiday Party

What:

Short business meeting with one important vote on Constitution
Pasta Feast with all the trimmings
Big raffle with holiday-wrapped gifts, plus popular Dime Raffle
Expanded Show & Tell

What should you bring:

Pot luck dessert
Something for Show & Tell
Members can bring one guest – additional guests for modest charge



Coin in the Spotlight: 1878-S Liberty Seated Half Dollar

In 1878, production of silver coins had really just gotten underway when the Bland-Allison Act was passed, requiring the U.S. Government to buy hundreds of millions of ounces of silver bullion and coin a new standard silver dollar designed by George T. Morgan. These new coins were not needed for any commerce, but were in reality meant to prop up the U.S. silver industry. So much was the focus on the massive silver purchases and coinage of dollars, that mintage of all silver coins other than the Morgan dollar was halted in its tracks.

In San Francisco, the mint had only coined 12,000 half dollars before production was stopped, and minting of half dollars would not resume again in that facility until 1892. As a result, a rarity was created. The 1878-S half dollars circulated heavily, and today between 55 and 60 are believed to exist in all grades combined. When any 1878-S half dollar hits the market, it is reason for excitement. Even the coin pictured below in low grade is worth about \$25,000! Any collector that owns an 1878-S half dollar in any grade is a member of a very exclusive club.



◀ 1878-S Liberty Seated half dollar in AG3

▼ Enlargement of die chip in the reverse shield which is present in all genuine examples



Deadline for next issue: December 29th