

PCNS Minutes for September 24, 2025

The board meeting for September 24, 2025, was called to order via Zoom at 7:15 PM by President Jason Macario. In attendance were Vice President Bill Hyder, Treasurer Stephen Huston, Secretary Charlie Catlett, and Governors Mike McDaniel, Ed Treuting and Bob Somers. Past President Dan Hipple sent his regrets at not being able to attend.

The minutes for the August meeting were approved.

Financial report: no monthly report was made, as there was only a 9¢ interest deposit into the account. A quarterly report will be sent to board members in October.

Speakers are needed for December, March and thereafter in 2026

PCNS Monograph #2 (Jerry Schimmel book) update: the monograph is currently being converted to an acceptable PDF format for printing.

2026 Board candidacy: board members expressed their willingness to remain on the board (if elected) or not.

New Business: none

Adjournment 7:23 PM.

At 7:32 PM general meeting #1313 was called to order. Present in addition to the members from the board meeting via Zoom were Henry Goodman, Jeff Pritchard, Charlie Ludvik, John Duff, Doug Ward, and Scott Safe.

Speakers are needed for December(a holiday-oriented theme?), March and thereafter in 2026.

Members were informed of Society elections in December, and to let either Jason or Stephen know if they are interested in running.

The Paradigm in Aluminum Patterns

By Doug Ward

Doug began his presentation with a review of aluminum. It was known in ancient Egypt from the use of alum, and had other uses in a natural mineral form. The element was isolated in 1825, but was very costly to produce and had properties that made it difficult to use for coinage.

The U.S. Mint struck its first aluminum coin in 1855, producing the unique half dollar. And from then on things got interesting. Mint leaders Archibald Loudon Snowden, Henry Richard Lindeman, and others became involved in minting patterns in aluminum (and other metals). From 1866 and on, the specious striking of patterns began in earnest. Several scandals arose, and Doug carefully outlined the entire history of the saga of U.S. Mint patterns struck in aluminum.

After this portion of his presentation, Doug presented facts on the minting of the 1804 dollars, including a recently 'discovered' sixteenth specimen soon to be auctioned. Please view his presentation on the Society's YouTube web page to see all the details of this thoroughly researched presentation.

Member Exhibits

Bill showed us four items. First, an aluminum token from People's Home Savings Bank in San Francisco, with the Lord's Prayer on the reverse. That bank closed in 1893, dating his token. Second was an aluminum Mardi Gras token that was a "mega piedfort"- about 20 X the thickness of most such tokens! Third was a personal aluminum nugget token made for Bill by R.W. Colbert in 1982. Last, a British medal made of white metal (which is *not* aluminum)- even though the inscription said it was from the "1st lot of British aluminum".

Stephen showed us a 2023 Canadian \$1 "Looney" coin featuring King Charles III, the first year of issue. He recalls going to the Old Mint in San Francisco, where the PCNS library used to be held. In that library was a complete set of Mint Director reports from the 1850s, and he recalls reading some reports in testing aluminum in various alloys. He also mentioned a talk Federico Castillo will be giving at a conference in Mexico City.

Charlie C showed his Tokens and Medals Society David Schenkman Literary Award medal for first place- 75 mm, 191 g.

John showed us his well-preserved German Notgeld examples made of aluminum in 500, 100, 50, and 20 Mark denominations.

The general meeting adjourned at 8:53 PM. The next meeting will be on October 22, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie Catlett, Secretary PCNS