

Cumberland Coins

The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter April, 2019

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will on Tuesday April 9th starting at 6:30. The meeting will be held at the 127 Senior Center on Highway 127 (Main Street) South of town. Doors open at 6:00.

The elections, such as they were, resulted in all four of last year's officers remained in the same positions. They are President Ken Gates, Vice President Chuck Landess, Secretary Sandy Swanson, and Treasurer Mike Puhl.

This month we will get back to our normal routine of the business meeting, show and tell, raffle, member prize drawing, and auction. If you haven't paid your 2019 dues yet, you can pay me at the meeting.

Coin Lore

A Most Attractive & Intriguing Token

by Bill Groom

Have you ever peered into a kaleidoscope and been taken aback by the astonishing mix of shapes and colors? One can't help but wonder what's going on with the compelling images that grace the token, pictured below. It elicited a puzzling, kaleidoscope effect when I first saw it. Take a close look, study it and see what questions come to mind ...



In 1932, America was in the throes of the Great Depression. This *Stewart-Warner* token called for an end to the Depression, telling folks to "stop crying" and "start buying!" Atop that message is a star, emitting rays of light. The reverse, layered images include a Jewish Star of David, topped by a swastika, topped by a shamrock, topped by the all-seeing "eye of God" which suggests a Masonic connection. Did you see the eye? The first symbol to catch my eye was the swastika; which today largely represents a hated symbol of the Nazis. Of course, most token collectors are easily able to see the swastika in its 1932 context, a symbol of good luck; this, akin to the shamrock.

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This Stewart-Warner token is gilt brass, measures 31 mm and possesses a reeded edge. Its gold-like appearance echoes the call for better times and good luck. Some owners of these talismans may well have been moved to optimism about their future. In 1932, many hundreds of workers were employed by *Stewart-Warner* in Chicago, producing automotive parts. Surely, they had good reason to be optimistic, as their employer weathered the Great Depression and branched-out into the manufacture of refrigerators and radios. Now, in retrospect, this token's message of optimism largely lives on.

Area Coin Shows

April 6 Knoxville; Coin Show, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378).

April 12-14 Dalton, GA; 55th Anniversary Georgia Numismatic Association, Northwest Georgia Trade & Convention Center, Dalton, GA, I-75, Exit 333.

May 4 Knoxville; Coin Show, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378).

This Month's Raffle Prizes

		Est. Grade
1921	Morgan Dollar (full luster)	AU+
1917-S	Walking Liberty Half (rev mm)	VG
1900	Barber Dime (high grade type)	XF
1909 & 1912-D	Liberty Nickels	VG&G
1862	Half Dime (Civil War silver)	VG
1948-1951 S	Roosevelt Dimes (3 S-mints; silver)	a/c

Door Prize

1888, 1894 & 1905 Indian
Cents - Good