

# Cupertino Coin Press

The publication of the Cupertino Coin Club

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## Editor's Message

Welcome to Spring! We've been having some unseasonably warm weather lately, which has made going outside pretty irresistible. Hopefully, however, we've found the time to work on our collections.

You'll certainly want to attend our March meeting (page 2), where we will vote on a new revision to the Bylaws. The Board, but especially Director Don P. who has shepherded the revision process since last spring, has worked hard to create revisions reflecting the viewpoints of CCC members and the club's evolution since COVID.

Also at the March meeting, Griffin G. will present his ever-enjoyable Club Year in Review slideshow, and we will vote on the 2026–27 slate of officers and Board of Directors.

I am always looking for new advertisers. The *Coin Press* charges only \$5 per issue for a business-card sized ad per issue. Even if you're not a dealer, simply looking for a special coin on your want-list or for someone interested in purchasing a collection you're not interested in anymore, consider advertising to reach other collectors.

-Cam S.

## CCC is on the web!

Visit our website at <https://cupertinocoinclub.org>, and our Facebook page (below)! There, keep up to date with our latest events and happenings. Thanks to webmaster Suzy T. for keeping it up to date! Additionally, past editions of the *Cupertino Coin Press* can be found on the Newman Numismatic Portal at <https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/searchwithterms?searchterm=Cupertino%20Coin%20Press>

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# Club News

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

**13 March:** Board Elections!; By-laws Vote; Presenter: Griffin G.; Topic: Club Year in Review

**19 March:** Online Board meeting

**10 April:** Officer Installations; 56th Anniversary Hot Dog/Polish & Potluck; Board Inductions (No guest speaker); 7 p.m. start

**16 April:** Online Board meeting

**26 April:** 2026 Cupertino Coin Club Coin Show; 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**9 May:** Scout-o-Rama Coin Collecting Booth, History Park San Jose 10:00 a.m.–4.p.m.

The Cupertino Coin Club will have their general meetings in person at St. Joseph’s Church of Cupertino, located at 10110 N De Anza Blvd in Cupertino. Our presentations begin at 8:30 p.m. and can be watched over Zoom. Meetings start at 7:30 p.m. unless noted. Meetings feature an auction, show and tell, and drawings, as well as a speaker.

**Guests and youth are always welcome!**

## Important: March Club Meeting

**By Suzy T.**

All current members are encouraged to attend this important meeting so your vote and opinions are recorded. Please arrive by 7:15 p.m. to help with set-up and check in for the voting. The meeting begins promptly at 7:30 p.m. with President Gran. We will vote on the revised By-Laws (see the current and February Cupertino Coin Press newsletter for details), followed by announcements and our Historian’s “Club Year in Review” slideshow while votes are tallied.

Next will be the election for the 2026–2027 Board of Directors and Officers, March birthday and attendance drawings, and usual auction and Show and Tell, time permitting. Youth and General drawings will follow if time allows. We will conclude at 9:00 PM to allow time for clean-up before 10:00 PM. Thank you for your help and participation!

## Dues are Nearly Due!

Dues for 2026 are due on 1 April. Dues are only \$12 for adults and \$6 for youth. If you would like the printed newsletter, please add \$15 to your dues payment. To pay your dues, you may either mail your check to the club’s PO Box address listed in the masthead or pay by cash or check to Membership Chair Al L. at a monthly meeting. To pay electronically by PayPal, first email [cupertinocoinclub@gmail.com](mailto:cupertinocoinclub@gmail.com) for instructions. Please make sure to pay punctually, so you don't risk losing your membership benefits.

## Happy Birthday!

Happy birthday cheers go to our members with March Birthdays. Happy Birthday: Thomas K., Mellissa M., and Alex T.! Make sure to attend this month and have the opportunity to win a special prize!



**CUPERTINO COIN CLUB BY-LAWS**

**ARTICLE I. Name**

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be "Cupertino Coin Club" and referred to by the term as the "Club."

Section 2. The official seal or logo of the organization is the Cupertino Coin Club.

**ARTICLE II. Objectives**

Section 1. The objectives and purposes of this organization are to collect, preserve and promote numismatic activity throughout the local area and to foster and encourage the study of numismatics in all its forms with emphasis on youth participation.

Section 2. In acknowledging any statement of purpose or program advanced, this Club shall not, except as a supplemental degree, engage in any activities or activities any person that are not in furtherance of its specific and primary purposes.

**ARTICLE III. Membership**

Section 1. The membership of this Club shall consist of adult and youth members. Youth members shall be those under 18 years of age.

Section 2. Application for membership in the Club shall be made to the membership committee, and when approved by the majority vote and accepted by the Board of Directors, the applicant shall be considered a member of the Club. The applicant shall be considered a member of the Club upon payment of the membership fee to the membership chair.

Section 3. All members shall be entitled to all privileges in the Club except only members in good standing shall have the right to vote, hold office, and receive official publications.

Section 4. The Board of Directors shall have authority to suspend or expel any member who is guilty of a felony crime or any conduct which brings the club, dignity, business, harmony, or impairs the good name, reputation, or prestige of the Club. Such members and suspension shall be null and void if such pending action shall have the right to return before the Board of Directors at the time of such action. The proceedings of the Board of Directors shall be final and conclusive.

**ARTICLE IV. Officers**

Section 1. The elected officers of the Club shall be a president, a vice president, a past president, a membership secretary, a corresponding secretary, a historian, a treasurer, and six directors. The Board of Directors shall consist of the three officers, the immediate past president, a representative of the Cupertino Coin Press, and the newly elected President with the approval of the Board shall appoint a member of the club as a "Cupertino Coin Press" officer and any other committee chair or assistant. All members of the Board of Directors shall be final and conclusive.

Cupertino Coin Club By-Laws - [revised 2021](#) and [added 2023](#) Page 1 of 6  
March 13, 2025

# Quiz Column: Guess the AI!

By Dan S. and ChatGPT

## Introduction

Last October, the Coin Press featured a new type of numismatic quiz, asking readers to consider two articles written about the history of the U.S. three-cent coin and then to decide which was written by the artificial intelligence tool, ChatGPT, and which was written by club member Dan S. This month, we present a new challenge by the same authors. In this case, the assignment is more open ended, specified by the prompt: "In a 500-word analytical essay written for numismatists, make a case arguing which United States coin series has had the greatest impact on the American economy." Please note that not all the information in one or both of the essays may be correct. Answers are on page 8.

### Essay #1: The Silver Dollar that Fueled the Economy from the Gilded to Global Age



The coin with the greatest impact on the U.S. economy is, ironically, one that did not actually circulate widely: the silver Morgan dollar (left). Born in the economically turbulent decades after the Civil War, the Morgan dollar served as the hard-money backing for silver certificate banknotes, which did circulate widely. Authorized by the Bland- Allison Act, the Morgan dollar greatly expanded the U.S. money supply. The coins themselves, first minted in 1878, primarily sat in bank bags (right) quietly serving as the bullion reserve for low-denomination silver certificates, also authorized by the Act. The expanded money supply benefitted farmers and small businesses, but was opposed by industrialists and other large business interests who felt that the "free silver" movement was inflationary and would lead to economic instability and downfall.

Prior to the Morgan dollar, U.S. silver dollars were minted in relatively low numbers in response to marketplace demand. Liberty Seated dollars, minted from 1840-1873, commonly had annual mintages of less than a few hundred thousand pieces; there were only two years when over a million were minted. The U.S. Trade dollar, issued for trade with Asia with a slightly higher silver content, had annual mintages in the low millions, but within the U.S. were only legal tender for transactions less than \$5. In their first year more than 27 million Morgan dollars were minted, and they were produced at that pace through the 1880s. Silver certificates were issued in concert. Prior to the Panic of 1893 and ensuing depression, the U.S. economy grew at every tier, in part due to this expansion of the money supply. Morgan dollar mintages tracked the economic conditions for the next decade, when demand fell to a level where production was suspended in 1904.



But the economic impact of the Morgan dollar was not over. During World War I, 1918's Pittman Act sponsored by Senator Key Pittman, left, authorized the melting of up to 350 million silver dollars to sell at a discount as bullion to the United Kingdom, whose hard-money reserves were depleted by war costs. Approximately 270 million Morgan dollars (nearly 40% of the total minted to that point) were melted. The Pittman Act also required that the melted coins be replaced after the war, aiding the post-war U.S. economy. Indeed, over 85 million Morgan dollars were minted in 1921 when production resumed.

Today, numismatists view the Morgan dollar as one of the most desirable series of U.S. coins due to its large format, common uncirculated condition (*continued on next page*)

# Quiz Column: Guess the AI! continued

## Essay #1 continued

(recall its storage in vault bags), production at different mints, and many die varieties. Beneath the surface, however, it is easy to see the out-sized role that the Morgan dollar played from the economic boom of the Gilded Age, through hard-times in the last decade of the Nineteenth Century, to the recovery following the First World War.

## Essay #2: The Lincoln Cent and the Economics of Small Change: A Numismatic Case for Systemic Impact

For numismatists evaluating economic impact rather than artistry or collector popularity, the strongest case can be made for the Lincoln cent as the U.S. Mint series with the greatest influence on the American economy. Since its introduction in 1909, it has shaped production policy, pricing psychology, seigniorage debates, and circulation behavior to a degree unmatched by any other denomination.

The first and most quantifiable factor is scale. With cumulative mintages exceeding 500 billion pieces across its Wheat (1909–1958, right), Memorial (1959–2008), and Union Shield (2010–present) reverses, the cent represents the single largest manufacturing output in U.S. Mint history. Even prolific denominations such as the Washington quarter or Jefferson nickel do not approach its aggregate volume. This production magnitude has materially influenced federal procurement contracts for metals and planchets, linking coinage directly to commodity markets. The 1982 transition from a 95% copper alloy to copper-plated zinc vividly illustrates how fluctuations in global copper prices forced structural changes in Mint policy. Few other series have so clearly demonstrated the feedback loop between industrial inputs and monetary production.

Second, the cent has exerted enduring influence over retail pricing conventions. The ubiquity of one-cent increments undergirds “charm pricing” strategies (e.g., \$1.99), reinforcing fractional-dollar price points in consumer markets. Although such conventions might survive without the coin itself, the physical existence of the cent legitimizes precision pricing at the point of sale. Thus, the denomination’s economic footprint extends beyond minting costs into behavioral economics and transactional norms.

Third, the Lincoln cent has become the focal point of a seigniorage debate. For many years, its unit production cost has exceeded its face value, placing the Mint in the paradoxical position of manufacturing money at a loss. This dynamic has prompted public and congressional scrutiny regarding eliminating of the denomination. Other modern series, such as the Susan B. Anthony dollar (left), failed to circulate widely and therefore had limited reach. The cent, by contrast, remains embedded in commerce, forcing policymakers to confront the inefficiency of low-denomination coinage in a fiat system.

Fourth, the series provides a modern illustration of Gresham’s Law. During periods of elevated copper prices, pre-1982 copper cents have been hoarded in response to their higher intrinsic value relative to later zinc issues. This behavior reduces effective circulation supply and highlights tensions between metallic content and face value. No other contemporary U.S. coin series has produced such visible, large-scale commodity arbitrage behavior. Finally, the Lincoln cent’s symbolic entrenchment—being the first regular-issue U.S. coin to depict a real historical figure—has economic consequences. Its cultural permanence contributes to political resistance against discontinuation, demonstrating how public sentiment can sustain an economically inefficient denomination.

In cumulative production, influence on retail pricing, exposure of seigniorage economics, and embodiment of commodity-versus-fiat tensions, the Lincoln cent stands as the U.S. Mint coin series with the most sustained and systemic impact on the American economy.



# New Column: ANA News

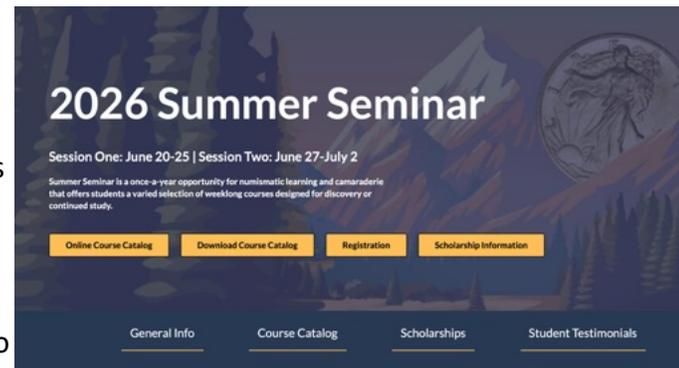
By Dan and Cam S.



We have recently been accepted as District Representatives of the American Numismatic Association (ANA), to serve as local ambassadors connecting coin clubs with ANA resources. Having ourselves benefited enormously from ANA-sponsored young numismatist (YN) and other programs in recent years, we plan frequently to visit clubs and local shows to provide information about the ANA resources that will help to grow the hobby at the local, regional, and national level. If you have thought about joining the ANA, but wondered about its costs

and benefits, we would be happy to share our personal experience with YN programs, its Seminars, the World's Fair of Money, and its many other adult programs. Please contact us if you would like to learn more. You very well may find there is a community of others who share your collecting passion. And if learning is your passion, the array of in-person, virtual, and self-study educational opportunities offered by the ANA might be just what you need to take your enjoyment of the hobby to the next level!

In this new column, we will briefly share ANA news and events each month. Recently, the ANA released details about its [Summer Seminar](#), with two separate sessions in the last week of June and the first week of July. While the window for scholarship applications is closed, registration for the event is open. Speaking from experience, Summer Seminar is a great opportunity to learn about specialized and general topics alike and develop friendships with collectors from around the country. Held on the campus of Colorado College, the ANA's "Coin College" boasted CCC six graduates last year, many of whom will attend again this year.



## Upcoming Coin Shows

- **8 March:** Vacaville Coin Show, Vacaville Elks Lodge, 302 Parker Street, Vacaville, CA 95688
- **13–14 March:** Sacramento Coin Show, Lions Gate Hotel, 3410 Westover Street, McClellan, CA 95652
- **20–21 March:** South Bay / Sunnyvale Coin Show, Domain Hotel, 1085 East El Camino Real, Sunnyvale, CA 94087
- **24–25 April:** Santa Clara Special Weekend Coin Show, American Legion Post 419, 938 Homestead Road, Santa Clara, CA 95050
- **26 April:** **Cupertino Coin Club Annual Coin Show, St. Joseph of Cupertino Church, 10110 N. De Anza Blvd, Cupertino, CA 95014**

## Board of Directors Election 2026

It is once again time to elect the Cupertino Coin Club Board of Directors. The election for the 2026-2027 year will be held during the March general club meeting. Once elected, the new officers and board members will be installed at the April meeting. The slate of candidates includes many of the previous Board of Director members for re-election and some new individuals. They include:

- Gran G. - President
- Suzy T. - Vice President
- Jason A. - Junior President
- Emile M. - Treasurer
- Griffin G. - Historian
- Steve C. Recording Secretary
- Al L. - Corresponding Secretary
- and Art B., Dan S., Steve T., Alex R., Don P. and Mike R. - Board Directors.

Come and vote at the March 13, 2026 meeting and elect our 2026-2027 Board of Directors.

# General Meeting Minutes from 13 February, 2026

## By Steve C.

Club President **Gran G.** called our February general meeting to order at 7:39 p.m. and welcomed everyone. There were twenty-five adults and seven youth in physical attendance.



**Griffin G.** conducted our club auction, **Emile M.** was our auction chair. **Cam S.**, **Jason R.**, **Aurelie M.**, and **Ivan L.** were our runners.

A club member drew our winning Buyer's Prize ticket. **Laurin M.** won the Buyer's Prize (0.999 fine 1-oz copper round, St. Gaudens design).

## Announcements:

- **Gran G.** welcomed our guests.
- Lyle Okamoto announced the upcoming coin shows:

- **13 and 14 February:** Redwood Empire Coin Club fifty-sixth Annual Coin Show at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds.
- **27 and 28 February:** Caljohn66silver Coin Show at the Santa Clara American Legion Post 419.
- **20 and 21 March:** South Bay Sunnyvale Coin Show at The Domain Hotel.
- **24 and 25 April:** Caljohn66silver Coin Show at the Santa Clara American Legion Post 419.
- **26 April:** Cupertino Coin Club Coin Show at St. Joseph of Cupertino Church.

**Cam S.** drew our winning Attendance Prize ticket. Attendance prize winner: **Alex R.** (0.999 fine 1 oz.



copper round)

We wished Happy Birthday to our February birthday members. Birthday Prize winner : **Emile M.** (0.999 fine 1 oz. copper round, Aztec Calendar design).

Our February program was the Morgan Dollar grading contest presented by **Scott S.** and **David G.**, and was enjoyed by all.

**Don P.** introduced show and tell.

- **Martha Davis:** 1955 Proof Quarter
- **Howard W.:** Agricultural Medals
- **Emile M.:** jar of silver quarters
- **Ivan L.:** 1985 \$10 bill
- **Cam S.:** shipwreck coin of the *Admiral Gardner* that sank in 1809
- **Dan S.:** 1947 B. Max Mehl coin price list
- **Suzy T.:** 1960 Medallion Art Boy Scout fiftieth anniversary medal
- **Griffin G.:** seven pound copper cast bar
- **David G.:** 1904 Proof Morgan Dollar
- **Laurin M.:** 1/200 ounce Gold Double Eagle design coin
- **Brian D.:** counterfeit Silver Eagle
- **Lucas H.:** comic art silver medal
- **Don P.:** complete set of Franklin half dollars in capital plastic holder.



**Aurelie M.** drew the

winning show and tell prize ticket.

Show and tell prize winner: **Howard W.** (0.999 fine 1 oz. copper round)

Our general meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Steve C.**

CCC Recording Secretary

# Board Meeting Minutes from 19 February, 2026

## By Steve C.

This month was an in person board meeting. In attendance were:

- President: **Gran G.**
- Vice President: **Suzy T.**
- Treasurer: **Emile M.**
- Recording Secretary: **Steve C.**
- Corresponding secretary: **Al L.**
- Coin Press Editor, Youth President: **Cam S.**
- Historian: **Griffin G.**
- Board directors (6): **Don P., Dan S., Mike R., Steve T., and Art B.**

Club President **Gran G.** called our February board meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. and welcomed everyone. There were twelve board members and chairs in attendance.

Recording Secretary **Steve C.** reported nothing new.

Corresponding Secretary **Al L.** reported: **Correspondence Received:** Magazines and newsletters :

- February *The Numismatist* (American Numismatic Association) -
- Rare Coin Report
- NCNA newsletter.

Treasurer **Emile M.** gave the treasurer's report. All was well.

Historian **Griffin G.** reported pictures will be uploaded from the February meeting.

Curator **Emile M.** reported nothing new.

Program Chair **Suzy T.** reviewed our upcoming club events:

- 7 March will be a Scout coin collection merit badge workshop.
- 13 March General Meeting: members are encouraged to arrive early to vote on By-Laws, (right) and attend our Club Year in review slide show by

## Griffin G.

- 10 April is the club's fifty-sixth anniversary (start time: 7:00 PM). It will be a Hot Dog / Polish Sausage potluck social and we will have our board inductions.
- 25 April: 7:00 p.m.–12:00 a.m. show bourse set-up at St. Joseph of Cupertino Church hall.
- April 26: 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m. is our annual coin show.

Membership Chair **Al L.** reported nothing new. *Coin Press* Editor Cam S. would like everything for our newsletter by 27 February.

Webmaster **Suzy T.** posted on:

- Important attendance at March meeting to vote on By-Laws and the 2026–27 Board.
- Appointed Board Member **Art B.**, effective December 2025.

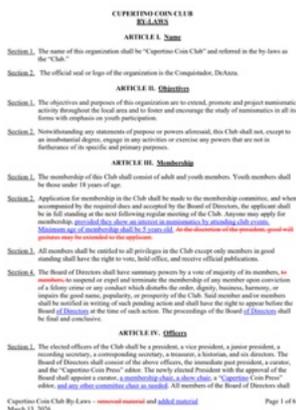
She requested the 2026 Bourse application, floor layout, and list of dealers for the "Show" tab, a photo of 2026 medal for Medals tab.

Facebook Chair **Suzy T.** updated the upcoming events, recognized members with February birthdays, announced upcoming coin shows, and posted on a Martin Luther King Junior Day Medal, the Steve Jobs Innovation

Dollar on Macintosh Computer Day, the US Mint Repricing including clad coinage, the Denver Mint's one-hundred at twentieth anniversary, and the melt value of the 2026 Olympic medals (above right).

Youth Advisor **Emile M.** reported seven youth present at the February general meeting.

Nominating Chair **Emile M.** reported that all board positions are filled, however for the record **Don P.'s** request for a Board position was missed and **Don** wanted to make sure this (*continued on next page*)



## Board Meeting Minutes from 19 February, 2026, continued from previous page

would not happen again.

### Old Business:

The board had a discussion about the list of club members that have paid their dues to be eligible to vote on the changes to the By-laws at the March 13th club meeting.

Show Chair **Mike W.** was not present at this meeting but reported on our Coin Show status. 48 tables are committed, with one still on the wait list. All drawing prizes are secured; two 1/20oz Chinese gold coins (raw), one 1/10oz gold coin, 10 2025 one ounce silver club medals, six Franklin halves, slabbed uncirculated for the hourly drawings. The show date is April 26, 2026. Prize drawing tickets have been handed off to **Emile M.** Members had a discussion about show layout and the inadequate space available for club exhibits.

**Don P.** moved to adjourn. **Suzy T.** seconded.

President **Gran G.** adjourned our board meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve C.

CCC Recording Secretary

## Upcoming U.S. Mint Releases

- [20 March: American Eagle 2025 Gold Proof Four-Coin Set \(below\)](#)
- [20 March: American Eagle 2025 One-Half Ounce Gold Proof Coin](#)
- [20 March: American Eagle 2025 One Ounce Gold Proof Coin,](#)
- [20 March: American Eagle 2025 One-Quarter Ounce Gold Proof Coin](#)
- [20 March: American Eagle 2025 One-Tenth Ounce Gold Proof Coin](#)
- [8 May: American Buffalo 2025 One Ounce Gold Proof Coin](#)
- [12 May: William McKinley Presidential Silver Medal \(right\)](#)
- [20 May: American Eagle 2025 One Ounce Silver Uncirculated Coin](#)
- [5 June: American Eagle 2025 One Ounce Gold Uncirculated Coin](#)



## Quiz Column: Guess the AI! Answers

Essay 2 (Lincoln cent) was written by ChatGPT; Essay 1 (Morgan dollar) was written by Dan S. Did it seem odd that the ChatGPT essay on the Lincoln cent did not mention that its minting was discontinued for circulation in late 2025? This arises from the fact that the current, free version of ChatGPT (version 4) was trained on data only through late 2023.

Dan reports that it took between 1.5 and 2 hours to write and revise his essay, using the Red Book and the internet for sources of information. The ChatGPT version was composed in mere seconds. It took far longer for Cam to compose an effective prompt, iterating on prompt versions using ChatGPT, than to write the essay.

