

PCNS Minutes for November 29, 2023

The board meeting for November 29, 2023, 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, Governors Bob Somers, Mike McDaniel and Ed Treuting, Past President Dan Hipple, and member Michael Wehner.

The minutes for the October meeting were approved.

Financial report: the report was sent to board members prior to the meeting and was discussed.

Speakers for 2024 are needed for all dates.

The Board of Governors 2024 election will be in December. All current board members are willing to serve another term.

New Business. Proposed by Michael W: He noted that our talks are all very good, and there is a large body of video work available on the Society's Videos webpage. He proposed an annual award for Best Presentation of the Year, with judges using the recordings to decide. This is in addition to the papers contest. The proposal will be brought up during the regular membership meeting to decide.

Adjournment 7:34 PM

At 7:34 PM, general meeting #1291 was called to order. Present in addition to the members from the board meeting via Zoom were Charlie Ludvic, Herb Miles, Scott Safe, John Duff, Jeff Pritchard, Henry Goodman, Federico Castillo, Doug Ward, Greg Burns, Dean Neald, and Matt Ruttley.

Speakers are needed for all of 2024. Please let Stephen know at webmaster@pcns.org, the sooner the better.

At the December meeting there will be elections for the Board of Governors. Nominations are open until the time of voting.

Michael proposed the institution of a prize for "Best Presentation of the Year", with 1st and 2nd place awards. Judges will be arranged by Jason; they will review the presentation videos in order to make a decision. This is in addition to continuing the papers contest. The proposal passed unanimously. Winners will be announced at our annual BBQ in-person meeting.

Featured Speaker: Matt Ruttley
"JB Frener: Central America's Most Prolific Engraver."

Matt presented a detailed talk on the life and work of J.B. Frener. He was born December 1821 in Switzerland, and his artistic talent was recognized early. It led to study in Paris and Florence, before returning to Lucerne. A visiting commission from Guatemala noted his work and offered him a job there. While mourning the loss of his first of several wives, he took a chance on that position and moved to Central America in the 1850s. There he went on to produce many coins and medals for several Central American countries. Some of the medals are extremely rare, and many of the coins he designed are extremely valuable. Matt presented many details in the talk and has written a book documenting his extensive research on the subject. Please see the recording of his discussion on the Society's Videos webpage to hear the full story. Information on purchasing his book is at the end of the video.

Member Exhibits:

Bill showed an 1836 Central American Republic 8 reales coin.

Federico talked about Frener medals in his collection.

Michael had three items. First was a link to his article in the TAMS Journal about the Point Bonita Lighthouse. He testified before the U.S. Senate in the past month, and 'collected' a coaster that was used there. And he showed a Count Piccolomini medal from 1836, mentioning California. The 'California' territory mentioned on the medal is actually part of Mexico.

Doug showed us 70mm silver and bronze Landing and Return of Columbus medals.

The general meeting adjourned at 8:51 PM. The next meeting will be December 27, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie Catlett, Secretary PCNS