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FROM YOUR NEW PRESIDENT ROBERT VANDEVENDER II

I am honored to have been elected to serve as your new SPMC President. I would like to thank our Past President Shawn Hewitt for his expert leadership and guidance over the past four years. Our society has progressed nicely under his supervision and we have witnessed many significant accomplishments.

Like many of you, I began my collecting career as a child with a blue Whitman coin folder and several Lincoln pennies. Routine weekend trips to a local flea market in Seminole Florida in the early 1970's did result in the purchase of my first piece of currency, an Fr.859c 1914 \$5 FRN note in VF condition. That note cost me just \$12 in 1973 and surprisingly, I still own it! My transition to serious paper money collecting occurred in the early 1990's leaving me well behind many of my newfound, and more seasoned, paper money collector friends.

Our new Vice President, Robert Calderman, will have his hands full as he has agreed to continue serving as our Secretary with the added responsibility of being Vice President and administering the show Awards Program, a task taken over by the Vice President position four years ago. I am confident Robert will do a great job going forward and will no doubt continue to entertain and educate us with his column in Paper Money and occasional presentations about Cherry Picking notes!

As we emerge from the challenge of Covid-19 we are beginning to see more and more shows return for face-to-face participation. Unfortunately, we were not able to have our annual breakfast meeting at the International Paper Money Show this year but the future looks bright with the hobby quickly returning to normal. The SPMC will be setting up a table at the upcoming ANA show in Chicago in August with several members having already volunteered to staff the table throughout the show. In addition, we plan to have a General Membership meeting at the ANA show on Saturday morning which will include award presentations. It also was recently announced that the Long Beach California Show will proceed starting on September 30th and I am planning on attending that show as well. We are also planning on having an SPMC presence at the South Carolina Numismatic Associations SCNA 49th Annual Convention in October at the Greenville, SC Convention Center.

As many of you may be aware, this year marks the 60th Anniversary of the Society of Paper Money Collectors. Our anniversary also coincides with the 60th Anniversary of the International Bank Note Society. We are currently exploring options for having a joint recognition event for this milestone. More to come on this topic. Efforts with the Obsoletes Database Project (ODP) will continue and we are actively seeking members who would like to participate and contribute to that effort. Several SPMC members are also working to create an index of Paper Money magazine articles since the beginning of the society. We plan to make that index available to all members to help in research efforts.

Based on the success of the previous Zoom-based Membership meeting and speaker event we held last February, our Board members will be looking forward to scheduling another event along that format to provide better access to speakers for those members who cannot otherwise attend at the various shows.

On social media, I have found at least seven different quality Facebook groups devoted to various types of currency collecting. The participants range from very experienced collectors to new beginners often only concerned about the potential worth of an item. Hopefully, some of these participants will find their way into membership with the SPMC. My long-time friend, Jim Hodgson, often posts items on social media with a scan of a note followed by a brief description of what is special about it. Jim has agreed to provide those items to our highly esteemed Paper Money magazine editor, Benny Bolin, for publication in future issues.

I would like to congratulate Past President Pierre Fricke for having been awarded the Whitman Publishing "Official Red Book Contributor" award and pin for his contribution to the 2021 Seventy-Fifth Edition of the Red Book. In closing, I am very excited about what the future holds for both our hobby and the growth of the Society of Paper Money Collectors!

Robert L. Vandevender II

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

ROBERT VANDEVENDER II

Greetings fellow paper money enthusiasts. It is nice to see that our hobby is very active. The SPMC is happy to welcome Dean Oaks and Clifford L. Mishler into our Hall of Fame this year. Also selected posthumously for the Hall of Fame is former board member Forrest Daniel.

In July, we were sad to learn that our longtime member and Paper Money magazine Editor Emeritus Fred L. Reed III had passed away. Fred provided a much-needed service to the SPMC and was instrumental in the publishing of the Society's 40th anniversary issue. More information regarding Fred can be found in this issue. At the last minute, my schedule changed, and I was able to attend the Florida United Numismatist 15th annual summer convention in July. Although the SPMC did not have a table at this event, several of our members were present and busy staffing their own personal dealers' tables. From the conversations I had, it appeared that everyone was having a very busy show. Attendees were required to wear a Covid-19 mask while passing through the entrance but once inside the hall, most of the people I saw removed their masks shortly thereafter.

We saw a great turnout at the ANA Show in Chicago this past August with several SPMC members present. Activity at the SPMC table was a little slow as it was at many of the other club tables likely due to the table location being off the main floor of the show, but we did have many visitors at the table. One prospective new member made the comment that he was amazed at how many currency dealers there were on the main floor of the show and there certainly was a big presence with many of our regular dealers having tables. Many dealers with whom I spoke commented about how busy they were during the show. Concurrent to the ANA Show located in one hall, the Great American Stamp Show was happening in a different hall. Several people from our show also visited the stamp show. I was surprised to see very active currency dealing at a few tables at the stamp show as well.

During the ANA Show, Past President Shawn Hewitt and I were pleased to be able to present several of this year's SPMC service awards in person including the awards to our two newest Hall of Fame inductees, Dean Oaks, and Clifford Mishler. Several of our members were pleased to join Dean Oaks one evening for a celebratory dinner at a local Italian restaurant with brief remarks provided by Past President Mark Anderson. Other members attended various outside activities such as a Rockin' in the Park Summer Concert Series or the Chicago Dogs baseball game where both events were followed by a large fireworks display. And of course, there were many visits to various excellent dining establishments nearby. Saturday morning came quickly, and we held a small SPMC membership meeting for those people who were available to attend with a presentation provided by Vice President Robert Calderman. We also added a few new members to our Society during the show.

I recently learned that the American Numismatic Association is in the process of applying for a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission for a project titled "The American Numismatic Association shares the never-before-seen American Banknote Company Archives with the world." The ANA Project Summary states "This project will help researchers and many others to learn more about the history of the American Banknote Company (ABNC) and the various other companies that the ABNC overtook." In August, I issued a letter in support of this project in hopes of helping the ANA succeed in their goal as I am sure many of you will be interested in seeing the results of the project.

The next presence for the SPMC at a show will be the upcoming South Carolina Numismatic Association in late October. We will have a table staffed by our board members so please stop by and say hello if you are able to attend the event.

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Robert Vandevender II

We received great news that our periodical, Paper Money magazine was awarded the NLG Award "Best Not-For-Profit Periodical Small Circulation" in Rosemont, IL, August 2021 at the recent ANA convention. Many thanks to our Editor Benny Bolin and our contributors for this great achievement. This is a testament to the quality of the articles and columns you all submit.

Thanks to the hard work and effort by our Editor Benny Bolin, Board Member Loren Gatch, and Vice President Robert Calderman, the index to articles in Paper Money magazine from Vol. 1 to Vol. 60 is complete. It breaks down to 2400+ articles. 546--obsoletes, 517--Nationals, etc., etc. Most prolific authors M. Owen Warns--63, Forrest Daniel--75, Gene Hessler--81 and Peter Huntoon--270! It is searchable by author, category or by year. We are making a final decision on how to distribute this tool to the membership.

This year I had the opportunity to attend the Long Beach Expo for the first time. The dealers I spoke with indicated that sales had been strong. The Long Beach show was interesting because it had not only numismatic items, but also had sections for both stamps and sports cards. Shortly after I left the hall, I received a text message from our Librarian Jeff Brueggeman informing me that they had called my name for a door prize. Sadly, I was not there to claim it. I heard it was an autographed jersey and not a numismatic-related item.

Long ago, collector and dealer Tom Flynn and I were discussing if we should each go buy a note that a dealer had two left. Tom finally got up from his table and said, "I'm going to go buy one because my list of 'wish I had' is a lot longer than my list of 'wish I hadn't.'" I got up with him and we proceeded to buy the two notes. However, on the other side, I think each of us has sold a note that we now wish we still had. The note that makes me lose sleep is one of the two known 1934 \$500 Minneapolis star FRNs. Serial numbers 799 and 800 exist. The 799 note sold in the Heritage Auction this past Long Beach show. Years ago, I bought the 800 note from Tom Denly but at a show a few years later, I was convinced sell it to a dealer who wanted to own a consecutive pair of the notes. I have tried to keep track of who has my serial number 800. At the Long Beach show, my friend Jhon E. Cash was there and was kind enough to let me hold my old 800 note for a photo but was clear to mention that it is not for sale.

With this being our 60th anniversary, our editor Benny asked each of us to reflect on how things have changed over the years. The thing that really comes to mind for me is how third-party grading has affected our hobby. There was a time when a 1928 or 1934 note with a counting crease in the upper right corner was ignored and considered a Choice CU or better note. Now, it is often a gamble that the note will come back as a 58 grade losing the CU classification. At first, I was opposed, as were many others, to third-party grading. Over time I realized that third-party grading had opened a whole new direction for the hobby. It made it safer for collectors to buy notes sight-unseen either at online bidding or dealer sites or from auctions than it was previously. But there are still plenty of un-slabbbed notes out there that collectors shouldn't overlook since the cost of submitting them to a third-party grading service often doesn't make sense for the lower-priced notes.

Thanks to efforts by our Vice President Robert Calderman, we were able to have an SPMC table at the South Carolina Numismatic Association show in Greenville, SC. We are now starting to discuss plans for the upcoming FUN Show in January. We hope to be able to have an SPMC table at that show as well.

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

ROBERT VANDEVENDER II

Welcome to a new collecting year and I trust everyone had a nice holiday. I would like to thank the various Past Presidents and other contributors who helped to make our Nov-Dec 60th Anniversary Paper Money issue special by providing their memories of how the society has progressed throughout the years.

At the time of this writing, plans are in place for the SPMC to have a table at the Florida United Numismatist (FUN) show in January with several members volunteering to staff the table. At the show, the SPMC will also participate in the ANA's Treasure Trivia Program where children can stop by our table, find the answer to a trivia question about paper money, and then be given a small prize. The theme this year will be about why some banknotes have a star in their serial number. Speaking of star notes, I recently saw a Canadian Devil's Hair replacement star note \$1 bill come up at auction. Although I didn't bid on this one, I thought that would be an interesting item to own someday. A good friend of mine, Alan Bailey, bought a very nice one years ago and enjoyed showing it off after the purchase. I do have a few notes from countries other than the United States but it is a small group mostly consisting of special serial numbers, replacement notes, or another attribute that caught my eye.

I was recently looking at items for sale at an online bidding site and was surprised to see how many old Department of Agriculture food coupons "food stamps" were for sale. At one time, it was not legal to own food stamps unless one was entitled to be on the program. In 2009, food stamps were demonetized and are now available to collect. Since food stamps were printed at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, had serial numbers just like currency, and they also produced replacement star issues, the collecting of food stamps was a natural draw for some collectors. One challenge was to find a good example that hadn't been torn out of the book but was fully intact. I recall being at many shows and seeing small groups of stealthy collectors sneaking around in the shadowed corners swapping items which I can neither confirm nor deny were food stamps. Today they are legal to own and collect and can readily be found online. I own only one food stamp so far, a \$5 star replacement. I rarely see them offered at numismatic shows; perhaps not enough of them were saved to create a widespread collector base. If you are interested, in the May/June 2011 Paper Money magazine, Peter Huntoon and Tom Conklin wrote a very informative article on the subject.

With the help of Governor Mark Drengson, the SPMC is working on the development of and sponsorship of a "Collecting Paper Money" wiki website. As the project proceeds, we will be seeking help from our membership to contribute to the content development. If you are interested in helping with the development of this exciting new project, please drop me an email. There is more to come on this topic!

Robert L. Vandevender II

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

ROBERT VANDEVENDER II

Greetings: 2022 appears to be off to a great numismatic start with the SPMC fully engaged in moving forward as coin and currency shows return. Thanks to several of our board members, we successfully staffed a club table at the January FUN Show in Orlando, at the Houston Show, and I plan to join Vice President Robert Calderman at our club table during the Long Beach show.

I would like to share some great news. At our February board meeting, the SPMC board voted unanimously to hold our next annual meeting during an upcoming show scheduled for a few months away. We are planning for this show to be accompanied by the many events we have held in the past such as exhibit judging, award presentations, a Hall of Fame Dinner, and our well-known SPMC Breakfast with the associated fund-raising raffle. We will, of course, be seeking the services of Governor Wendell Wolka to emcee that raffle and I am confident he will be up to the task of providing a little entertainment as the numbers are drawn. Once again, we will be asking for item donations from members and dealers for the event. If Wendell were here, he would likely tell you to get your winning number requests in early!! The planning for these events is just now starting with much to be done so don't jump the gun too much until we get some arrangements in place. Watch for more details in the next Paper Money issue.

Last month, the SPMC received a generous contribution from the National Currency Foundation to help the SPMC continue its research activities and publication of many great articles in the Paper Money magazine. We look forward to many exciting new articles in this upcoming year from many of our authors and expect to see big things once again from our Hall of Fame member Peter Huntoon.

For those of you on social media, I hope you are having the chance to see the Facebook "SPMC Note of the Day" provided by member Andy Timmerman. I always enjoy seeing what he comes up with for the daily post. Postal Notes were the flavor of today's post. If you are not seeing our Note of the Day, be sure to find our "Society of Paper Money Collectors" Facebook page and click the thumbs-up like icon so the content appears in your feed.

With the help of Governor Mark Drengson, the SPMC continues working on the development of and sponsorship of a "Collecting Paper Money" wiki website and Bank Note History Project. Later this year, we expect to make the link available to both members and the public. We continue to seek help from our membership to contribute to the content development. Please contact us if you would like to help.

Another great effort underway is the development of short educational videos. The first of those videos has been developed by Governor Loren Gatch with help from college students and is currently being reviewed. The subject for this first video is Depression Script and, I must admit, I learned quite a bit while watching it. At some point, we will be providing a link to this and upcoming videos on our website as well as offering them as an outreach to other collector clubs to provide an entry level insight into the various paper money collecting areas. I urge you to check it out when it is posted.

Robert L. Vandevender II

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

ROBERT VANDEVENDER II

I have some great news for everyone. At our last board meeting, we confirmed our plans to hold the next SPMC annual meeting in conjunction with the upcoming FUN show in January 2023. Planning is underway and we expect to have our annual breakfast, a membership meeting, as well as exhibit grading and award presentations. You will find more information about it in this and future issues of Paper Money magazine.

In February, along with VP Robert Calderman, Nancy Purington and I had the opportunity to staff our SPMC Table at the Long Beach Exposition, The Collectibles Show. We had a great time and did sign up some new members and handed out several applications which hopefully will be submitted at a later date. Both Robert and I were able to locate a few new treasures for our collections at this show.

What turned out to be a somewhat humorous story was the "case of the counterfeit bill" inquiry. I was with a dealer at the show when a customer arrived and showed the dealer a well worn 1934 \$100 Light Green Seal FRN and asked if it was real or a counterfeit. The dealer examined the note and although the "paper" had a slick feel to it after having been either pressed or living in a wallet for years, decided it was in fact a real note. The dealer handed me the note and I examined it using a good magnifying glass and due to the sharpness of the print also agreed that it was a genuine note. The customer finally asked the dealer if he wanted to buy it from him for face value, so the dealer took out five \$20 bills and bought the note. The customer then stated that it was a good profit because he had only paid \$50 for the note from someone who thought it was a counterfeit. I have purchased postage stamps below face value before, but I have never been able to buy currency in that manner. We all got a laugh out of that one.

I was looking through the various and often entertaining posts on Facebook the other day and was interested to see there were several posts about the Web-fed press \$1 Federal Reserve Notes. It seems there is a renewed interest in those experimental notes. When the 1988A Series web notes started appearing, several of us became very interested in locating and assembling sets by issued districts, blocks, and plate combinations. Jim Hodgson and I compiled a list of the early printing figures of those notes that was subsequently used in the Standard Guide To Small-Size U.S. Paper Money 1928 To Date by John Schwartz and Scott Lindquist. Later, Bob Kvederas Jr. published a very comprehensive booklet on the subject covering all three series of the notes. I still have an extensive web-fed note collection. I haven't seen one show up in circulation, or as the Facebook crowd likes to say, "in the wild" for many years. To my knowledge, the very first F-star replacement web-fed note was discovered by my friend Alan Bailey while he and I were searching through packs of singles sitting in my car in Joliet, Illinois. He found two circulated star notes in one pack and was kind enough to give me one of them. We took the notes with us to the Memphis show that year and made quite a splash. At that time, nobody had ever seen one or knew of their existence.

On a closing note, I would like to thank SPMC member Peter Robin and his wife Renate for their kind donation of several years of past Paper Money magazines. I would also like to thank Past President Mark Anderson for arranging to pick up the donation.

Robert L. Vandevender II

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ROBERT VANDEVENDER II

Greetings:

As we enter another Summer, I suspect many of you will be attending both the Florida United Numismatists Summer FUN show in Orlando this July followed by the American Numismatic Association Chicago World's Fair of Money in August. I hope to make an appearance at the Summer FUN show but the SPMC will not have a table. The SPMC will have a significant presence at the ANA Show including a club table and will be holding a membership meeting with several guest speakers. If you are at the show, please stop by our table and say hello. Planning for our upcoming annual meeting at the Winter FUN show in January is continuing. Arrangements have been made for our table, and rooms for both our meetings and breakfast. If you are interested in donating an item to support our fundraising Thomas Bain Raffle to be held during the breakfast, please contact one of our board members. I am pleased to welcome two new members, Jerry Fochtman and Andy Timmerman, to our Board of Governors. Both of these gentlemen bring valuable skills to our team, and I am looking forward to working with them to further the interests of our Society. The world has certainly changed around us regarding how we communicate. One of the tasks our Board is currently working on is to create a more effective way for our membership to vote. With our two methods of membership, one being electronic only, while others continue to receive communications primarily via this magazine, changes may be needed to both our website and to our bylaws to accommodate this hybrid existence to ensure all members have adequate access to information. Please stand-by for more on this topic.

On a different note, it was interesting to read Arthur L. Friedberg's' April 25, 2022 article in Coin World regarding the Secret Service reviewing counterfeit notes in counterfeit holders. This is a subject we have not heard much about in the currency world, but I suppose it was just a matter of time since we are often hearing of similar incidents in the coin arena. I have never come across a counterfeit slab of paper money and certainly hope I do not. We should keep an eye out for anything suspicious and report it to the appropriate authorities including the Anti-Counterfeiting Educational Foundation (ACEF). In closing, I would like to thank our long time Board member, Gary Dobbins, for his service to our Society. Gary has decided not to run for reelection as a Governor so he can spend more time on other personal activities. Gary has been a great asset to our Board. He and his often-witty comments will both be missed. Thanks for helping us, Gary!

Robert L. Vandevender II

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

ROBERT VANDEVENDER II

In June, we were very sad to learn of the passing of our Hall of Fame Member Don C. Kelly. As most of you know, Don was a big part of our hobby and made significant contributions in research and literary works. No doubt many of you have notes in your collections that at one time were in a case owned by Don. He will be missed.

Recently, I read an article regarding changes in English currency. With those of you owning a wallet full of "paper" Bank of England £20 and £50 banknotes, I trust that by now you have exchanged them for the new polymer notes as the legal tender status will be withdrawn at the end of September. I must admit, the new £50 polymer note featuring the computer scientist Alan Turing is a sharp looking note. I have fantastic news to report. Peter Huntoon and Andrew Shiva have worked hard over several years to create the new "Huntoon-Shiva Encyclopedia of U.S. National Bank Notes." I am pleased to announce that this work will be jointly published by the National Currency Foundation and the Society of Paper Money Collectors and available to our members via a link from the SPMC website and our SPMC Wiki Page. Please check it out.

In addition to the Huntoon-Shiva Encyclopedia, we have several new data-related resources in the works and will be rolling them out to the membership and the public in the upcoming months so stay tuned. Some of these upcoming items will be available free to the public while others will be restricted to our membership. Please keep an eye out for announcements in upcoming issues of Paper Money. In July, I made a visit to the Summer FUN show in Orlando. Although the "Summer in Florida" show isn't quite as large as the Winter FUN show in January, it appeared to have a very good turnout. After dropping off a stack of notes to a third-party grading service in hopes of the grades being returned with favorable results, I walked the floor and was happy to meet with several of our members and friends.

During our August routine SPMC Board of Governors meeting, I was happy to welcome our two newest board members, Jerry Fochtman and Andy Timmerman to our group. I am looking forward to their contributions to the Board.

Planning for our annual meeting at the Winter FUN is continuing and looking good. We will be providing more details on the SPMC website shortly. Make plans on attending. I hope to see many of you there in January.

Robert L. Vandevender II

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

ROBERT VANDEVENDER II

A lot has happened in the world since our last issue of Paper Money magazine. I am sad to report the passing of our Past President, Larry D. Adams, who died in Granger, IA in October as the result of an automobile accident. Larry was the curator of the Higgins Museum of National Bank Notes. Larry collected business cards and did investigative work. He and I had a very nice conversation earlier this year. Our thoughts go out to his family.

Although expected, the passing of Queen Elizabeth II was sad for many people. I watched several parts of the service and as usual, the British people did a great job with the performance. The redesign of their currency and coins was being planned. I was surprised to learn that the way the portrait face changes from the King or Queen facing left or right during each new reign. Therefore, we can expect the portrait of King Charles III to face toward the left on the new coins although I am not sure that same custom exists for currency since many banknotes show the Queen facing straight or to the left. On Jul 8, 1976, from the windows at the top of the Statue of Liberty, I saw Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip arriving in New York harbor on the Royal Yacht Britannia. We were delayed leaving Liberty Island until she had disembarked in New York. The Queen came for her second visit to NYC to collect the rent due her from the Trinity Church at Broadway and Wall Street. 279 peppercorns in a Steuben glass container were given to her for the 1 peppercorn per year rent from the agreement made with her ancestor King William III.

Speaking of redesigned currency, with the September signing of Chief Lynn Malerba as the new United States Treasurer, we too can expect new currency soon with an updated signature.

Hurricane Ian was certainly a big event for many of us. Fortunately, our home in Florida was not affected by the hurricane but many of my friends and family cannot say the same. I thought it was nice that Paper Money Guarantee (PMG) located in Sarasota provided hurricane updates on their website since many of their customers, including me, were concerned about their preparation and the protection of the no-doubt millions of dollars' worth of items previously submitted for grading. Fortunately, all turned out well for PMG although not so well for many of their close neighbors to the South.

As some of you may be aware, In September we rolled out the SPMC Paper Money Articles Index. The index provides online links to all 2500+ articles that have appeared in the Paper Money Journal since the first issue in 1962. However, one must be a member of the SPMC to access articles

printed in the last five years. If you haven't seen it yet, please log onto the SPMC.org site and check it out. Earlier this year, I was able to reacquire a black Fractional Currency Shield I once owned. I originally purchased the shield in 1992 from a dealer in West Chester, PA and am excited to own it again. After picking up the shield, I had it reframed (keeping the old original frame) with new acid-free backing and museum quality UV glass. When I opened up the frame for the work to be done, it was the first time I had ever had the opportunity to hold an unframed shield.

Planning for the January FUN show continues. The breakfast on Saturday morning at the show is ready to go but we will only have seating for 60 this year so if you want a ticket, buy it early at our website! Check the FUN schedule for more information about scheduled events including our membership meeting. I hope to see you there.

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

ROBERT VANDEVENDER II

Greetings:

I trust everyone had a nice Thanksgiving and Christmas and are ready to start a new exciting year of collecting! Our Editor, Benny, urged us to complete our articles early in December to allow for this edition of Paper Money to make it to our membership before the FUN show in January.

It seems like it has been a recurring theme this year and I am sad to once again comment on the passing of one of our Life Members, John DeRocker, this past month. John was a good friend and was always in the search for a new perfect note for his incredible collection. We will miss seeing John at upcoming shows and our thoughts go out to his family.

Much of the last part of my November was spent sorting notes for my next submission to third-party grading. The ongoing submission project takes much more effort than I originally thought it would. I am still awaiting the return of a batch of notes I submitted last July. While sorting this new stack, I came across a note that wasn't listed in the Friedberg Paper Money of the United States book, 22nd Edition. I would like to think that this event would be an exciting moment for a collector, to find that previously undocumented item, something new to the census! But it was obvious I had not "discovered" the latest front-page news and note for our hobby, but simply had uncovered a minor editorial omission with FR 2182F*, a \$100 FRN 2006A Atlanta star note, not being on the list. I sent Arthur Friedberg a quick note along with a picture of the note letting him know of the needed correction. The search for the "big find" will have to continue!

I continue to enjoy seeing the various currency posts on social media sites. There are many knowledgeable people contributing a wealth of information on those forums. There are also many newcomers posting pictures of notes they have found and often ask questions about any significance they may have. I hope our various members will continue to encourage the new participants to explore the resources provided by the SPMC and to consider membership.

The plans for SPMC participation at the FUN show are being finalized and both our General Membership meeting and Breakfast are listed on the official FUN website schedule. With this being our first time holding our annual meeting at the FUN show, there are likely to be some growing pains, but we will work through them. Please stop by the SPMC table for a visit. If you haven't purchased your breakfast tickets yet, they are available at our website. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Robert L. Vandevender II

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

ROBERT VANDEVENDER II

Greetings:

In January, we held our first annual SPMC general membership and breakfast meetings at the FUN show and by most accounts, everything went well. We are looking forward to doing it again next year. For those of you who could not attend, we had plenty of staff and traffic at the SPMC table with every chair filled at numerous times. We also had displayed a framed memorial with flowers recognizing the passing of twelve of our members and significant numismatic contributors over the past couple of years. This year, we participated in the youth scavenger hunt with a question to ask each of the kids who came by the table and after answering, we awarded them with a free foreign banknote. The question we asked this year is what a star means as a part of the US currency serial number.

We had such a strong turnout of kids stopping by we ran out of Venezuelan notes to hand out and had to hit the floor to purchase some Peru notes for the table. We were pleased to meet with both the Ben Franklin and Abraham Lincoln actors and gave them each SPMC advertising flyers fashioned as currency from their time period to hand out to people who visited their table. They ran out of flyers very quickly and we are making plans to have more printed for their use.

On Thursday morning we held a general membership meeting with light attendance. Several of the people who did attend had various currency items with them. We all took turns playing show-and-tell with the items we had available. Next year, we will look to schedule the meeting at a better time when more people will be available to attend.

The breakfast on Saturday was attended by the maximum crowd for which we had planned this year and was well received. The room at the convention center was perfect for acoustics and there was plenty of food at the buffet. Abraham Lincoln even made an appearance at the start of the breakfast. This year, the Tom Bains raffle, conducted by our favorite ticket puller, Wendell Wolka, included a nice final prize worth an estimated \$750. For next year, we are considering expanding the allowed attendance above the 60 we had chosen for this year.

With this being the first annual meeting we have held since the Covid event started a couple of years ago, and the first at the FUN show location, we learned a few things and are planning some improvements for next year.

In February, Vice President Robert Calderman and I attended the Long Beach Expo. SPMC member, Nancy Purington and I staffed the SPMC table while Mr. VP Calderman was busy horse trading at Jim Fitzgerald's table. Everyone seemed to have a good time. The Long Beach Expo is rapidly becoming my favorite show to attend. The staff are easy to work with, they give out fantastic door prizes, and the public traffic is heavy. At the SPMC table we gave out many applications and did welcome two new members at this show and hope a few of the handed-out applications come in later. We are already booked to staff the SPMC table at the June Long Beach show. Please stop by and say hello if you are in the area.

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

ROBERT VANDEVENDER II

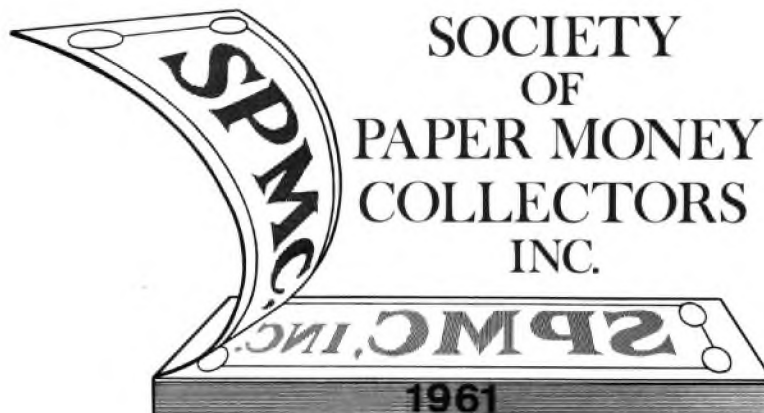
One of our SPMC Life Members, James Dawson, was kind enough to send me a very large article from the New York Times Business Section dated March 11, 2023, regarding Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen's visit to the Fort Worth branch of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Secretary Yellen signed, what the times called, "commemorative notes at the unveiling of a batch of dollar bills." Secretary Yellen's signature appears on the new 2021 Series notes. The Times incorrectly states "It's the first time that United States bank notes had been signed by a woman." Of course, the Treasurer signatures have featured signatures by women for decades. The multi-page article features several color photos of the work in progress at the Ft. Worth facility and I was happy to see that glimpse into their operation. If you have the opportunity, you might enjoy checking out the article.

Last month, I received my latest shipment of graded notes back from third party grading. It is always like opening a Christmas present when they arrive looking for the surprises. On occasion, a note will come back graded lower than expected and sometimes higher. But overall, I will have to say that the old-school grading we used for years was pretty accurate by current standards and most of the notes match very closely the anticipated grade.

The SPMC continues to encourage and provide support to many of our members who do research and publish new information about paper money. One of our members, Peter Huntoon, was scheduled to make another trip to the National Archives in Washington DC this Spring continuing that research. I am looking forward to hearing about his latest trip and seeing the results of new data he may have uncovered. Thanks to the efforts of our Vice President, Robert Calderman, those of you who receive The Currency Dealer Newsletter (CDN) Green Sheet should start seeing advertisement for the SPMC encouraging new membership. You will also start to see CDN advertisements in our Paper Money Magazine.

By the time you read this, the Central States Numismatic Society's 84th Convention will have come and gone and I'm sure many of you enjoyed the event. In June, we are planning to staff an SPMC table at the Long Beach Expo and the SPMC will also have a table at the upcoming American Numismatic Association's World Fair of Money to be held in Pittsburgh in August. Please stop by our table and say hello!

Robert L. Vandevender II



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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

ROBERT VANDEVENDER II

Greetings. During our June Executive Board meeting, we held an election for the four officers of our organization. I would like to thank the Board of Governors for selecting me as your President for my second and final 2-year term. Our Vice President and Secretary Robert Calderman along with our Treasurer Robert Moon will also continue serving in those positions for the next two years.

For a time, it appeared we were going to have a contested election for our Board of Governors. During this election, we were planning to have voting via electronic means as the primary method while continuing to have the ability to distribute paper ballots to those individuals who requested one. As some of you may know, after many years of serving on our Board, both Mark Anderson and J. Fred Maples decided not to run for reelection but to continue to support the organization as regular members. This decision by them freed up two additional spots on our board eliminating the need for a contested election this year. I am happy to welcome two new members to our Board of Governors, Derek Higgins, and Raiden Honaker. You can read more about them in this issue.

Although not needed for this election, it made sense to continue with a revision of our bylaws to accommodate the new electronic voting process potentially needed in the future. The new updated bylaws were ratified by our Executive Board on June 12th and are available at our website for review. During the third week of June, after my submittal deadline for this article, we are planning to staff an SPMC table at the Long Beach Expo. If this show turns out to be like the previous ones, we should see a significant amount of traffic with many people stopping by our table to either say hello or to inquire about our organization. I will be walking the floor for a day at the upcoming Summer FUN show in Orlando, but the SPMC will not have a table. In August, we will be heading to Pittsburgh and helping to staff the SPMC table at the ANA World Fair of Money. I look forward to seeing some of you there.

Looking forward, one of the things our Society needs to consider is succession planning for key positions. If you think you are qualified and interested in potentially becoming our Secretary or Treasurer at some time in the future, please contact one of our board members. I am sure our highly efficient Treasurer, Bob Moon, and Secretary, Robert Calderman, would be happy to work with an understudy!

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

ROBERT VANDEVENDER II

In July, Nancy and I attended the Summer FUN show. For the first time, my niece Taylor and nephew Justin, accompanied by their parents, my sister Jennifer, and Troy came to the show to see what it was all about. Nancy and I spent several hours walking them around the floor showing them all of the exciting things one can see at a money show. Both Justin and Taylor participated in the Treasure Trivia Hunt where they went to various tables to answer a question and receive a gift. They received many good items and learned a lot about numismatics. Justin won a proof set on a wheel spin at one of the stops. Both received slabbed dollar bills from PCGS. The SPMC didn't have a table at the Summer FUN, but we will be participating as one of the Treasure Trivia Hunt stops at the Winter FUN when we hold our annual meetings and breakfast. Last year, our question to the children was to explain what a star note signifies. We will be coming up with a different question for this upcoming FUN. If you have children or grandchildren and have never taken them to a major show, I highly recommend it.

Speaking of the Winter FUN, we have started planning for the various events we hold during the show. We are planning for the breakfast meeting, designing souvenir breakfast tickets, preparing for award presentations for both literary and service awards, and arranging a speaker for our annual membership meeting. One activity we are pursuing right now is donations for our annual Thomas Bain raffle, always held during our breakfast meeting. It is a major fundraising activity for our Society and helps offset the cost of breakfast. So, if you have a few numismatic related items you would like to contribute, please seek out one of our Governors or email for an address for shipment. Of course, we are a 501c3 organization and can provide a receipt for anything donated if requested. Also, if you are interested in doing an educational presentation, just let us know.

Mike Abramson sent out some interesting news about how currency will be printed and packaged. It sounds like the notes in packs of new currency will no longer be sequentially numbered, starting with the one dollar notes in 2023. This will certainly change how people search for special serial numbers in the future. Have you checked out the new Bank Note Lookup feature our Governor, Mark Drengson, helped to develop. It is a very nice addition and open to the public. I was using it at work the other day to look up coworkers' hometowns and many of the non-collectors were interested and impressed. Check it out at <https://banklookup.spmc.org/>.

In July, the SPMC had a table at the Long Beach Expo in California. We had a steady stream of traffic at the table and handed out many membership applications. We will do it again at the September show so if you are in the area, please stop by and say hello.

At the recent ANA WFOM show, I had the opportunity to meet with Ventris C. Gibson, Director of the US Mint. Here is a picture as she was presenting me with her autographed card.



Robert L. Vandevender II

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

ROBERT VANDEVENDER II

Greetings:

The Pittsburgh ANA Show was a big success for the SPMC. The location of the convention center downtown was fantastic with many restaurants, hotels, and events within easy walking distance. We had a lot of activity at the SPMC table and over the course of the show, added around ten new members to our Society. I would like to thank the several members who helped staff the table over the four days. During the show, several of our members took advantage of being so close to the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball stadium with home games being played almost every night of the show. Nancy and I made it to one game along with Past President Shawn Hewitt and Governor Derek Higgins and his wife Jessica. Another fun evening was a group dinner several of our board members attended at Nicky's Thai Palace. I don't believe anyone left hungry that evening. At the show, I had the opportunity to be offered a spectacular \$5 Educational note that really did belong in my collection. However, the price tag was a little too high for my checkbook at the moment so it will have to find another home. I had the opportunity to meet Ventris C. Gibson, Director of the US Mint. Ms. Gibson gave me an autographed card and posed with me for a picture. Governor Derek Higgins and his wife Jessica help to develop a QR code for our Society. Scanning the QR code will take the viewer directly to our membership page to encourage people to sign up for membership. We plan to make the QR code available to anyone who would like to include it on their website or other communications.

Several of our members attended the Tampa Paper Money Show in October and we did have an SPMC table set up. Unfortunately, due to a family commitment to attend a wedding, I will not be able to attend the show this year but I am excited that we now have a paper money only show in the growth stage and I certainly hope that as many people as possible can attend. Again, I am sad to have to discuss the passing of one of our long-time members and Hall of Fame member, Neil Shafer. Neil was a fantastic person and very knowledgeable in our avocation. I always enjoyed speaking with Neil and he will certainly be missed among our ranks.

Planning for our upcoming events at the FUN Show in January is continuing. We have confirmed our participation in the Youth Treasure Hunt and have developed a new question for the orange treasure hunt card handed out to the youth participants. Several other board members are busy arranging other activities including our annual breakfast and raffle drawing event, during which our highly esteemed and respected board member, Wendell Wolka, will officiate and display his usual humor while calling out the winning ticket numbers. I hope to see many of you at the show in January and if you are there, please attend our events. Breakfast tickets will be on sale on our website very shortly.

Robert L. Vandevender II

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ROBERT VANDEVENDER II

As I mentioned in the previous issue, thanks to Governor Derek Higgins and his wife Jessica, we have developed a QR code for our Society. Scanning the QR code will take the viewer directly to our membership page to encourage people to sign up for membership. If all goes as planned, you should be seeing the QR code on the front cover of this issue of Paper Money magazine.

Voting for the various Literary Award winners occurred in December with a good turnout of voters. Additionally, selections will be made this month for a few service awards for members who have significantly contributed to our efforts. Both the Literary and Service awards will be (were) presented at our annual breakfast meeting in January.

If our editor Benny was successful, you will have received this issue of Paper Money magazine before the Orlando FUN Show. The annual membership meeting will be held on Friday, January 5th at 9:00 a.m. in Room N330AB at the Convention Center. Our annual breakfast meeting will be held Saturday morning, January 6th at 8:00 a.m. in Room N330AB at the Convention Center. We always try to finish the program in time to allow people to get to the floor when it opens. Please be sure and go to our website and purchase your tickets for breakfast and Tom Bain raffle. You will receive five raffle tickets with your breakfast ticket purchase, but we will encourage you to purchase additional tickets to help with the fundraising. You won't want to miss the entertaining wit and charm of our raffle Master of Ceremonies, Wendell Wolka! We expect to see Abraham Lincoln, Ben Franklin, or both in attendance. The raffle is one of our major annual fundraising events. If you have items you would like to donate for the event, we would be very happy to receive them, either in advance by mail, or bring them to the FUN show. PMG has been kind enough to slab the first few low serial numbers of our breakfast tickets for the past couple of years and I hope to be able to arrange that again this time. Those slabbed low serial number tickets will be available at the breakfast either by raffle or by donation.

I hope everyone had or will have a very nice holiday season and I look forward to seeing many of you in January of the New Year

Robert L. Vandevender II

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

ROBERT VANDEVENDER II

This year, the FUN Show during the first week of January was a big success. On Thursday evening, we celebrated our new inductees into the SPMC Hall of Fame, and treated attending new member Mark Anderson to a nice dinner at the Rodizio Grill Brazilian Steakhouse. On Friday morning, we held our annual board of Governors meeting and voted to conduct our next annual event at the January 2025 FUN Show. Governor Pierre Fricke provided a nice talk on Confederate currency during our membership meeting, and it was well received. Our Saturday morning annual breakfast and raffle was well attended. Our new HOF member, Mark Anderson, was very surprised when he arrived at the door for entry and found that his portrait was used on this year's breakfast ticket. As usual, Wendell Wolka did a great job conducting the raffle and several nice prizes were awarded. Many thanks to everyone who provided generous donations. Everyone seemed to have a fun time.

In February, SPMC member Nancy Purington and I staffed the SPMC table at the Long Beach Show. Many of our members were in attendance, either as dealers, or just members walking the floor. Our member, Frederick B. Benson stopped by the table and provided some great detailed information about his grandfather, Charles Frederick Bell who was the cashier, and banknote signer for the First National Bank of Houtzdale, PA bank, Charter 6695. Governor Mark Drengson immediately updated our U.S. National Bank Lookup database with the new information. We are always glad when our members help to contribute to the ongoing research.

This March, Governor Derek Higgins, and his wife and SPMC member Jessica will be staffing our SPMC table at the ANAs National Money Show in Colorado Springs, CO. If you are attending, please stop by the table and say hello.

In April, Nancy and I plan to travel to Indiana for a family visit and to witness the total solar eclipse. This will be our second total eclipse. In 2017, we witnessed the last one easily available to see in Santee, SC. If you have never seen a total eclipse, I highly recommend it. Even if you have previously witnessed a 90+ percent event, it doesn't count. This will be a totally different experience. This eclipse crosses much of the United States so it is a good time to participate. Get your special glasses needed for viewing early.

Robert L. Vandevender II

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

ROBERT VANDEVENDER II

Once again, Spring has arrived, bringing us nicer weather. Although my “temporary” job in California was supposed to last eight months, in April, I completed five years in San Clemente. I do expect the job to end sometime later this year and I will return home. A byproduct of this situation has the potential to turn me into a Delta Airlines “Million Miler” either late this year or early in the next year.

In mid-February, we learned the sad news that our SPMC Governor, Jerry Fotchman, passed away in Texas. Jerry also served as the President of the Fractional Currency Collectors Board for many years. Jerry was a very active and engaged member of our board and routinely contributed to our efforts. He will be missed by all of us.

In March, our board member, Derek Higgins, and his wife Jessica, also an SPMC member, staffed a table representing the SPMC at the ANA National Money Show in Colorado Springs, CO. I personally have never been to Colorado Springs. Taking a tour of the ANA Money Museum is on my bucket list for a future visit.

On April 8th, Nancy and I joined several of our family members in Indiana to witness the total solar eclipse. My daughter, Holly, hosted the watch party at her home. In addition to plenty of food to eat, she ensured several types of snacks such as Sun Chips, Moon Pies, Little Debbie Cosmic Brownies were available! The weather cooperated and we had a spectacular view of the 100% eclipse, being able to remove our glasses for about three and a half minutes during totality.

No doubt many of you attended the 3rd annual National Banknote Collectors Conference in Dallas. I am looking forward to hearing about the event and hope to be able to attend the next one.

I continue to enjoy reading the various posts on social media. Recently, there have been many posts regarding web-fed notes and comments by various new collectors who weren't aware of that variety of notes. Many of our members routinely answer questions, which appears to be helping several new collectors come up to speed on the hobby. I encourage each of you to continue to educate potential new collectors in this regard.

The SPMC is planning to staff a table at the Chicago ANA World's Fair of Money in August. If you make it to the show, please stop by and say hello!

Robert L. Vandevender II

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

ROBERT VANDEVENDER II

For many years, Nancy and I have been fans of Major League Baseball. While in Florida, we often attended the Miami Marlins games and even had season tickets one year when they were still the Florida Marlins. Since my job has relocated us to California for a period of time, we have become fans of the LA Angels, especially when Shohei Ohtani was playing with them before his departure for the Dodgers. During our last visit to Angels Stadium a couple of weeks ago, I overheard someone attempting to buy refreshments using cash. They were quickly informed that no vendors at Angels Stadium accept cash anymore and a credit card must be used for any purchases at the Stadium. More and more, we seem to be moving toward a cashless society. I suppose there is a lawyer out there somewhere who can explain to me how they get away with not accepting legal tender as is printed on our currency. It will be interesting to see how, in the future, it affects the currency collecting hobby, since a large part of the fun was always searching for treasures in one's change from a transaction.

I'm writing this as we prepare to staff our SPMC table once again at the Long Beach Expo. I am not sure how many of our members will be in attendance although I did learn that our Vice President, Robert Calderman, will also be joining me at the show with a retail table of his own.

Our next big event will be the ANA World's Fair of Money in Chicago. The SPMC will have a table at that show, and I expect many of our members to be there with us. We are also planning to participate in the youth treasure hunt again at this show to help educate the younger generation about our hobby.

As some of you may know, according to our bylaws, the current Past President of the SPMC continues to serve on our Executive Board as a voting member for the length of time they served as President. I am pleased to announce that Past President, Shawn Hewitt, has been reappointed and confirmed as a member of our Board of Governors to fulfill the term of Jerry Fochtman who passed away back in February. This ensures that Shawn will remain a voting member of our leadership past next June when his existing term expires. Shawn continues to be a great asset to our organization, and I look forward to seeing his continued contribution to the SPMC.

I trust everyone is having a nice Summer and I look forward to seeing many of you at upcoming shows.

Robert L. Vandevender II

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

ROBERT VANDEVENDER II

During our last Long Beach Expo show in June, I learned something new. Don Kagin stopped by our SPMC table and we had a very nice discussion. Don mentioned that he was preparing to write a new article or book about Canadian Card Money. I have never heard of it before and was intrigued. From what I understand, due to an actual shortage of real currency in "New France," playing cards that were available were cut up and marked with an official stamp on them and they were used to pay the troops. Evidently there were several series of the money issued but only a few examples survive from the last issue. I am looking forward to Don's article to come out to learn more and do hope he chooses Paper Money Magazine for publication.

My friend Alan Bailey responded to my last President's column with an email titled "some lawyer out there" to explain why it is ok for businesses to not accept legal tender cash for transactions. I asked him to write an article for Paper Money Magazine and he is working on getting permission from his employer to write that article. I hope he is able to write it, and I am looking forward to reading about it in a future issue of PM.

The ANA show in Chicago went very well and I, once again, purchased a bronze bar for my "railroad track" ANA medal. I have seen many tracks that are a couple of feet long but mine is not so impressive. My first ANA show was in 1991, so my tracks aren't that long. Several of our members were in attendance. On Thursday evening, August 8th, several of us walked down to the Capital Grille for a nice dinner. Those in attendance were Vice President Calderman, Member Lauren Calderman, Past President Shawn Hewitt, Member Nancy Purington, Member Billy Baeder and me. We all seemed to have a good time right up until the impressive check arrived for payment!

Once again, we participated in the ANA's Treasure Trivia Game (scavenger hunt) for children. We used the same question we used at FUN last time where we asked on what currency does the portrait of Abraham Lincoln appear, with three correct choices and an all of the above answer. After each child answered the question, we rewarded them with the choice of either a note from Nepal featuring a yak, or a note from Mongolia featuring horses. It was funny, but most of the boys wanted the yak note, and the girls selected the horses. We will come up with a new question for the upcoming FUN show next January.

We added six new members to our society this week including the new President of the ANA, Thomas Uram. Mr. Uram is interested in increasing the exposure of paper money within the ANA and asked me to see if I could locate a member willing to write a nice article on a paper money subject for publication in the Numismatist. If any of our members are interested, please send me an email.

At our last governors meeting we voted to give a \$1,000 contribution check to the Higgins Museum seminar and presented the check at the ANA show to curator George Cuhaj.



Robert L. Vandevender II

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

ROBERT VANDEVENDER II

It is difficult to believe that it is once again time for Thanksgiving. This year seems to have passed by very quickly. I hope this issue finds everyone preparing to enjoy the holiday season and looking forward to attending the upcoming FUN Show with our annual SPMC breakfast in January. Planning for the event is in progress and we are looking forward to our general membership meeting and of course the Thomas Bain raffle at our Saturday breakfast meeting. Seating is limited, so buy your tickets online in advance, although they will be available at the door if there are any slots left available.

Our editor Benny suggested we make the subject of our columns for this edition focused on the holidays. I struggled with what to say. I do have one story. My other half, Nancy Purington, comes from a very large family. Nancy was born on and grew up on a dairy farm in Colrain, MA, one of eleven children. For Christmas, the Purington family decided to focus on the family gathering instead of the buying of gifts and would have a drawing of names. Everyone would purchase one inexpensive Christmas gift for the person they were assigned. The gifts would be put under the tree inside a reusable homemade cloth bag. One year, I had requested a "star note" as a gift. When Christmas came, I opened my cloth bag and inside was a package of star-shaped yellow sticky notes. I got a good laugh out of it, and I supposed that was as close as a non-numismatist gift buyer could come to my request.

Nancy and I staffed the SPMC table at the September Long Beach Expo once again. Traffic was very slow and most of the dealers I spoke with agreed it wasn't the typical Fall show. Sadly, we did not sell any new memberships, although several people did take applications with a few making a promise to sign up later online. However, we did have several interesting visitors stop by the table. One gentleman was a self-proclaimed church-attending atheist who wanted to discuss why the currency has "In God We Trust" on it. Another person stopped by and discussed the design of automobiles and how the front of them look like a face with the two eyes being headlights and the emblem in the center being a nose and suggested that they make the rear of cars look like "butts" to complete the design. The best one was a man who showed me some \$2 bills wanting to know their value, and then suggested that someone create an Artificial Intelligence program where one could scan a note with their phone, and it would tell them what it was worth. Frankly, I thought that was a pretty good idea. Perhaps one of our members will pursue that one if it doesn't already exist somewhere! As Carl Bombara said at the show when I told him some of the stories, "Yes, you see all kinds come through here in Long Beach!"

Also, I would like to thank SPMC Governor Derek Higgins for keeping up with the SPMC Facebook account and posting a "Note of the Day" to increase our exposure on social media. If you come across one of his posts, please hit "Like."

Robert L. Vandevender II

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

ROBERT VANDEVENDER II

Once again, we are excited to start a new year of collecting. From my perspective, 2024 just flew by. I trust each of you had a nice holiday season. For Thanksgiving this year, we spent the weekend in Georgia visiting with my sister Elizabeth and her family. She took us on a nice day trip to Savannah for a tour, which included a stop at a very large candy store, just to add on a few extra pounds as if the meal wasn't enough! We were surprised at how many fields were still full of cotton as we drove around the area. At Christmas time, Nancy and I were joined in California by my daughter Holly and her family. They helped us decorate the Odd Fellows Rose Parade Float this year. We all attended the parade on New Years Day.

For those of you able to attend our annual breakfast event at the FUN Show this month, I would like to thank you for your participation and support. This year, we selected John and Nancy Wilson to appear on our annual breakfast ticket, as well as honoring them with the introduction into our Hall of Fame. They have both done so much over the years to support our breakfast with planning, ticket sales, and taking photographs. Years ago, John was even the printer of the tickets for the event. Other inductees into our Hall of Fame this year were Albert Grinnell and Bob Medlar. Last Fall, we learned that our SPMC website requires a significant upgrade due to some specific software we use becoming obsolete. We have board members helping to coordinate resolving that issue now. Sadly, this change will require a significant expenditure from our treasury, but it must be addressed to maintain the security of our site.

Looking forward, I expect my job in California to end in April, at which time, I am going to try out being retired and see if I like it! That event should give me more time to attend shows and pay more attention to my collection. More to come on that topic.

Nancy and I plan to attend the Long Beach Expo again in February and have an SPMC table set up to solicit memberships. If you attend that show, please stop by our table and say hello.

In closing, I would like to remind our members that we would appreciate any new articles written for publication in our Paper Money magazine. If you have done some research, and think you have sufficient information to support an educational or informative article, our Editor Benny would love to hear from you. Benny can also help with constructing the article if you would like the assistance.

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

ROBERT VANDEVENDER II

In my last column, I mentioned that our SPMC website requires a significant upgrade due to some specific software we use becoming obsolete. We reached out to our membership for help with the significant financial need to make the improvement and had a fantastic response. I have great news. Thanks to the generous contributions from several of our members, we have met the financial goal for this project and now have the resources to perform the upgrade to keep our website running smoothly and securely. I really appreciate the way so many people pitched in to accomplish this effort. We have initiated the work with our website designer and the fix is in progress.

In January, several of us attended the 70th annual Florida United Numismatists (FUN) show at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando. We had a good turnout of our members with plenty of help to staff our SPMC table at the show. We also participated in the youth treasure trivia hunt where we had over one hundred young kids stop by the table to answer our question and receive a prize. This year, we asked them how many Federal Reserve Banks there are and had a case displaying a location map, along with a very nice district set of \$1 notes loaned to us by our Vice President Calderman. On Friday, at our annual membership meeting, SPMC Governor Derek Higgins entertained and educated us with a wonderful talk on plate numbers and mules. I learned a few new things on that topic during his presentation. On Saturday, we held our annual breakfast and raffle, including the presentation of many awards. Overall, the week went very smoothly, and we enjoyed seeing everyone. Our board voted to hold our 2026 breakfast and annual meeting at next year's FUN show in January. Looking forward, many of you will no doubt be attending the upcoming ANA National Money Show. Unfortunately, Nancy and I will not make it to that one due to the timing. We will be busy at the end of March closing out of our California apartment and moving back to our home in Florida. I am looking forward to taking some time off from work. On our way back to Florida, we are tentatively planning on a stop in Dallas to attend the 4th annual National Banknote Collectors Conference on April 7th. I have not yet been able to attend one of those events and am looking forward to this one if the travel schedule works out.

And finally, to be a bit repetitive from my last column, I would like to remind our members that we would appreciate any new articles written for publication in our Paper Money magazine. Our Editor Benny would love to hear from you. Benny can also help with constructing the article if you would like the assistance.

Robert L. Vandevender II

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

ROBERT VANDEVENDER II

Nancy and I have had a busy couple of months. My job in California finally came to an end the first week of April.

The last major numismatic event we attended in California was the Long Beach Exposition which turned out to be the final one in 2025. The last two Long Beach shows scheduled in 2025 are being canceled due to venue problems. Nancy and I had to leave the Long Beach show a little early, so we left the SPMC table set up with all of our displays and applications. I turned over the case keys to VP Calderman who agreed to take down the display at the end of the show when he was leaving. Mr. Calderman contacted me as he was collecting our items and asked if I had removed everything from our cases as both of them were gone. I replied to him "no" and then contacted show staff regarding location of our cases. They confirmed they had collected the full cases and found them. At my request, they sent the case contents to my home in Florida by FedEx. I'm glad the cases on display weren't cases full of currency but only a few copies of Paper Money magazine and the SPMC banner carrying case.

We spent several weeks arranging to get out of the apartment in San Clemente and packing up our car with a laser printer, television, scanner and other belongings. The fortunate thing about the timing of this long drive was that it put us in Texas just before the start of the 4th Annual National Bank Note Conference held at Heritage Auctions in Dallas. We spent a very enjoyable two days with several of our collecting friends, many of whom provided interesting presentations. The Heritage staff gave us a tour of their facility where I had the opportunity to hold a 10-pound chunk of gold and a moon rock. We also got to see clothing and several artifacts owned by General George A. Custer.

The Heritage staff treated everyone to a wonderful dinner at Via Real after the first day of presentations. Day 2 of the conference was kicked off by Duston Johnston of Heritage passing out an envelope to each table containing copies of several large-size National Bank Notes. Each table "team" was then tasked with arranging the notes on the table in order of their issuance. The three of us in my group included Governor Derrick Higgins and Jamie Yates so we did well on this exercise. The conference came to an end with everyone being given a 20-question quiz on National Bank Notes, coordinated by Heritage staff member Governor Raiden Honaker. I didn't do as well on this quiz as many others. Governor Cody Regennitter won the top prize by scoring over 90% on the quiz.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to make it to the Central States show this year. Our next major event will be the ANA World's Fair of Money show in Oklahoma City in August. I hope to see many of you there at our SPMC table.

Robert L. Vandevender II

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

ROBERT VANDEVENDER II

Our new and improved website is up and running now. I would like to thank Past President Shawn Hewitt and Governor Mark Drengson for their efforts in coordinating the upgrade. The transition went much more smoothly than anticipated. The only remaining task is to upgrade the Obsolete Database Project. Again, I would like to thank all of our members who contributed financially to make this project a success.

It is hurricane season once again and for those of us who live on the East Coast of the country, that is always a concern. Although we, here on the East Coast of Florida, have been spared from a serious hit by a hurricane for many years, it remains a big concern. Our house is fairly well prepared, with Category 5 hurricane glass installed in all windows and sliders, and we have a good 5K generator available for power. We have not yet chosen to spend the money to install an automatic start generator although that may happen someday. However, like many of our members, I suspect, I keep all of my numismatic collection in safe deposit boxes at a bank. What troubles me most during this season, is the risk that a hurricane might cause flooding downtown, which it did many years ago, affecting the bank where my collection is stored. When I rented the safe deposit boxes, I tried to select boxes that were at a higher elevation in the vault just in case of a water issue. Hopefully, this season will pass again without incident.

I was looking through Facebook the other day and came across a post by my friend and SPMC Life Member, Jim Hodgson, acknowledging that the group, Small Size Variety Collectors – U.S. Paper Money has been up for 5 years now. Many interesting items are posted there. There are many groups to which I belong, including Star Notes and Fancy Serials, Obsolete Currency Note Collectors, National Bank Note Collectors, and Fancy Serial Number Collectors. If you haven't checked out some of these groups, you might find some interesting items to review. Our Governor, Derek Higgins usually posts our SPMC "Note of the Day" on some of them. I hope to see many of you at the upcoming ANA World's Fair of Money in Oklahoma City!

Robert L. Vandevender II

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

ROBERT VANDEVENDER II

On July 28th, I was very sad to learn of the passing of my good friend and fellow collector, Michael Crabb Jr. Nancy and I attended many baseball games with Mike and his wife Julia over the years, both in Memphis watching the Redbirds play, and in South Florida during Cardinals Spring Training. As a representative of the Memphis Coin Club, Mike coordinated the Memphis International Paper Money Show from 1977 to 2016, a favorite show to attend for many of us. Mike was a member of the SPMC Hall of Fame and attended our annual HOF dinner with us last year. He will be missed by me and many of our members. Rest in peace, Mike.

By the time you read this, I will no longer be your President, as I am reaching my term limit for the office per our bylaws. We will have an election of a new Board in August at the Oklahoma City ANA show at which time I will hand over our gavel and a copy of Robert's Rules of Order book to a new President. Our Board has had a very successful four years with major advancements in research, database updates, and social media outreach, with the significant upgrade to our website thanks to the financial generosity of many of our members. It has been a great honor to have been able to serve as the SPMC President and I will continue to be a voting member of the Board as Past President for the next four years. I would like to thank Past President R. Shawn Hewitt for nominating me as his Vice President eight years ago which set the stage for my election as President. I could not have been successful without the hard work of the Board members and of course SPMC member Nancy Purington, who kept me out of trouble and helped to coordinate many events.

A long time ago, small-size paper money collectors referenced a book called the Donlon Price Catalog, US Small Size Paper Money. Later, they graduated to the Standard Handbook of Modern United States Paper Money by Chuck O'Donnell. Then came the Standard Guide to Small-Size U.S. Paper Money by Dean Oakes and John Schwartz, later updated by John Schwartz and Scott Lindquist. This book was considered the "bible" for small size notes. On a parting note, I would like to encourage someone in our field to create a revision to the Schwartz-Lindquist book, updating it for new collectors, a book which is now over a decade out of print. Thanks, and I hope to see you all at a future show!

Robert L. Vandevender II