

CENTRAL CAL YOUNG NUMISMATISTS

Reedley, California

March 2026

As we enter our second year, we are incredibly moved by the overwhelming support our nonprofit has received. Thanks to the generosity of friends and strangers alike, we've been provided with the funding and numismatic material necessary to fuel the curiosity of our 90+ young members. The numismatic community truly is a nationwide network of kindness, and we are profoundly grateful to everyone who has reached out to help us fulfill our mission.

Paying it Forward

While our organization has reached its current physical capacity for growth, our commitment to the next generation remains as strong as ever. We are eager to assist other burgeoning youth groups by:

- Sharing Resources: Donating excess inventory to worthy programs.
- Providing Mentorship: Offering advice based on the lessons we've learned and the mistakes we've overcome.
- Support: Offering a "shoulder to cry on" for those navigating the challenges of starting a new group.
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If your organization could benefit from our surplus or our experience, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Support Our Mission

As a registered nonprofit, your contributions are more than just a gift—they are tax-deductible investments in the future of the hobby. To show our appreciation and ensure you receive the proper benefits, we provide every donor with an official charitable contribution form at the end of the year. Thank you again for your continued generosity; you are the reason we can keep the spirit of collecting alive.

If you wish to contribute, please contact us at:

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In the Loupe *A Brief Description of Error Coins* by Mr. James Obler

Coins are made by the millions at the United States Mints. The production process is carefully controlled and skilled engineers work hard to make sure all equipment is working right. Nevertheless, sometimes there is a problem. Machines break, parts wear out, and operators can make mistakes. Sometimes the coins end up with significant defects. These coins are called Mint Errors and once they escape the mint they become fair game for collectors. Take a look at eBay sometime; there are usually thousands of mint errors offered for auction. Most of these are pretty minor and some aren't errors at all. However, other errors are obvious, spectacular, and valuable. It is still possible to find error coins in circulation so it might pay to check your pocket change carefully. You never know what you might find!

Here are several types of mint errors.

Error Type: Off-Center Strike

Coins are made from blank discs of metal alloy called Planchets. These blanks are fed into a coining press and are struck between two engraved dies. Sometimes the planchet does not get positioned properly between the dies and only part of the coin is struck. This type of error is called an Off-Center Strike. When this Lincoln Memorial Cent was struck only about half of the planchet was between the dies. The struck portion of the coin does not include the date so you can't tell what year it might be. Off-Center coins with dates are more desirable for collectors and usually are worth more.



Error Type: Double-Struck Coin

A coin should be ejected from the press after it is struck. Sometimes a coin fails to eject and falls back onto the press. It may be struck again during the next coining cycle. In that case it will show the design from the original strike, plus an extra impression of the design from the second strike. This creates a Double Strike error. This 1999-D Jefferson nickel is an excellent example. The second strike created a duplicate date which makes this coin very special. It has been examined and certified by ANACS grading company as a genuine error.



Error Type: Filled Die

The design features on a coin are formed when metal from the planchet flows into the engraved recesses on the dies during the strike. Sometimes the dies become clogged with grease or other material that fills some of the engraving. The planchet metal cannot completely fill the die spaces during the strike. This creates a Filled Die error coin with weak or missing parts of the design. This 1970-D Roosevelt dime shows a filled die error on the reverse. The word "DIME" is missing and UNUM and the bottom of the oak branch are incomplete. This error was likely caused by a blob of grease on the reverse die.



Error Type: Doubled Die

The dies used to strike coins are called “working dies”. These are prepared by pressing a “master die” onto a blank die to transfer the design onto the new working die. Pressing is usually repeated several times to make a strong impression on the new die. If the master die turns a little between pressings some of the design features may be doubled on the final working die. Every coin struck by that “doubled die” will show identical doubling of some parts of the design. The doubling effect is usually small and you may need a magnifying glass to see it clearly. This is one of the most common error types found in modern coins.

This 1964-D silver Kennedy Half Dollar shows doubling of the motto In God We Trust on the obverse. The effect is strongest on the letters RU of TRUST.



These are just a few examples of error coins. There are many other types that can be found and some collectors specialize in errors. Sometimes a collector may have error coins in their collection but not even know about them. That’s why you should always inspect your coins carefully. Happy hunting!

**Mr. Obler is Vice President of the Fresno Numismatic Society. He is also the editor of “The Fresno Numismatist,” the well-written monthly newsletter of the Fresno Numismatic Society. Every edition, Mr. Obler comes up with an informative article on a numismatic subject and informs members on past meeting details and upcoming events. He is an asset to the FNS. James has always been very supportive of our nonprofit and has given multiple presentations to our students.*

Did you know?

The primary controversy surrounding the 2026 “Emerging Liberty” dime—released for the U.S. Semiquincentennial—revolves around the omission of the olive branch from the eagle’s talons on the reverse side. This design choice has sparked widespread debate over its symbolic meaning during a time of global tension.



SPOT METAL PRICES



GOLD



SILVER



COPPER



PLATINUM

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|-------|------------|-----------|---------|---------|--------|---------|------------|-----------|
| 02/26/26 | SILAS | \$5,178.00 | \$196.00 | \$86.84 | \$9.17 | \$6.04 | \$0.23 | \$2,248.00 | \$191.00 |
| 03/03/26 | GRANT | \$5,114.00 | -\$64.00 | \$83.41 | -\$3.43 | \$5.84 | -\$0.20 | \$2,109.00 | -\$139.00 |
| 03/05/26 | WASH | \$5,085.00 | -\$29.00 | \$82.33 | -\$1.08 | \$5.84 | \$0.00 | \$2,154.00 | \$45.00 |
| 03/12/26 | SILAS | \$5,123.00 | \$38.00 | \$85.05 | \$2.72 | \$5.87 | \$0.03 | \$2,167.00 | \$13.00 |
| 03/17/26 | GRANT | \$5,003.00 | -\$120.00 | \$79.45 | -\$5.60 | \$5.77 | -\$0.10 | \$2,142.00 | -\$25.00 |
| 03/19/26 | WASH | \$4,611.00 | -\$392.00 | \$70.52 | -\$8.93 | \$5.49 | -\$0.28 | \$1,948.00 | -\$194.00 |
| 03/26/26 | SILAS | \$4,440.00 | -\$171.00 | \$68.65 | -\$1.87 | \$5.51 | \$0.02 | \$1,862.00 | -\$86.00 |

Compare it to the \$45.83 we paid for an ounce of silver on October 2nd.

Head or Tails
How I Got My Start in Numismatics
My Accidental Hobby
By Mr. Steve Mendyk

In 1975, I was in eighth grade, attending school in Lawrence, Kansas. At the time, many boys and girls my age had paper routes. Paper routes for boys and girls have largely gone away, but at that time, it was a nice way to make money. The local paper, the Lawrence Journal-World, would drop off my newspapers, about 50 or so tied up in bundles, in front of my house. It was my job to cut the bundles open, insert my ads, fold the papers, and then deliver them to customers on my route. Every month, I collected money from my customers, paid the Journal-World eleven cents (\$0.11) per paper per day for the cost of the papers, then kept four cents (\$0.04) per paper per day as my profit, since the papers sold for fifteen cents (\$0.15). After collecting and paying the Journal-World, I had a profit of about fifty dollars per month, which was a lot of money for an eighth grader in 1975.

There was a 7-11 store close to my house, and with lots of money in my pocket, I would stop frequently and buy candy or a drink. I always counted my change. One day, I noticed that one of the nickels I got back in change was fairly old, from 1943 or 1944. I thought that was cool. I also noticed that the mint mark was on top of the reverse, above Monticello, President Jefferson's home. Usually, the nickels I found had the mint mark on the obverse, to the right of Jefferson's bust.

After that, I started looking at all my nickels and started to save as many from different years as I could find. I learned that between 1942 and 1945, the mint had changed the composition of the nickel to include silver, because nickel was needed to fight World War II. Eventually, I bought my first blue Whitman album and started to collect coins. While I have collected many types of coins, my collection of Jefferson nickels will always be special to me.

***STEVE IS THE CURRENT PRESIDENT OF THE FRESNO NUMISMATIC SOCIETY. UNDER HIS GUIDANCE AND SUGGESTION, THE CLUB HAS BECOME THE MAJOR SPONSOR OF OUR NONPROFIT, THE CENTRAL CAL YOUNG NUMISMATISTS. HE HAS BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF ENCOURAGING FNS MEMBERS TO CONTRIBUTE THROUGH ESSAYS OR IN PERSON PRESENTATIONS. THANK YOU STEVE!**

Local Coin Meetings



Coin Shows



Grammi and Mr. Dave attended the Livermore Valley Coin Show on March 1st. We had heard so much about the one-day show and it did not disappoint. When we arrived at the venue (the local Elks Lodge), there was a line at least 25 deep. As we entered, the place was abuzz with activity. The dealers were jammed in and helped to increase the sense of urgency.

As we came through the doors, there on our right, was the young numismatist table, manned by Michael Turrini and Donald Hill. They made sure no youngsters got past them as they presented them with a bag full of numismatic gifts. They took the time to get to know each child, found out what their coin interests were, and told them about the coin show. They also described the gifts they were receiving. By the time they left the building, I'm sure they were happy they attended the event. What a wonderful show for young coin collectors.

It was a great experience for Grammi and myself. Mr. Turrini and Hill, through the NCNA (Northern California Numismatic Society) provided us with magnifiers for our clubs, Westward Journey Nickel Displays, along with other numismatic items.

Mr. Turrini gave our nonprofit a large lot of one ounce "Walking Liberty" copper rounds. These choice items will make great prizes for our after-school clubs.

Our old friend, Bruce Frohman greeted us at the door and gave us many numismatic items, as he always does. We wouldn't be where we are today without the continued support of Mr. Frohman.

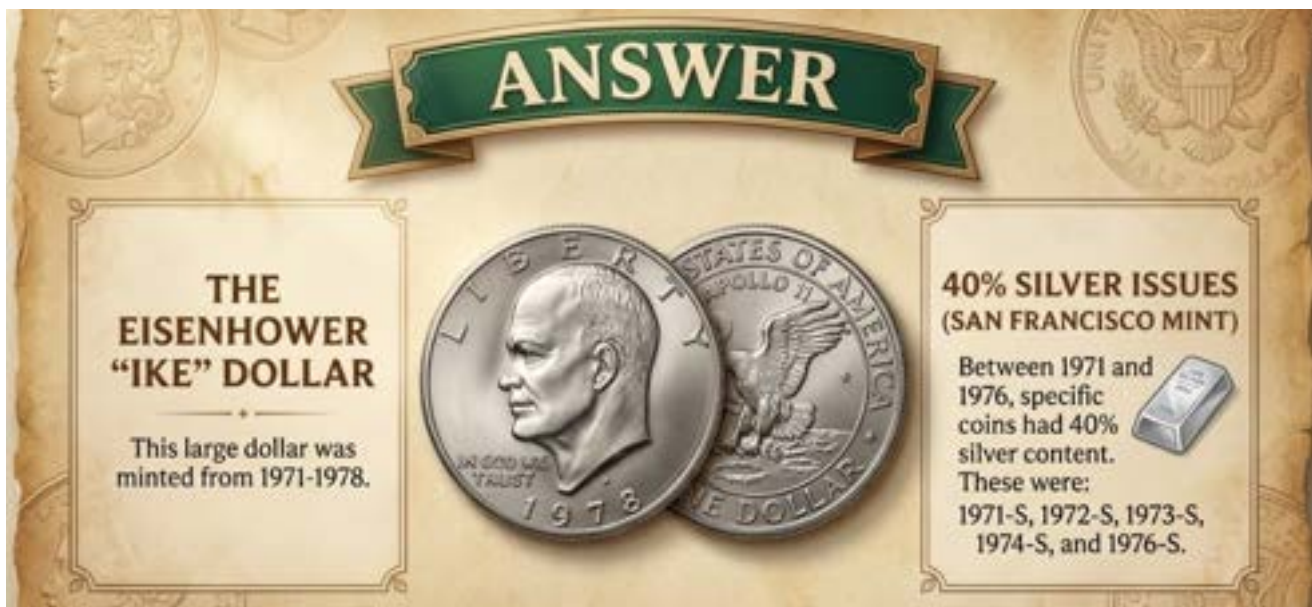
All-in-all, the Livermore Valley Show was a great success. We learned a lot, and were the recipients of valuable items. The numismatic community is a very giving group!

1st Meeting in March



Trivia

PRIOR TO 2007, WHO WAS THE ONLY PRESIDENT TO BE PICTURED ON A CIRCULATING U.S. DOLLAR COIN?



This Week in History



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

March 1-7

1872



President Grant signed the act establishing Yellowstone National Park as the world's first national park.

1961



JFK issued an executive order creating the Peace Corp to send American volunteers to assist developing nations.

1936



the Hoover Dam was completed two years ahead of the schedule.

1904



Dr. Seuss (Theodor Geisel) was born.

1931



President Herbert Hoover signed the act making "The Star-Spangled Banner" the official national anthem of the United States.

1789



The U.S. Constitution takes effect.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

March 8-14

1959



The first Barbie doll went on display at the American Toy Fair in New York City.

1876



The first discernible speech was transmitted over a telephone system by Alexander Graham Bell.

1779



Congress established the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

1894



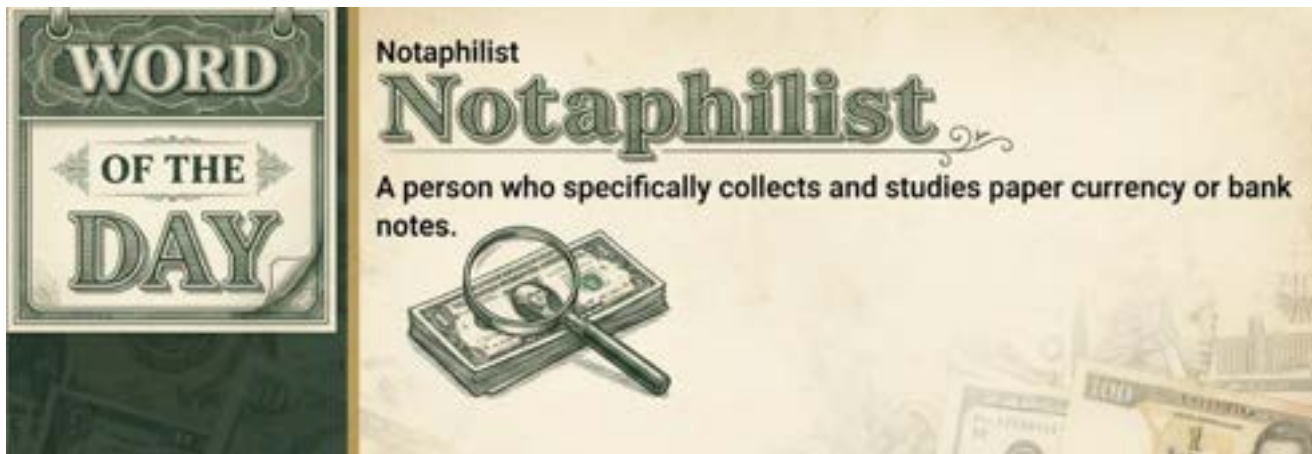
Coca-Cola was sold in glass bottles for the first time by Biedenharn, owner of a candy store in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

1950



The FBI instituted the "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives" list in an effort to publicize particularly dangerous fugitives.

2nd Meeting in March



WHAT IS THE RAREST LIBERTY "V" NICKEL?

The Answer Is:

1912-S

(Illustration of two 1912-S Liberty Head Nickels)

Key Facts:

- Lowest mintage of the series (238,000).
- The only Liberty Head Nickel struck at the San Francisco Mint.
- A highly scarce and valuable key date for collectors.

This Week in History



March 15-21: Historical Events



Historical Milestones: Mid-March



Recap of March's Meeting with Mr. Alvin Lea

A big thank you to Mr. Alvin Lea for teaching us about the U.S. Currency.

Ever looked closely at the bill in your wallet? There is a rich history—and a lot of secrets—hidden in that "paper." Here is a deep dive into the evolution of American currency, from its durable fabric to the rare "oddities" collectors hunt for.

1. It's Not Actually Paper

While we call it "paper money," U.S. currency is actually a durable fabric blend. First printed in 1861, the formula hasn't changed much: 75% Cotton / 25% Linen.

If our money were made of wood-pulp paper, it would tear easily and disintegrate in the wash. Even with this durability, the government shreds about \$11 million in worn-out bills every single day.

2. From "Horse Blankets" to Small Notes

Before 1928, U.S. notes were significantly larger—often nicknamed "horse blankets" because of their size. They were eventually shrunk down to the "small notes" we carry today because the large ones were simply too cumbersome for everyday transactions.

3. The Mystery of the Seals

The color of the Treasury seal tells a story: *Blue Seals*: Standard Silver Certificates (introduced in 1928), *Red Seals/Writing*: Used on United States Notes (the reason for the red color remains a bit of a mystery!). *The Hawaii Overprint*: During WWII, the government issued Silver Certificates with brown seals and "HAWAII" printed across the back. The reason? If the islands were ever captured, the U.S. could immediately declare those specific notes worthless.

4. Decoding the Serial Numbers

Ever notice the letters surrounding the numbers? *The Sequence*: Serial numbers usually start with a letter (like 'A') and end with a letter. Once a series is exhausted, the ending letter moves to 'B,' and so on. *Star Notes*: If a bill is damaged during printing, the Bureau can't reuse the same serial number. Instead, they print a replacement note with a star at the end.

Collector Tip: If you find a note with a lot of leading zeros (e.g., 00000042), keep it! Low serial numbers are highly prized by collectors.

5. The "Series" Year vs. The Actual Year

Unlike coins, currency is never printed with the actual year it was made. The "Series Year" only changes when there is a significant design change or a new Treasurer of the United States is appointed. Currently, you'll see Series 2021, 2017A, and 2017.

The 30-Day Treasurer: Joseph Barr served as Treasurer for only one month (Dec 1968 – Jan 1969). Because of his short tenure, "Barr Notes" were only printed for 4 of the 12 Federal Reserve districts, making them a fun find for enthusiasts.

6. Rare Finds & Oddities

Web Notes: In the late 80s and early 90s, the government experimented with a "Web Press" (printing on continuous rolls rather than sheets). You can spot these by looking for a small number near the bottom right—regular notes have different plate markings.

National Bank Notes: From 1929 to 1934, local banks (like those in Hanford or even the tiny town of Hardwick) could issue their own notes.

The Big Bills: Think the \$100 is the limit? The U.S. used to print \$500 and \$1,000 bills (most recently the Series 1934). While they are still legal tender, they are worth much more to collectors!

7. Geography of Money

Up until 1990, all money was printed in Washington, D.C. In 1990, a second facility opened in Fort Worth, Texas. You can tell where your bill was born by looking for a small "FW" near the corner—if it's there, it's a Texas note!

Whether it's a change in serial numbers to fight counterfeiting or the \$54 it might cost a collector to buy an uncut sheet of \$32 worth of bills, there is always something new to learn about the cash in your hand.

**Next time you get change, take a second look
—you might be holding a piece of history!**



GRANT



WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON KID'S COIN CLUB

THE COIN COLLECTOR



SHOW AND TELL

MEETING RECAP - MARCH 5, 2026

- **Xena** brought an interesting book on the Presidents of the United States. She said it tells about when they were born and when they died. It has information about all the presidents. She said, as an example, Abraham Lincoln was a Republican who was born in Illinois. His Vice President was Andrew Johnson.
- **Nikko** brought to the club a John Quincy Adams presidential medallion. He was the sixth President of the United States, and his father, John Adams, was also the President.
- **Giovanni** brought a Sacagawea dollar to Show & Tell. She helped guide the Lewis and Clark Expedition.
- **Bryan** brought a William Henry Harrison Presidential dollar. He was born on February 9, 1773. He died April 4, 1841. The club discussed him, and Mr. Dave said he contracted pneumonia and was only the president for 31 days.
- **Grammi** brought a great Show & Tell. She showed newly minted 2026 clad coins. They celebrated the semiquincentennial (250th) anniversary of our country. They are all very beautiful coins, and it was agreed that the US Mint did a great job.



BIG SPIN WINNERS

- **Eddie** won an uncirculated 2025 Althea Gibson Women's quarter. This is the last in a series of coins about impactful American women.
- **Felipa** won a 1979-D Susan B. Anthony dollar.
- **Xena** won a Jefferson War nickel. This iconic coin is 35% silver and is becoming very rare.
- **Giovanni** was the winner of a Five-Coin American Women Quarter Set.
- **Carlos** took home the grand prize, a 1993 U.S. Mint Proof Set.



WASHINGTON KID'S COIN CLUB

THE COIN COLLECTOR



MEETING RECAP - MARCH 19, 2026

Despite competing with other extra-curricular activities (We encourage members to be well-rounded students and experience multiple activities.), we had a wonderful turnout of 24 members.

Mrs. Bell started the meeting by instructing members that wanted to join “Coins for A’s,” to bring their report cards in so they could be copied and sent in to the ANA for a free membership.

Jacob H. came up with the correct answer that it was Women’s History Month and received a Susan B. Anthony dollar.

Mrs. Bell went over three prominent women not portrayed on the Women quarters, They were Grace Hopper, Claudette Colvin, and Delores Huerta.

We talked about three women that were inventors. Their inventions were life changing. Their names are Ada Lovelace, Josephine Cochrane, and Sara Little Turnbull.

BIG SPIN WINNERS

- **Felipa** took home a \$2 note.
- **Alexandria** and **Nikko** were winners of silver certificates.
- **Xena’s** prize was a 2005 Colorized State Quarter Set.
- **Jacob B.** won the grand prize, a 2002 U.S. Mint Proof Set.
- Mr. Lea surprised us by donating a silver certificate, won by **Josiah**.



GRANT MIDDLE SCHOOL KID'S COIN CLUB THE YOUNG HOBBYIST



MEETING RECAP - MARCH 3, 2026

This is a very busy time of the year, and many of our coin club members are active in sports. Yet, we still had 18 members at our latest get together.

To get the meeting off to a great start, Mr. Dave gave each member a Liberty "V" nickel.

Damian came up with the answer to the question, What month is it? Answer-Women's History Month. He received a Susan B. Anthony dollar for his correct answer.

The club was shown a photo of five prominent American women not on a Women's quarter. **Christina** correctly identified Harriet Tubman, a civil rights activist and woman who was a key part of the Underground Railroad. No one could identify Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman chosen to the Supreme Court. **Jayden** recognized Amelia Earhart, the aviator who disappeared 89 years ago and is still a mystery. Ruth Bader Ginsburg was not identified. Clara Barton, who started the American Red Cross, was the fifth prominent woman in the photo.

Mr. Dave indicated that everyone was receiving a short biography on the four presidents with March birthdays. They are James Madison, Andrew Jackson, John Tyler, and Grover Cleveland.

SHOW AND TELL

- **Jayden** brought a 1979-D Susan B. Anthony dollar, which is very common.
- **Adiel** displayed an elongated penny, which said "best friends" on it.
- **Juan** brought 1998 Ireland five pence.
- **Alexander** showed a 1903 Liberty "V" nickel. Ivan also had a 1903 Liberty nickel.
- **Marcus** showed an 1885 Morgan dollar, which has an eagle on the back. It is one of the most sought after series of coins by collectors and is 90% silver.

BIG SPIN WINNERS

Carson's number was drawn for a 2025 Althea Gibson Women quarter. This uncirculated coin is the last quarter in the series. **Maricarmen** took home a Susan B. Anthony dollar coin. **Samantha** won an iconic Jefferson silver war nickel.

Damian's name was called for a Women Quarter Five Coin Set. **Ivan** was the grand prize winner of a 1993 U.S. Mint Proof Set.



GRANT MIDDLE SCHOOL KID'S COIN CLUB THE YOUNG HOBBYIST



MEETING RECAP - MARCH 17, 2026

Because of many members competing in sports, we had our smallest turnout of the year. It was a heavy meeting agenda, so we jumped right into our “Coin Grab,” as members inched toward filling their respective folders.

Mr. Dave gave each member a magnifier, “just for showing up.”

Members were given blank pressed penny design entry forms. They were instructed to bring them back to our April 21st meeting with their club’s elongated penny design. The winning design from all three of our after-school clubs will win a nice prize.

Juan S. had the correct answer as to which Liberty nickel was the rarest. He said 1913. **We also accepted that answer because only 5 known to exist.*

BIG SPIN WINNERS

Juan won a silver certificate. **Marcus’** name was drawn for another silver certificate. **Alex** won a \$2 note.

Samantha took home a gorgeous 2005 Colorized State Quarter Set. **Jayden** won the grand prize, a 2002 U.S. Mint Proof Set. Mr. Lea generously donated a silver certificate which **Carlos** won.

SILAS BARTSCH SCHOOL KID'S COIN CLUB

THE JUNIOR NUMISMATIST

MEETING RECAP - MARCH 12, 2026

We greeted 24 members to our initial meeting in March at Mrs. Reagan's room #31. In honor of Women's History month, the sounds system played the classic song, "I am Woman," by Helen Reddy. Mr. Dave, who promised a numismatic gift to members for just showing up, presented everyone with a hundred year old plus Liberty nickel.



SHOW AND TELL

- **Layla** presented to the club a 1901 Liberty nickel. This 125-year-old coin was one of her favorites because it was so old. Members were asked what the "V" on the reverse stood for. The correct answer they came up with was the "V" in Roman Numerals equals five.
- **Zack** showed the club a colorized South Carolina quarter. He said it was the eighth state to join the Union, and its admission date was May 23, 1788.
- **Brayden** showed a 1943 Lincoln Steel cent. He likes it because it is different and shiny.
- **Daniella** also had a Liberty nickel and liked it because she loves very old coins.
- **Carlos** brought a Susan B. Anthony dollar. He said she fought for women's rights.

BIG SPIN WINNERS

- **Brayden** won a 2025 Althea Gibson quarter. She is the last woman portrayed in the 2022-2025 series.
- **Magali** was the winner of a Susan B. Anthony dollar.
- **Mia's** name was drawn for an iconic Jefferson silver war nickel.
- **Dylan** took home a 2007 Colorized State Quarter Set.
- **Isabel** was the grand prize winner of a 1993 U.S. Mint Proof Set.

SILAS BARTSCH SCHOOL KID'S COIN CLUB

THE JUNIOR NUMISMATIST



MEETING RECAP - MARCH 26, 2026

Even with sports and other ongoing extracurricular activities, 23 members took part in the last meeting of March. Festivities began with a video of the beautiful song, "Song for Strong Women." Mr. Dave handed out magnifiers on a red lanyard, "just because you showed up!"

In response to Mr. Dave's query, "What Month is it?" Emma had the correct answer for Women's History Month, for which she received a Susan B. Anthony dollar.

Mr. Scott Eddy, who spoke at all our clubs in February, wants to press a "club penny" for our organization. So we have launched a contest to come up with a winning design. These designs must be turned in at our April 23rd meeting. Anyone turning in a design will receive a prize. The winning designer will receive a special prize. Good Luck! Special thanks to Mr. Eddy.

Our group was unable to identify the three prominent women, not on a Women's quarter. They were Grace Hopper, Claudette Colvin, and Delores Huerta. We took a few minutes and told the story of each trailblazing woman.

Mr. Dave listed three women who made life-changing inventions. They were: Ada Lovelace, who in the 1840's laid the groundwork for the first computer. Josephine Cochrane, who invented the dishwasher. Sara Little Turnbull, a designer at 3-M, developed the prototype for the N95 mask, worn during the pandemic.

Those who answered Grammi's Trivia Corner (What is the rarest Liberty "V" nickel?) correctly received a silver Roosevelt dime. The winners were: **Emma, Madelyn, Dylan, Zulema, Zack, and Liam.**

Because we ran out of time, we were unable to play the video of Mr. Lea's currency presentation from Washington Elementary. Mr. Dave and Grammi summarized his presentation from notes they had taken on Mr. Lea's wonderful presentation. Many things surprised the students, such as currency notes are not paper, but rather 25% linen and 75% cotton. Also, the Bureau of Engraving destroys (shreds) \$10 million in damaged notes per day. The largest circulating note was a \$10,000. There were also formerly \$5,000, \$1,000, and \$500 notes. All these larger notes have not been made since 1969. The \$100 is the largest denomination of currency being made.

This was the last meeting for Avery, as her family has moved to a new home in Reedley and will now go to T.L. Reed School. Mr. Dave gave her a departing gift of a Roosevelt silver dime. We wish Avery the very best.

BIG SPIN WINNERS

Liam's name was drawn for a \$2 note. **Carlos** took home a silver certificate. **Illianna** also won a silver certificate. **Isabel** won a beautiful 2005 Colorized State Quarter Set. **Daniella** was the grand prize winner of a 2002 U.S. Mint Proof Set.

