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5850 Commerce Blvd, Suite 100  
Rohnert Park, Ca. 94928

# Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 78, Issue 12, Meeting #901, December 10, 2025

Next Meeting January 14, 2026

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

Happy holidays everyone! Thanks to all 92+ of you who showed up for the December meeting, including Zoomers. Although it was mostly a social gathering, there was still some business happening.

Merle updated us on the progress of the February 13-14 Coin Show, with thirty-four tables already being sold and many more committed to. Don Rinkor has once again agreed to donate all the slabbed silver dollars and gold coins for the drawings at the show! Please remember to thank Don whenever you see him. Now it is up to you to sell the Gold Drawing tickets for the show- that is one of the most important sources of income to help cover our show costs. Thank you in advance. Who will sell the most this year?.....

We had four new members join the club this month. Welcome to Jason B (# 1071), who was present at the meeting with his company Legacy Currency Grading; Catherine S (#1072) who joins husband Chris as a member; Tom Dadko (#1073); and Phoenix A (#1070 J). Phoenix is the grandson of President Merle A, and he was also given a life membership (LM# 130) by proud grandpa as you can see in the photo. We had two other new Life Members: Bill S Jr has been waiting almost a year for LM# 131 and got it just in time before Alan S became LM# 132. Wow- thanks!



The election of RECC officers for 2026 was held. There were no new candidates interested in running for office. The current officers were nominated for re-election, and the affirmative vote was unanimous for: President Merle A, Vice President Mike M, Treasurer Erik S, and Secretary Charlie C. Thank you for that vote of confidence.

Santa Merle went around to every member at the meeting to let us pick a gift from a basket. Even the two Zoom members were able to point out a gift to choose. Once we all had them we opened them together. Everybody got a coin (nicely wrapped by David A's wife Wendy-thanks!) except Larry C. He got a wooden nickel with the word "GOLD" written on it. He brought it up to Merle and was more than willing to trade it for the 2-peso Mexican gold piece present Merle was holding on to. Congrats Larry, and Happy Holidays everybody.

While Merle was handing out presents, Charlie C presented the annual Willie Award for volunteer of the year. This was named after member Willie Quarante, who sadly passed away several years ago- as always, too soon. Willie was the consummate volunteer both at meetings and at our shows, always without us asking or prompting him. Just a nice guy and proud club member. The award is given to someone new each year- no board members or repeat winners allowed. This year's winner was Joe McC- congratulations!



## JANUARY TOPIC

The topic for the January meeting is: **What I Bought (Numismatic) in 2025 and What I Am Still Looking For.** Bring it in or even just talk about it and get four free raffle tickets. There will not be a slide show to show your item(s) on the big screen since Charlie C (that's me!) will be out of town. But you can bring in a large photo enlargement if you want. And please do send photos to the club address so pictures can be placed in the newsletter.

There will not be any Zoom link for the meeting either in January. Sorry about that for anyone who can't make it in person. That should resume for the February meeting.

Junior Member meeting news: thanks to David B, all juniors in the room were treated to a first-class donation, e.g., mint sets, proof sets, and mint Eisenhower dollars. They had an early merry Christmas.

### What is Wrong with This Coin?

Bob K went to a coin show recently and purchased a few quarter eagle gold coins to complete his set. Then he decided he wanted to sell them and start collecting half eagles. So, he took them into Don Rinkor. This one coin just didn't look quite right, so it was tested for metal content: it was 3% gold, 54% copper, and 43% other metals! It is definitely a counterfeit, and Bob was able to contact the dealer and will hopefully be refunded his purchase price. What was surprising was how good a fake it was. The holder looked real, the coin looked good. But the obverse PCGS label was slightly fuzzy and pixelated toward the bottom left, and the holograph on the reverse side label had a tiny slice and was on the wrong side of the plastic. Both those subtle changes were not noted by Bob or the selling dealer.



A similar PCGS obverse label from a supposedly authentic coin is shown here next to Bob's: same kind of label, same camera resolution, just different lighting so one is darker- can you tell a difference in sharpness of the characters? This all means that you need to examine a slab as carefully as a coin you are interested in purchasing—counterfeits are getting that good.



This got me to thinking- what else can you do to increase chances of purchasing an authentic coin? I thought of looking for older holders, like the PCGS 'rattlers'- though perhaps those can be counterfeited as well. A reliable dealer sure helps, which is reassuring to hear about the caution of Rinkor Coins. One other option relates to provenance. Provenance is the history of each coin's ownership/origin. It is usually hard to tell or determine at most coin dealers, but at least many auction houses will let you know where coins originated. If it originated from a collection/auction perhaps 20 or more years ago, there is possibly less likelihood of the sophisticated counterfeiting from the past. Plus, it is fun to own something that had once been in a well-known collection. But the drawback is that it may also bring a premium in price. The American Numismatic Association (ANA) has lots of resources on counterfeiting- another reason you should all belong. Go to the main web page at [www.money.org](http://www.money.org), click on the [Education](#) tab on the left, and then click on [Video Archive](#), search for [counterfeit](#)- and lots of excellent videos come up, all free. There are live ANA seminars on counterfeit detection regularly. There are also numerous books on counterfeit coin detection, both for modern and for ancient coins. One written by David Hendin, author of *Guide to Biblical Coins*, is called *Not Kosher-* on ancient forgeries. Ironically he gave a talk about the subject a week before our meeting. *Caveat emptor-* let the buyer beware.

On the Saturday after our meeting, five of us went to the joint Vallejo Numismatic Association/Fairfield Coin Club Holiday Dinner Celebration held at the Vallejo Naval Museum. They have been holding one for many years and always have a representative of the ANA present, including the ANA president himself in the past. Merle took this picture of us during the event. There were 80-90 people in attendance including members from about ten different Bay

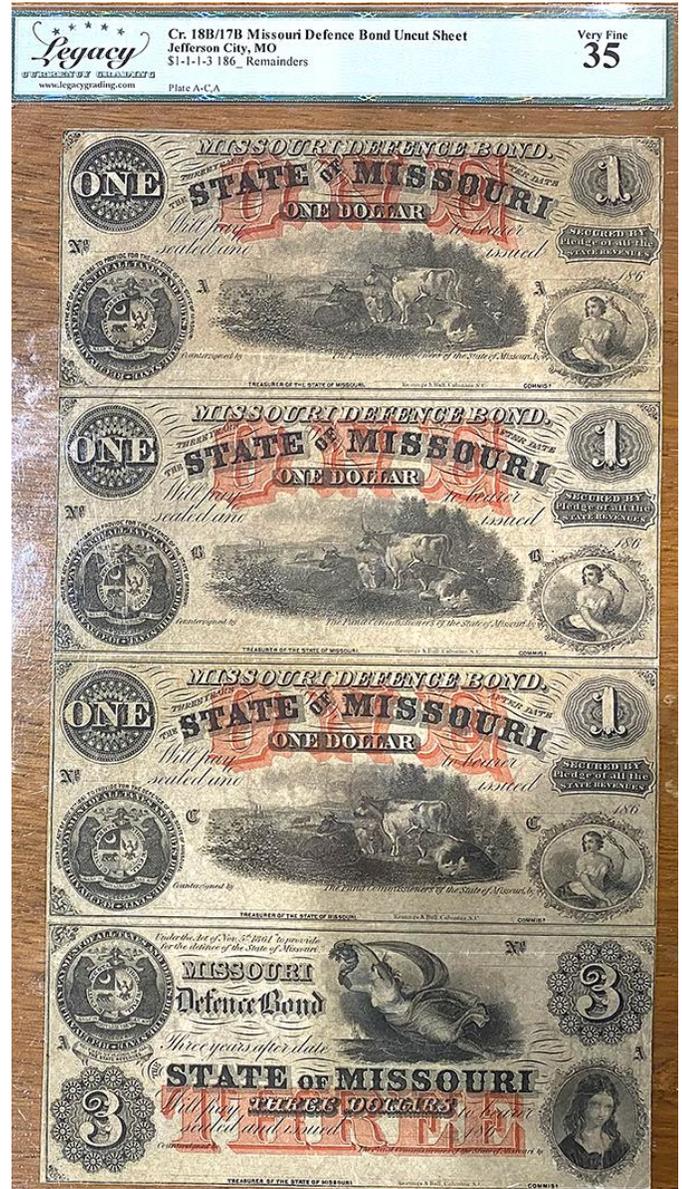


Area clubs. Half the people there were given a 1989 Silver Eagle from a drawing, and *all five of us* RECC members got one in the drawing!

In addition, annual ANA awards were given out at the meeting. A number of Certificates of Appreciation were handed out, and Merle was given one, signed by the current President of the ANA. Four Presidential Awards were also given out, with one going to Charlie C.



Bill W briefly talked about a unique rarity: a Civil War era (~1861) Confederate State of Missouri 'Defence Bond' uncut sheet of four notes. The top three notes in the sheet were \$1, the fourth was a \$3 note. It was at his Flea Market table for viewing- before possibly going up for auction.



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## DRAWING WINNERS

**Membership:** *Everyone* got something from Santa!

**50:50** pot of \$148 was split with Matthew

**Raffle:** Tiffany S, Bill W (twice), Brandon E, Otto O (2 or 3 times), Chris S, Judy L, Chris H (twice), and Grayson D

**GOLD Raffle:** Chris H won the Mexican 2-1/2 peso gold

**December Attendance:** 92+

**New Members/Life Members-** see page 1.

**Guests:** yes we had several!

**Auction:** 50 exciting items.

**Adjournment** was at 9:00 p.m. sharp!



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### UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

**January 16-17, 2026. NorCal - East Bay / Concord Coin Show.** The Concord Plaza Hotel, 45 John Glenn Dr., Concord.

**February 13-14, 2026. Redwood Empire Coin Club's 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Coin Show.**  
E.L. Finley Building, Sonoma County Fairgrounds, 1350 Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa.

**March 20-21, 2026. South Bay Sunnyvale Coin Show.** The Domain Hotel, 1085 East El Camino Real, Sunnyvale.

The Redwood Empire Coin Club meets on the second Wednesday of each month. The Club's meeting location is the **Veterans Memorial Building, 1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa** (opposite the County Fairgrounds across from Highway 12), in the **"Dinner Room"** on the east side of the building, at 7:00 p.m. sharp.

Check out our newsletter at: **[Redwoodempirecoinclub.com](http://Redwoodempirecoinclub.com)**

Thanks for reading. Corrections? Additions? Questions? E-mail us at: [newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com](mailto:newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com).  
See you **January 14, 2026**— Charlie