



Founded March 26, 1949



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Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 79, Issue 10, Meeting #911, October 14, 2026

Next Meeting November 11, 2026

REMEMBERING LEE

Wow, what a meeting! There were at least seventy-five members and guests in attendance, all for a good cause. We held our 8th annual club benefit auction in memory of Lee Gong. Lee was the long-time vice president of the club when he passed away suddenly in 2018. He was a top expert in error coins and strongly encouraged our junior members and education for all of us. He was a co-owner of G&G Market, a loving family man, and a strong community supporter. He is still missed. Prior to Lee's passing, we used to have the Helen and Roy Roberts memorial auction. Back in the days when we met at Coddingtontown a few doors down from the post office, Helen was our cautious penny-pinching treasurer for ages. Roy had been president at one time and later ran the club auctions.



President Merle had a significant number birthday at the beginning of the month, and several members had birthdays around the day of the meeting. Mike M brought in a birthday cake, and everybody sang Happy Birthday to You.

Merle began handing out books of Coin Show gold drawing tickets for members to start selling. This is one of our main sources of income at the upcoming coin show- so the more you sell, the more the club benefits. Tickets sell for \$1, or 6 for \$5. A full book of 120 tickets can be sold (or bought) for \$100. Once again, Don Rinkor has agreed to generously donate the gold coins for the drawing- thanks Don! 1st prize: \$10 Liberty gold piece; 2nd Prize: \$5 Liberty gold piece; 3rd-7th prizes: 2 Peso Mexican gold piece. Applications to dealers were sent out recently, and as of the meeting six tables have already been sold!

We held our six-month membership gold coin drawing, after the regular membership drawing. All the woods with your membership numbers on them were then added to those from the last five months, and one was picked for a 2-Peso Mexican gold piece. Years ago, they used to cost just \$15, but with the current price of gold this one cost \$285. You had to be present to win, but that was no problem since the first number drawn was for Joyce B who was present and very happy to win the coin!

NOVEMBER MEETING TOPIC

The topic for the November meeting will be War and Peace. The meeting will take place on November 11, which is Veteran's Day. Besides honoring our veterans, the topic covers a broad array of possibilities. From ancient times to the present, coins and medals have commemorated battles and wars, noted people in the military, and peace time/treaties. War has also disrupted regular minting with changes, as with our WW2 steel cents and silver nickels. Bring in an item or collection on the topic, give a talk, and get four free raffle tickets. As usual, please send photos of your item(s) ahead of time to newsletter@redwoodempirecoinclub.com so that they can be prepared for showing on the projector screen during the meeting.

Can't make the meeting in person? Join us by Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83249605251?pwd=uJINQwzzvBokMZawJkYbNC3ecPipsc.1>

Meeting ID: 832 4960 5251 Passcode: 112026

One tap mobile +16699009128,,83249605251#,,, *112026# US



8th Annual Lee Gong Benefit Auction

Thanks to all the members who donated items for the auction. There was a nice variety of coins to add to your collection, and the bidding was spirited and generous. Seventy-one items! Wow, we were all tired after it was all over. Thanks to Mike M for providing pizza to all who donated, and to those who brought desserts. Nobody seemed to go away hungry, and many people were happy with auction winnings.

Treasurer Erik S almost ran out of change with the fast and furious bidding going on. The total income from the auction was: **\$1967!** Thanks to everyone for making this a successful benefit auction!



Remembering Curtis Smith

Many of us remember Curtis Smith, #181,LM-32. He passed away March 26, 2026 and his obituary appeared in the Press Democrat late September. Curtis was a regular member of the club, and a real "people-person". When we had our members selling gold drawing tickets for each upcoming coin show, Curtis went out and sold *\$thousands* for the club over the years by reaching out and talking to lots of people. He was just as friendly with all the club members. Besides his lovely wife Ramona, he also loved music, other forms of collecting, and his special relation with Jesus.



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War and Peace. Over and over again throughout history we have read about it, witnessed it, and for some been involved with it one way or another. On November 11 we will honor those who have served- during war and during peace time.

Sculptor and medalist Anthony de Francisci created the design for the peace dollar originally as a commemorative of the end of hostilities of The Great War- World war I as we now call it. It was the first time our country celebrated peace on a coin, over strong Congressional opposition.

Farran Zerbe, a well-known coin collector at the time, proposed a circulating silver coin to commemorate Peace- the first time a coin collector ever wielded enough political clout to influence not only the Bureau of the Mint but Congress as well. Eventually there was a design competition for a dollar coin to replace the Morgan Dollar. De Francisci won the competition, used his 23-year-old wife Theresa Cafarelli as the model for Ms. Liberty, and the rest is history.

The coin shown here was minted 100 years ago, an MS-67 beauty on the PCGS website. What are you going to bring and show for the November meeting?

DRAWING WINNERS

Membership: Glenn M, Rich W, David O, David Y, Mike M

50:50 pot of \$112 was split with a guest!

Raffle: Guiliano M, Bill R (three times), Dan C, Bill W (twice), Nik V, Dave B, Glenn M, Otto O

October Attendance: 75+

New Members: none this month

Guests: yes we had some!

Auction: 71 exciting items for the benefit auction; no regular auction.

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



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UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

November 13-14, 2026. South Bay/Sunnyvale Coin Show. The Domain Hotel, 1085 E El Camino Real, Sunnyvale

Saturday November 14, 2026. Northern California Numismatic Association's (NCNA) NUMISMATIC EDUCATIONAL FORUM. Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, 734 Marin (at Capital), Vallejo. Opens at 9:00 AM, free admission. Featuring six speakers in two sessions (morning and afternoon): **Charlie Catlett:** "From Stones to Shekels"; Charmy Harker: "Something Cents"; Jennifer A. Ingram: "Where Culture and Currency Collide"; Herbert Miles: "Susan B. Anthony: Revolutionary"; Bill Hyder and Jeff Shevlin "Exonomia of San Francisco"; and Cassidy Stroud: "Diversity on Canadian Banknotes".

February 12-13, 2027. Redwood Empire Coin Club's 57th Annual Coin Show! Sonoma County Fairgrounds, E.L. Finley Building, 1350 Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa

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**

Thanks for reading. Corrections? Additions? Questions? E-mail us at: newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com.
See you **November 11, 2026**— Charlie