

## The 69<sup>th</sup> Annual FUN Convention

January 4-7, 2024, Orlando, FL

This convention was our largest ever with 660 dealer booths. There were 2080 dealers registered, which included 298 "Early Birds." Photo I.D. pushed through 875 dealers that did not have last year's photo I.D. Public attendance was over 7,300. 2400 showcases were used on the bourse floor. 550 FUN members paid dues for a total of 3953 FUN members. We had 4 club buses subsidized by FUN that brought in 154 club members.

This year's theme was "Coins & Kids" and the co-chairs were Tony Bonaro and Abigail Zechman. Their Coins & Kids booth was manned by Sam Gelberd running the "Numismatic Trivia Contest" along with Harry Schwartz and the Zechman's and brought in over 350 kids.

Exhibit head Bob Russell had 47 exhibitors using about 150 cases. There were 30 exhibit judges, and "Best of Show" went to ANA President Tom Uram for "The Historical Significance of the Two Cent Piece 1864-1872." The "People's Choice Award" went to Ernie Segundo for "Detecting Counterfeits the Old Fashion Way." The "Polly Abbott Service Award" went to Bob Russell for his work with the FUN archives in 2023.

There was 12 educational seminars Thursday to Saturday headed by Randy Campbell. Two of the seminars drew over 100 people. All of the grading services were there, and NGC had a free grading contest that drew 157 participants.

The Numismatic Ambassador Breakfast had 60 ambassadors and guests attend. It was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the award founded by Clifford Mishler in 1974. Since those first awards, we have had almost 500 ambassadors selected by their peers. Clifford Mishler received a large plaque for his contributions to the program. 20 ICG-slabbed silver eagles were given out marking the occasion, along with 60 elongated quarters and halves made by ambassador Cindy Calhoun.

The FUN Club Get Together had 45 club members attend representing 26-coin clubs. 10 ICG-slabbed silver eagles were given away. The Scout merit badge program on Saturday had 48 scouts attend and the Young Numismatist program had 37. Both were run by Tony Bonaro and Abigail Zechman. There was an ANA District Rep meeting with 20 attending.

The U.S. Mint was there selling new releases. Gold Mining Panners, Mike Bean with his spider press, Cindy Calhoun with elongated cents, re-enactors Ben Franklin, Abe Lincoln, and George Washington were all there. Many specialty clubs met. There was a Club section, an Ancient & World Coin Section, and a Budget section. Wizard Supply was there. And finally, Heritage Auctions had our auction.

Thanks goes out to Coin Show Coordinator Katie Williams for a job well done. Thanks to all the Officers and Board of FUN for their work. FUN VP Bob Hurst ran around taking pictures, Steve Martin was busy replacing show cases and Nancy Casey, Jay Chamberlain, Bernie Ososky, Sandy

Pearl, and Joe Zelinski were busy at registration. Chris Arbutine was at the message center and Cindy Wibker helped out as necessary. There were a few glitches in the beginning, but after the dealers started selling thousands of dollars, all was forgotten.

At the FUN General Meeting board members Steve Martin, Donna Moon, Sandy Pearl, Bob Russell, Katie Williams, and Abigail Zechman were re-elected for 2 years.

We look forward to the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer FUN, July 11-13, 2024, Orange County Convention Center, in the West Building, Hall WA1 next to the Rosen Center.

Tony Swicer

FUN-President