124<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ANA Convention  
Donald E. Stephens Convention Center  
Rosemont, IL August 11-15, 2015

What a great convention, the weather was in the mid-80’s in the day and the mid-70’s at night with no humidity. The Hyatt Regency O’Hare was the host hotel. I had an omelet every morning. We arrived Monday August 10<sup>th</sup> and set up the FUN table at 3PM. FUN President Randy Campbell, VP Bob Hurst, Convention Coordinator Cindy Wibker, Board member Bernie Ososky, and I, manned the table. That night, Cindy and Bob attended the PNG banquet.

Tuesday August 11<sup>th</sup>, the show opened to the public at 10AM. Cindy and I were exhibit judges. Between judging and certifying to judge in another exhibit class, I spent about four hours judging. The exhibit area had about 60 exhibits in 250 cases and were judged by 56 ANA certified judges. The Best of Show award went to “They Flap, Flutter, and Float”, various winged immortals on ancient to modern coins. The People’s Choice Award went to, “The Two Cent Piece 1864-73, With Major Varieties”.

There were 578 dealer booths, including the US Mint, BEP, and various world mints. There were numerous educational programs and specialty club meetings. There was a Kid’s Corner area, scout merit badge program, coin basics 101, and more. Dealer to dealer business looked very active. I think smaller dealers looking for retail business did not fare as well, but attendance was good. Both Heritage and Stacksbowers had auctions.

Wednesday August 12<sup>th</sup>, I finished up my judging duties and judging certification, which I passed. 3 of 5 trying for certification passed. I went around the bourse floor passing out nomination forms for the numismatic ambassador award. I was very successful and I now have 14 nominations in hand. Wednesday night we went to Gibson’s Steak House. I had a 19 oz. sirloin that melted in my mouth. They even forced an outrageous dessert on us, an ice cream cake with macadamia nuts, caramel, and syrup.

Thursday August 13<sup>th</sup>, I was honored to receive the ANA Medal of Merit (ANA.s 2<sup>nd</sup> highest award), along with Carl Wolf of the Chicago Coin Club. Cindy attended the Women in Numismatics meeting. Friday August 14<sup>th</sup> was the ANA banquet, where the officers and governors were sworn in and other major awards were awarded. John & Nancy Wilson received the Booster Award for signing up 104 new ANA members during the year. The Farran Zerbe Award, ANA’s highest award went to Donn Pearlman. 23 ANA members were acknowledged as 60 year members. The New York Coin Club was recognized for 107 years in the ANA.

Saturday August 15<sup>th</sup>, I attended the ANA District Representative meeting, where Richard Jojefskiak was introduced as the new ANA National Coordinator for Clubs and District Representative Program. I left for the airport at 11:30AM and returned home to West Palm Beach 15 minutes early at 7:30PM.
FUN had a very successful show receiving over 40 paid dealer bourse apps for the January 2016 FUN show in Tampa. We passed out numerous advertising cards for the January show as well as FUN Topics magazines, pins, medals, lanyards, and candy. I accomplished what I wanted to do with FUN’s Numismatic Ambassador Award program and judged exhibits, certified for another exhibit category, and received the Medal of Merit.

It is always nice to see noted people in numismatics stop by the FUN table, such as, Q. David Bowers, Ken Hallenbeck, Walt Ostramecki, William Horton, Cliff Mishler, Dave Harper, David Ganz, and others.

Tony Swicer
ANA Region 4 Coordinator
FUN Club Liaison