

PNNA New Exhibit Classes Proposal

Current PNNA annual convention exhibit classes

These classes have been in use for many years; and are basically a condensation of the 20 or so classes used at the ANA anniversary conventions.

1. United States and Canadian Coins
2. United States and Canadian Paper Money
3. Tokens, Medals, and Decorations
4. World Coins and Paper Money
5. General or Specialized
6. Pacific Northwest Numismatic Material

Current ANA spring convention exhibit classes

These classes have been in use for a few years; and are intended to provide an alternative to the classification system used at the anniversary (summer) conventions.

1. History & Politics –Exhibits dealing with historical or political events.
2. Economics –Exhibits dealing with monetary and financial systems or economic events such as panics and inflations.
3. Geography –Exhibits that describe natural or cultural assets, the distribution of populations or exploration.
4. Common Element –Exhibits showing material linked by design such as elephants or bridges, or by theme such as World's Fair.
5. The Arts –Exhibits that explore any aspect of fine or applied arts.
6. Science –Exhibits dealing with theoretical or applied science, including the technology of manufacturing numismatic items.
7. Emeritus – Exhibits by individuals not otherwise eligible to exhibit competitively.

Proposal for new PNNA spring and fall convention exhibit classes

This proposal combines certain aspects of the two systems outlined above, while maintaining six classes (not including a possible emeritus class which would not be eligible for most awards).

The first three classes, oriented to the major types of numismatic items, would adhere to the ANA's 65% rule, requiring that at least 65% of the numismatic items shown fit the class. Since the PNNA does not have a separate literature class, numismatic literature pertaining to the class could also be shown.

1. Coins
2. Paper Money
3. Tokens, Medals, Decorations and Exonumia

The next three classes are more akin to the ANA spring convention classes.

4. Common Element (see description above).
5. Topical – Exhibits that use numismatics to educate the viewer about any generally accepted academic topic or discipline (including people, places and events or works within the topic). Examples: History, Geography, Economics, Politics, Arts (including Music and Literature), and any of the STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).
6. Pacific Northwest Numismatic Material.

These three classes would also adhere to the 65% rule, except it could be lowered to 50% for Class 6 (e.g., an exhibit of community currency could be 50% Northwest notes and 50% other notes).

Exhibits in classes 4 to 6 would be encouraged, but not required, to include material from at least two of the first three classes (types of numismatic items), e.g., both coins and paper money, or coins and medals, relating to a topic or common element.

Exhibits in classes 4 to 6 would be expected to include significant “additional information” about the common element, topic or Northwest connection (consistent with maintaining a reasonable balance), whereas exhibits in classes 1 to 3 would be expected to include as complete as reasonably possible “basic numismatic information.”

Since the new classes are quite general, and topical as an option, it is expected that the former “General or Specialized” class would no longer be needed. The chief judge would have the discretion to “bend” the rules slightly to include any exhibit that might have required this class into one of the six new classes.

Since PNNA participation by Canadians has declined greatly in recent years (due presumably to the difficulty in border crossing), the inclusion of Canadian items in specific classes is no longer needed. Likewise, there are typically not enough exhibits at PNNA events to justify having U.S. items as a separate class or classes, especially with the topical approach to exhibiting becoming more popular.

There would still be exhibits that fall into more than one class. For example, an exhibit of paper money that also emphasizes economics, an exhibit of commemorative medals pertaining to an historical person or event, or an exhibit of error coins emphasizing the minting technology. In that case, the exhibitor would still have the choice of class, and the chief judge could recommend but not require a change in class.

The Emeritus class would be optional, and the winner of this class does not advance to Best-of-Show judging. It is used at the ANA level for exhibits that can no longer be entered in regular class competition due to past wins (best-of-show or twice best-of-class) or because the individual is ineligible due to serving on the ANA staff or Board of Governors. Currently the PNNA does not have a board member restriction, however it does have the same restrictions as the ANA regarding prior wins and judges who also exhibit.

Proposal prepared by J. Eric Holcomb (PNNA Chief Judge), December 6, 2018.