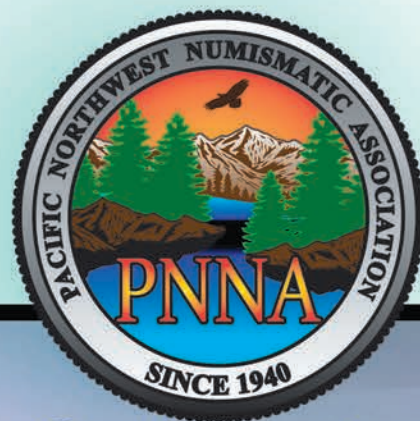


Pacific Northwest Numismatic Association

The Nor'wester



1st Quarter 2022 • January - February - March

American Legion School Award Medals



See article
on pp. 10-11
by James Bard.



Special Offer
from ANACS
on Back Cover.

Boeing Employees' Coin Club 57th Annual Coin & Currency Show
January 15 - 16, 2022 - Kent Commons - Kent, Washington



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**The Nor'wester is published
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For membership information please see page 6,
 the PNNA website, or attend the convention.



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PNNA Dues

PNNA dues are assessed annually in January. If you have not yet paid for 2022, you will receive a reminder with the 2nd Quarter 2022 edition of *The Nor'wester*, which will be your last edition until dues are paid. Individual online-only dues are \$10; family groups and clubs are \$15. Life membership costs \$200. Add \$5/year for paper. For more information please see <https://www.pnna.org/wp/join/>.

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Deadline for submission of material for 2nd Quarter 2022 Nor'wester: Mar. 1, 2022.

Inquiries

Email inquiries to info@pnna.org.

Advertising

PNNA members may request advertising on the website sponsor page and/or in editions of *The Nor'wester* distributed at coin shows and conventions. For information, make inquiry to the address above or directly to the editor/webmaster.

Privacy Policy

The new PNNA Privacy and Data Usage Policy, adopted by the board in July 2018, is available online at <http://pnna.org/info/privacy.html>.



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*Note: Coin Club medals are offered by private sale to Boeing employees, retirees, and other eligible personnel.
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Visit the new mobile-friendly PNNA website powered with WordPress at:

<https://www.pnna.org/wp/>

Image above with historical PNNA memorabilia was previously a featured image on the PNNA homepage. The featured image may change from time-to-time.

- Convention and Event Info
- Awards
- News
- Links
- Collector Exhibits and more!

PNNA President's Message

by PNNA President Ed Fischer

Excitement is contagious!! The proof to that is in the faces of numismatists I saw at coin shows over the last three months. Those who came out were excited to renew old friendships, dust off their wish list and look at all the new collectables in the dealers' cases.

I attended four of the larger local shows—located in Tukwila, Polk County, Portland and Salem. Each had its own personality and collectables. Every club should be commended for the hard work that goes into putting on a show. It isn't something that falls together. Organizers have to pay attention to the details each time. Volunteers fill the gap where needed and the show goes on. Thank you to all.

A call to arms is needed to expand the numismatic base. PNNA is here for every club, show or for guidance. We cannot do this alone. Go out and re-invite those with an interest, bring in the YN and build your own excitement at the club level. Change it up a little bit. That is where the base starts, with the leadership at the ground level. Start a raffle, auction, educational segment, question and answer period or my favorite, "Big Edz Treasure Chest." If you have questions, we at PNNA can help you find the answers.

It has been several years since the Northwest hosted an ANA national convention. PNNA has presented our proposal each year and we are overlooked by locations back east or in the middle. I will continue to hammer home our desire to bring the big guns to the Pacific Northwest. Whether it's another in Portland or we try in the Seattle area. PNNA is your lobbyist! This spring the ANA National Money Show® is being held at the historic Broadmoor Resort in Colorado Springs. Should be a special show.

Our future holds many great opportunities to see what is in the cases. The two majors in the NW are the Boeing show (Jan. 15-16 at Kent Commons) and the PNNA convention and spring show (Apr. 8-10 at Tukwila Community Center). Please go to the www.PNNA.org website to see all the activity

in the GREAT Pacific Northwest. There are great local club shows coming up in Olympia, Idaho, BC, Springfield and Albany.

Bring a friend, meet a friend or share your passion. It will all help our community.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates and Locations:

- Jan. 15, 2022 at the Boeing Employee's Coin Club Show, Kent Commons, Kent, Wash., right after the show closes (start meeting about 5:15 p.m.)
- Apr. 9, 2022 at the PNNA spring show in Tukwila, at 8 a.m. (the annual membership meeting is after the show that same day)
- Summer 2022 to be announced.
- Fall 2022 to be announced at the PNNA fall show in Tukwila, often after the show closes for the day.

Guests are always welcome to drop in on any board meeting—they are always open! The Board and Officers serve at your pleasure—please contact any one of us with your suggestions. We want to grow this organization and we want to better educate our members on the subject of numismatics.

PNNA Membership Information—If you have questions about your PNNA membership or would like to join, please email info@pnna.org. Individuals, families and clubs can join PNNA for 3 years and save money! See the PNNA website memberships page for details.

Special Finishes on One-Ounce Silver Eagles – Is Anyone Collecting These?

by Mark Benvenuto

In 1986 the United States Mint came out with a one-ounce silver Eagle bullion coin, an amazing and impressive feat at the time. A few other nations had already jumped into the field of bullion coins, often exclusively in gold. According to some of the reports of the day, this was a series of responses to the gold South African Kruggerand, which had been the only gold bullion coin at all for several years. By extension, it was supposedly a way to strike back at the apartheid government then in power. The cynics mingled throughout the crowds just sneered that it was another way for governments to make money off of metal traders—and when the proof versions came out, off of numismatists and collectors. But wherever the truth lay, each year afterwards, the Mint pounded out an impressive number of silver Eagles, and certainly produced enough proof versions of the coin to satisfy the collector community. They're big,

they're beautiful, they're silver. And it's not at all tough to build some kind of collection.

Then came the year 1995.

A decade into the United States bullion coin program came the proof set that sported all four of the gold Eagles, from the one-ounce down to the tiny 1/10th ounce. But these sets also included a silver Eagle, the first to sport the 'W' mintmark of West Point. And as many a magician might say, "Abra cadabra," a rarity was formed. There was no way to purchase this particular silver Eagle alone, at least not from the Mint. All those available today have been broken out of the five-coin sets that celebrated the decade mark for bullion coins. This piece remains a key for the series, at least for anyone trying to collect every date *and* mintmark.

Then came the year 2006.

Okay, the program did a great job of keeping up annual outputs, and collectors with the means were most likely able to keep up as well. But in 2006 both a burnished 2006-W regular issue was added to the mix, as was a 2006-P reverse proof. There was certainly some head scratching about just what "burnished" meant in this context, but none about the idea of a reverse proof. Even the most jaded of collectors thought this was an impressive coin. Was it impressive enough to pay extra for, though? Well, that's a question every collector answers for him- or herself.

A year or so passed with no further reverse proofs, but 2008 did see the odd issue of a 2008-W burnished regular version that was issued with the reverse of 2007. It is generally considered an error, and commands quite a premium today.

Then came the year 2011.

Okay, this "then came" is getting familiar to us as the silver Eagles evolve. The reverse proof was back for a second round, and once again it became a costly coin. It's not some hyper-rarity, but today it will cost a few hundred dollars, if we do see one for sale.

The reverse proof idea didn't fade after a single year this time, as there are 2011, and '12, and '13 reverse proofs. Right here a person could assemble a quartet of absolutely beautiful silver Eagles. No, none of them are going to be anywhere near the price of the regular issues of their year. But none of them really cost that proverbial king's ransom, either.

One other version of the silver Eagle that was unveiled in 2013 was the 2013-W enhanced uncirculated. If at this point you are thinking that a person needs some sort of play list or score card to keep all the players straight, you are not alone. But this enhanced Eagle

seems to be another that qualifies as a one-hit wonder. Fortunately, it's a one-hit that is attached to a decent price tag.

From 2013 onward it seems like the "enhanced" offerings settled in at three per year for a few years, but ...

Then came the year 2019.

The 2019-S was revealed as an "enhanced reverse proof," as was the more common 2019-W. We make the claim that the 2019-W enhanced reverse proof is more common simply based on monthly price lists today. But these two offerings mean that there are now six possibilities for any collector who wants a 2019 silver Eagle.

Then came the year 2020.

Okay, I mean, really now! Can we honestly peg one year as a milestone, as we just did for the 2019, then peg one right after it, and claim that yet another amazing milestone had come to pass? It appears we can in that the year 2020 saw a regular issue with the 'S' or 'W' mintmark, yet another burnished uncirculated piece, a 2020-W proof as well as a 2020-S proof, and now a 2020-W proof with a World War II privy mark on it. A person has to be quite the fan of this series to want to get our hooks into all the possibilities for this single year. It can be done, but two of this batch are going to be rather costly.

How do we build a collection?

At this point it's fair to say the cynics of 1986 had a point. They didn't have a crystal ball, and the ability to foresee all the different options that would come to pass in the silver Eagle program. The idea of reverse proofs, as just one example, had definitely not been seen in any coin program from any of the world's mints back when this got started. But it is pretty hard to think or claim that all of these options are exclusively for the folks who trade in precious metals. It without a doubt looks like the collector community is the target for the special finishes, the reverse proofs, and now a privy mark. It might be fun to see how complete a collection we could form, but it's also fair to ask: just who is collecting all these? Assuming it's us, let's enjoy the ride.



U.S. Mint images of 2021 silver Eagle bullion coin. We'll see what the future brings!

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For God and Country: Investigating a very cool medal!

By James Bard, who recently found one of these "FOR GOD & COUNTRY – SEMPER FIDELIS" bronze medals in a Redlands, California coin shop junk box. He rescued it and the adoption fee was only \$15.00. This item is no stray dog and needed a nice home. A recent eBay listing for this medal is \$34.95.

With much appreciation to Mr. Harry Waterson whose online essay, "**The American Legion School Award: An Educational Progression**," provides a wealth of information. I've summarized some pertinent information here. Waterson, in the Medallic Art & Mint online journal (Vol. 65, No. 6 – November/December 2014) tells us that "every medal tells a story."

In 2012, 25,722 American Legion School Medals were awarded to outstanding school graduates (grade school through college).

The American Legion was founded in Paris, France in March 1919. Its foremost proponent was Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., who saw the need for an organization to address the needs and well-being of nearly two million veterans returning from France after World War I. He guided the organization through its founding in Minneapolis in November 1919. He viewed the Legion as a permanent organization similar in purpose to the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) and the United Confederate Veterans (UCV).

The Legion is a social and mutual aid organization. It organizes commemorative events, volunteer veteran support activities and volunteer assistance at VA hospitals and clinics; it is politically active, mostly lobbying on behalf of the interests of veterans and service members, including support for veteran benefits such as pensions and the Veteran Affairs hospital system.

Legion membership exceeded one million in 1931 and today it is open to any veteran who served during a recognized period of United States conflict. The Legion has six of these time periods with a seventh beginning August 2, 1990 that is still open. Today the membership numbers more than 2.4 million, 95 years after the first convention while the GAR and the UCV are now history.

The American Legion School Awards Program started in Pennsylvania in 1922. The Legion early on established the promotion of Americanism as a primary tenet of the organization. It currently lists three objectives for the School Award Medal Program.

1. Develop qualities of Courage, Honor, Leadership, Patriotism, Scholarship
2. Develop ideals of Americanism among young people to make them citizens of the highest type.

3. Recognize boys and girls who are deemed most worthy of the high qualities of citizenship and of true Americanism.



The obverse and reverse of the original American Legion School Award medal.

Dr. Robert Tait McKenzie (1867-1938) designed the medal. He was a noted sculptor and World War I veteran. He wrote one of the first books on physical therapy to rehabilitate veterans from war wounds. He was chair of the Department of Physical Education at the University of Pennsylvania and a Legionnaire. A contemporary Legionnaire wrote "After many suggestions and conflicting IDEAS he produced the beautiful medal which was adopted. To satisfy the Marines, their motto, *Semper Fidelis*, was placed at the feet of the soldier and sailor."

The medal is bronze, three inches in diameter and struck by the Medallic Art Company (MACO). The legend **FOR GOD & COUNTRY** is the first four words of the preamble of the American Legion Constitution and a sailor and a soldier are seen straddling a seascape to the left blending into a French landscape on the right. R. Tait McKenzie's initials are just above 1922 in the triangle formed by the combatants' rear feet. At the base are the words **SEMPER FIDELIS**.

The reverse has, at the top, an eagle with wings spread, below which is the legend **AMERICAN LEGION / SCHOOL AWARD / COURAGE HONOR SERVICE / LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP**. In the lower third of the reverse is the American Legion seal with a sunburst emanating from it on both sides.

The School Awards went national in 1927 when the American Legion Department of Pennsylvania donated the dies of McKenzie's medals to the national organization. The program grew and 10 years later, during the 1937-38 school year, a total of 9,530 awards were made in 53 states and territories; 56 percent to male graduates and 44 percent to female graduates.

Front cover image: JS #25-01 2.5-inch bronze medal for female awardees.



This series of school award medals in its various types and varieties has been awarded more than a million times in the last 92 years. Waterson provides a detailed description of the changing medals from 1922 until today. The table at right shows how the medals changed in design over the years, they mostly got smaller in size and came suspended from a ribbon.

Varieties are another matter altogether. Anytime more than a million medals are struck over a long period of time varieties will abound. The most interesting from a design standpoint is the reworking of the word **SCHOOL** in the 1922 version of the boys' medal.



The word SCHOOL on the original 1922 medal.

The overlapping "OO" is an elegant solution for the word **SCHOOL** that is pressed for space. It is odd that the "C" eating the "H" and the barely interlocking "OO" were deemed a better solution, but it lasted for at least 25 years on both boys and girls medals and pins. This reworked reverse would have already existed in 1925.



The reworked word SCHOOL.

In addition to these design modifications on the first two medals, other varieties exist including (1) the hall-mark **MEDALLIC ART CO. NY** with and without the word **BRONZE** on the edge of the medal; and (2) the copyright (©) symbols run the full gamut from none, to obverse only, to reverse only, to appearing on both the obverse and reverse. The © symbol went away with the post-1950 medals. The program has had a 92-year run so far and it would be nice to see a new medal design introduced to mark its centennial in 2022.

Medallic Art Co. & Mint is now part of Medalcraft Mint Inc. See <https://www.medalcraft.com/medallic-art/>.

Types of the American Legion School Awards

JS #	Size	Metal	Dates	Notes
22-01	3-in	Bronze	1922-1950	R. Tait McKenzie design—Male awardees.
22-02	1 1/2-in	Bronze	1939-	Hanging medal—Male
22-03	1/4-in	Bronze	1922-1924	Uniface screwback pin—Male
22-04	3/4-in	Bronze	1925-	Uniface screwback pin—Male
22-05	1/4-in	Bronze	1925-1950	Uniface screwback pin—Male Phila. Badge Co.
25-01	2 1/2-in	Bronze	1925-1950	R. Tait McKenzie design—Female awardees
25-02	1 1/4-in	Bronze	1939-	Hanging medal—Female
25-03	1/4-in	Bronze	1925-	Uniface pinback—Female
51-01	2 1/2-in	Bronze	1951-1958	New Designs Obv. & Rev.—Unisex
51-02	1 1/4-in	Bronze	1951-	Hanging medal—Unisex
51-03	3/4-in	Bronze	1951-	Uniface pinback—Unisex
51-04	3/4-in	Bronze	1951-1962	Uniface looped pendant—Female
59-01	2 1/2-in	Bronze	1959-1962	Revised Obv. design with 51-01 reverse
59-02	1 1/4-in	Bronze	1959-1962	Hanging medal with 51-01 reverse
59-03	3/4-in	10K	1959-	Uniface pinback of 51-01
63-01	2 1/2-in	Bronze	1963-1972	Revised Rev. Legend—PATRIOTISM added
63-02	1 1/4-in	Bronze	1963-1972	Hanging medal—Keeps 59-01 obverse
63-03	1/4-in	Bronze	1963-2013	Uniface pinback—Still available in 1973
73-01	2 1/2-in	Bronze	1973-1978	Recycled Obverse—Revised reverse
73-02	1 1/4-in	Bronze	1973-1978	Hanging medal—Obv. & Rev. as 73-01
73-03	pinback	10K GF	1973-2013	Uniface pinback of 63-01 reverse
78-01	2 1/2-in	Bronze	1978-2013	Recycled Obverse—Restored 63-01 reverse
78-02	1 1/4-in	Bronze	1978-2013	Recycled Obverse—Restored 63-01 reverse

JS refers to cataloger John Sallay.

Please contact the author via info@pnna.org for additional references and reading suggestions.



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You are welcome to contact ANA District Rep Danny Bisgaard for information about how the ANA can help you and your coin club. Danny also has a newer email address than the one shown on the card—it's sdbisgaard@gmail.com.

More PNNA and ANA information, including about collector exhibits, annual awards, National Coin Week and Summer Seminar, is available on page 14, and also online on the PNNA and ANA websites.

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Many thanks to the PNNA dealers advertising on this page and elsewhere in *The Nor'wester* for helping to make this special show edition possible. If you wish to buy, sell or trade numismatic items with the dealers at the BECC show, please consider carefully all of your options before making a decision.



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New coin show location: Cheney Stadium, 2502 S Tyler St., Tacoma, WA

2022 PNNA Spring Convention

Save the dates! The 71st Annual PNNA Spring Convention will be held at the Tukwila Community Center, April 8-10, 2022. The spring convention has a rich tradition as the oldest and largest annual coin show in the Pacific Northwest. In addition to the 85-table bourse, offerings will include a Young Numismatist treasure hunt, Boy and Girl Scout programs, hourly door prizes, and numismatic theater presentations. We look forward to seeing you there!

Also, we are looking for additional volunteers to assist with the important behind-the-scenes work that contributes to the show's success. If you can help, please contact General Chairman Kevin Charbonneau at kcharboneau58@comcast.net.

If you are a dealer who would like to advertise in the convention edition of The Nor'wester, or if you would like to advertise on the PNNA website, please contact editor Eric Holcomb, eric@holcomb.com. One-line website listings at <https://www.pnna.org/wp/links/member-links/> are free to PNNA dealers!

More information about the convention will be posted on the PNNA website, and will appear in the 2nd Quarter convention edition of The Nor'wester.

PNNA Calendar

Visit pnna.org and click on the "calendar" button, or pick up a paper copy at the show!

Not Online?

Write to the address listed on page 2 of this magazine.

PNNA Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes from past PNNA board meetings, including at the spring and fall shows, are available on the website at: <https://www.pnna.org/wp/info/pnna-governance/minutes/>

Exhibits at the 2022 Tukwila Convention

Now is the time to build your exhibits for next spring's PNNA convention in Tukwila. There may also be an opportunity to show exhibits at the Boeing show in January (Jan. 15-16); use this show as a proving ground for your PNNA entry.

The best exhibitor at the PNNA spring convention earns \$200 toward the expense of taking the winning exhibit to the ANA summer convention the same year (the ANA will be in Chicago/Rosemont, Ill., Aug. 16-20, 2022).

For more information about numismatic exhibiting at a PNNA convention, see the PNNA website at <https://www.pnna.org/wp/exhibits/>, or contact PNNA chief judge Eric Holcomb.

ANA National Coin Week

Webpage: <https://www.money.org/numismatic-events/national-coin-week>.

Dates: April 17-23, 2022.

Theme: "Dynamic Designs, Artistic Masterpieces."

ANA Summer Seminar

Webpage: <https://www.money.org/summer-seminar>.

Dates: June 18-23 and June 25-30, 2022.

Location: Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Summer Seminar is a once-a-year opportunity for numismatic scholarship and camaraderie that offers students a varied selection of courses designed for discovery or continued study. For many students, Summer Seminar is a life-changing event; it has catapulted the careers of many of the nation's most respected collectors, authors and dealers.

Get full information including the course catalog online to see what Summer Seminar can do for you, and consider applying for a PNNA Summer Seminar scholarship by Feb. 1.

Washington State Fair



The Washington State (Puyallup) Fair began Labor Day weekend (on Sept. 3), and ran until Sept. 26, 2021. We hope you were able to attend!

PNNA activities at the Fair took place in the Hobby Hall, for nine specific two- to five-hour presentations only (NOT the entire Fair as in the past). Thanks to PNNA Fair Chairman Rick Schulz for coordinating these activities. The PNNA hopes to return to a full schedule at the 2022 Fair.

Photo at left: Although the PNNA did not have a continuous presence at the 2021 Fair, it did have a nice display case, shown here.

Webpage:

<https://www.pnna.org/wp/events/fair/>

PNNA Elections

PNNA officers and board members for the 2022-2024 term of office will be elected this spring. You will receive a ballot with the next (2nd Quarter) edition of *The Nor'wester*.

If you would like to nominate yourself or another PNNA member for any position, please contact the PNNA via info@pnna.org, and it will be forwarded to the election committee.

Please see the PNNA website at <https://www.pnna.org/wp/info/pnna-governance/board/> for more information and a list of current officers and board members.

Thank you!

PNNA Annual Awards

Please see the PNNA website for information about how to nominate someone for these awards.

Bob Everett Memorial Award —

<https://www.pnna.org/wp/awards/everett-award/>

Literary Awards (Club Newsletters/Articles) —

<https://www.pnna.org/wp/awards/literary-awards/>

National Coin Week Awards for Clubs —

<https://www.pnna.org/wp/awards/ncw-award-for-clubs/>

Nina Nystrom Numismatic Ambassador Award —

<https://www.pnna.org/wp/awards/nystrom-award/>

Presidential Award —

<https://www.pnna.org/wp/awards/presidential-award/>

Scholarship Awards —

<https://www.pnna.org/wp/awards/scholarship-awards/>

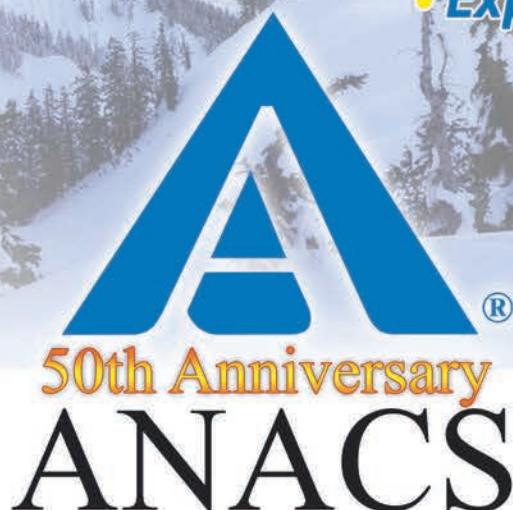
The winner of the PNNA's annual Bob Everett Memorial Award, made for integrity and demonstrated commitment to numismatics in the Pacific Northwest, will be announced at the annual spring convention on Saturday, April 9. Other PNNA annual awards will also be announced at this time.

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