

Liberty Seated Collectors Club Meets in Pittsburgh

By Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271



The group picture from the LSCC meeting. Len counted 45 attendees present in the room, which may not precisely match the photo!



John Frost and Norma McCloskey at the LSCC meeting. John explained that he was born on the same day that John and Norma McCloskey were married.



Greg Johnson congratulates Craig Eberhart upon winning the Featured Collection Award for 2025.

The LSCC annual meeting took place at the American Numismatic Association convention in Pittsburgh, on Thursday, August 27 at 9 AM. Pre-meeting activity featured energetic socializing in addition to the sale of raffle tickets, which was coordinated by Dennis Fortier. All attendees were given one free ticket, while additional tickets were available for one dollar each.

Len Augsburger opened the meeting with the traditional group photo, which was captured by Lianna Spurrer, who also served as the videographer for the event. Member introductions followed, which took a few minutes as the room was well filled. Among the attendees was Fred Verzelles, LSCC Member #23, one of our oldest members. He joined in 1975 and knew both John McCloskey and Kam Ahwash.

Len noted highlights for 2026, including our newly acquired 501(c)(3) status (thanks to Jeff Pritchard), discussion of the ANA summer seminar class on New Orleans coinage, and recognition of the continued presence of the regional team at the larger coin shows throughout the country. Len noted new leadership team members, Mike Rupert (Treasurer) and Michael Fleming (*E-Gobrecht* Editor). Len also recognized Norma McCloskey and her daughter Susan, who were in attendance.

Craig Eberhart offered more extensive remarks on the New Orleans class at the ANA Summer Seminar and noted the enthusiasm of class students. Jeff Pritchard followed up with the membership report. We are now at 505 members, up from 492 at this time last year. Jeff further noted our new "public charity" status and our



Len Augsburger presenting the President's Award for 2025 to Jeff Pritchard.

ability to accept tax-deductible donations. The club website (lscweb.org) has been updated to handle donations directly from the front page. Mike Rupert presented next, on the club treasury. We are in good shape with about \$80k in cash and CDs, of which \$11k is allocated to paid-ahead dues. Mike has also taken care of tax filings. Ken Otto followed up with news on the club table (proof coinage was featured this year) and reported on the regional show calendar. We are covering over 20 shows a year, a tribute to the members of the regional team that set up at major numismatic events.

Greg Johnson followed with status on the *Gobrecht Journal* and the recent publication of the summer issue (#156). Many thanks to Jim Macor, who keeps our *Journal* covers fresh each year. Greg made a call for articles and especially for featured collections, which need not be top-pop, finest known propositions. If you find something interesting, chances are other club members will too. The publication deadline for the fall *Journal* is

— **SUNSHINE RARE COINS** —

David Sunshine
Sunshinecoins.com

Specializing in
 Choice U.S. Type
 Bust and Seated Coins

ANA, LSCC, JRCS Member
davidbsunshine@yahoo.com
 (203)339-2911

October 1. Michael Fleming, the new *E-Gobrecht* Editor, presented next. Michael explained that this is a less formal, more frequent publication than the *Gobrecht Journal* and called for member contributions. Many thanks to our advertisers for their support of the club through the pages of the *Gobrecht Journal* and *E-Gobrecht*.

Greg Johnson followed with the annual literary awards. The Ahwash award, for best article, by vote of the membership, went to Dick Osburn for his article, "Liberty Seated - A Life-Long Passion", which appeared in the Fall 2025 (#154) issue of the *Journal*. The John McCloskey award, which is presented for the best article on die variety analysis, went to John Frost for his article in *Gobrecht Journal* #152, "1875-S Branch Mint Proof Double Dime - More Mysterious Than Ever". The Featured Collection award went to Craig Eberhart for his spread in *Gobrecht Journal* #154, "An Eclectic Selection of Interesting New Orleans Coins." Finally, Len Augsburger presented the President's Award, given for outstanding service to this club. This year's medal went to Jeff Pritchard for his contributions to the club in terms of maintaining the website, managing our advertising, and securing our 501(c)(3) status.

Our featured speaker was John Dannreuther, who spoke on his research and publications on Liberty Seated proof coinage. John first acknowledged John Frost for discovering a second variety of the 1875-S proof twenty cent piece, a find that greatly surprised Mr. Dannreuther. John initially collected as a six- or seven-year-old and at the time marveled at the flash that is quickly evident on most proof coins, especially modern examples. Later, John learned that 1840s half cents and Liberty Seated dollar proofs had common reverses. He described sitting next to Harry W. Bass, the gold coin variety specialist (among many other things), during an auction lot viewing and discovering that the 1841 and 1846 quarter eagles shared a common reverse. Bass quickly confirmed the finding, which Dannreuther described as his first discovery, the situation with the half cents and dollars having already been understood by other researchers.

Dannreuther began working on his proof coin publications in 2006 and initially thought it would be a single volume book. The project quickly expanded, and John eventually published the gold book (volume 4) first,



Featured Speaker John Dannreuther begins his presentation on his amazing journey into the world of Liberty Seated Proof Coinage.

then his work on nickel (volume 2), and then silver (volume 3). The copper book is expected to be published in 2027 or 2028.

John worked at the Smithsonian in the 1990s and was able to identify common reverses on many of the early gold proofs. He later worked with Phil Kaufman on the Liberty Seated proofs. Kaufman had a complete Liberty Seated proof set, less three coins, an accomplishment later exceeded by Gene Gardner, who was missing only a single coin. John quickly identified a common reverse on 1840s proof half dimes. Dimes were more stubborn, but John ultimately discovered a common die line on the early proofs in the dime series. For quarters, 1841-1843 proofs shared a reverse, while the 1844 reverse was used through 1852. John consulted with Bill Bugert on the early proofs of the half dollar series and again identified a shared reverse die that was used to produce many of these coins.

One of John's favorite discoveries was attributing all 1853 proof dollars as restrikes. He found the same die on 1865 and 1866 coins and also noted that 1853 proof dollars do not show up in the literature until the same period! The 1853 proof dollar production was obviously a clandestine operation on the part of the Mint. A similar situation was found in the dime series.

John discussed the 1844-O proof quarter and half dollar and noted the half dollar exhibits obvious cam-

eo. The 1844-O half eagle and eagle are unquestioned proofs, both coins being unique. (Separately, the 1844-O proof quarter was for sale on the show floor in a PR63 holder.) John also discovered three proof varieties in the dime series that were previously unreported in the Fortin reference and have since been added. The club offered a round of applause at the conclusion of John's presentation.

The meeting concluded with the club raffle, which included an 1854-O crumbled die quarter, 1875-S 20-cent piece, several books, club shirts, coin albums (no coins included!), and other items. Many thanks to the donors and ticket buyers for supporting this club fundraiser. Meeting video will be available in due course.

Quality Collector Coins

Brian Greer – LSCC #716

**We have a large inventory of
Liberty Seated coinage**

BrianGreerRareCoins.com

(515) 331-3534

Weekdays 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. CST



GFRC-Lite

Specializing in collector grade
Seated, Barber, and early 20th
Century type coins

www.gfrclite.com

Call Rich at (973) 271-2615



E-Gobrecht Deadline for Subscriber Submissions

30th of the month prior to month of issue

Send submissions to:

Michael Fleming

egeditor1891@gmail.com

Next Deadline for Submissions to *The Gobrecht Journal*:

Fall/Winter 2026 - October 1

Send Inquiries & Submissions to: lsccl@lscclweb.org