

MICHIGAN STATE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
Meeting of the Board 4 PM, Nov. 24, 2007
Hyatt Regency, Dearborn

- I. Call to Order President Ann Bobrofsky 4:05
- II. Roll Call Joe LeBlanc
Present: President Ann Bobrofsky, Joe LeBlanc, Dr. Andrew Parks, Mike Dennany, Vice President Larry Swisher, Stephen Friedman, Greg Guseff, Wayne Hall, Ken Leach, Dany Rothfeld, Larry Sekulich, Mike Strub, Julianna Wostyn
Absent: Tom Klunzinger, Robert Lusch, Kelly Finger
- III. Introduction of visitors President Ann Bobrofsky
Ray Dillard, Brian Malnar, Doug Jennings (President of Monroe Coin Club), Cliff Mishler, Kathy Freeland (President of Mich-Tams, upcoming President of Flint), Dan Freeland, Karl Mark Pall (President of Paper Money Collectors), Ron Sirna (Our new Legal Counsel), Tim LaPointe (Ohio coin dealer), and Bill Summerell, Al Bobrofsky.
- IV. Invocation Joe LeBlanc
- V. Minutes of Sept. 30, 2007 Joe LeBlanc
Mis-spelling of a director name has been corrected. **Greg Guseff moved, and Julianna Wostyn seconded a motion to approve these minutes. Motion passed.**
- VI. Additions to Agenda Board
Add to old business, letter N – synopsis of educational program
Add to new business, letter I – rebate – Dany Rothfeld
Add to new business, letter J – educational program projector
Add to new business, letter K – co-host fees
Add to Committee reports – MichMatist – ad rates – Mike Strub
- VII. Approve Agenda Board
Dany Rothfeld moved, and Greg Guseff seconded, a motion to approve the agenda as modified, which motion carried.
- VIII. Director Absences Joe LeBlanc
Joe LeBlanc reported that Stephen Friedman missed the September meeting, and possibly (based on interpretation) also the April meeting. Friedman defended himself: he states Finger told him not to come to the April meeting based on not being appointed yet. And Friedman couldn't make the September meeting because he had arranged in advance to be available, but with the change of President the meeting date was changed to a date he was unavailable. **Dr. Parks moved, and Larry Sekulich seconded, a motion that no action be taken, which motion passed.**
- IX. Appointments President Ann Bobrofsky NONE
- X. Membership Comments President Ann Bobrofsky
Karl Mark Pall stated that the Paper Money Collectors of Michigan would like to co-host the next available spring show. They are “blossoming”.
Kathy Freeland is here on behalf of two clubs – Mich-TAMS and Flint. Though Mich-TAMS is a small club, they have many active members who will pitch in and help. They would be willing to host with another club.
Kathy said also that Marysville would also be willing to co-host with another club for the spring show after THAT.
Doug Jennings stated that the Monroe Club would be willing to serve at the next fall or spring show that may be available.
Al Bobrofsky stated that Battle Creek would like to host a show in 2009.
Stephen Friedman stated that the Grand Rapids club would like to co-host a show with Kalamazoo and Muskegon.
Secretary Joe LeBlanc explained that the current sponsoring club reservations are for Spring 2008 to be hosted by Lansing and Livingston Coin Clubs, Fall 2008 to be hosted by Lincoln Coin Club (50% yet open) and for Spring 2009 and onward the sponsorships are open.

Dr. Parks asked all proposers if they would fully man every venue; all said yes.

Ray Dillard noted that he had attended the ANA Milwaukee show – “Cliff’s Show” in his words, due to the extraordinarily good job Cliff had done in organizing and running it. At the show, it had been announced that MSNS is a 50-year member club. Don Charters and Ray Dillard therefore accepted a plaque on behalf of our President and our club, which was then presented at this meeting to Ann Bobrofsky, accompanied by applause of the members and officers present.

Tim LaPointe thanked the board for letting him speak. He stated that he knew that membership is a privilege, not a right, and would like to be reinstated as an MSNS member. Tim had been an MSNS member for 15 years. He currently works for Tom Lilly in Ohio. Though he has been convicted, he has served his term and been paroled. He presented a letter from the prosecutor, and another letter signed by 50 dealers supporting his petition for reinstatement. CSNS has not dismissed him, and PNG allows him to serve as an assistant. He has no further charges pending, and has only 50 of his 200 hours of community service time remaining to serve. Tim’s petition was considered later in the meeting.

XI. Officer Reports

A. President	President Ann Bobrofsky	NONE
B. Vice President	Swisher	NONE
C. Secretary-Treasurer	Joe LeBlanc	

1. Review Current Financials

- a. Regular CD \$25,000 5.2% Matures March 2008.
Checking Account (Nov. 07) \$25,973 approximately – as of 2 weeks ago.
- b. Life
CD \$25,000 5% Matures, March ‘08
CD \$15,000 5% Matures, Nov. ‘08
CD \$10,000 5% Matures, Nov. ‘07
Savings Account \$350
- c. Cash Reserve CD \$60,000 5% Matures Sept. 08
- d. Pruchnicki Trust The remainder of the coins – an 1878/7 Unc Morgan dollar and a 1946 Canadian dollar - were sent to SilverTowne for auction and both sold Friday night.
- e. New Liberty Bank CD 5.15 % Matures Nov. 07 \$15724.

2. Membership Report

- a. Member Totals: 554 regular, 20 honorary life, 463 paid life, 41 Young Numismatist / Juniors, 24 club, and 6 library / publications to whom we send MICHMATIST. Total 1108.

LeBlanc explained that there is a regulatory “grey area” in that dealers and assistants must be members for the current year - yet people who join after Oct. 1 are members for the following year.

3. Property Report 86 50th anniversary medals were available at the beginning of the convention – potentially to be depleted down to the 40’s by the end of the convention. We also have a partial roll of 1956 BU Franklin halves, and an obsolete paper money book donated by Q. David Bowers. Videotapes for use of clubs are available on loan for the cost of postage.

Bill Summerell noted that he is short of sign holders and lamp clamps this time for some reason... Ron Sirna knows how to get some – so does Stephen Friedman.

Stephen moved, and Mike Denany seconded, a motion for Bill to obtain what he needs from one of these sources. This motion was withdrawn because it is unnecessary. Bill also asked for what to do about distorted dropped cases – whether to sell or donate them; no action was taken by the board.

4. Fall 2007 Report

The board was mailed a working spreadsheet for fall 2007. Nothing out of the ordinary to report.

5. 2007 (Full Year)Report

This report doesn’t close until December. We are close to projections for income and expenses.

XII. Old Business

A. Schlag Memorial Update	Al Bobrofsky
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\$2261 remains in the account. Some will be used to have certificates made and sent out to

contributors. Steve Bieda will have, by end of the year, a quote on the cost of the historical marker. Felix Schlag had a daughter, living in Owosso, who is 78 years old. In the spring, we'll invite her and her family for a ceremony. Then in the fall, there will be a ceremony at the gravesite.

B. Insurance coverage Joe LeBlanc

1. Errors/Omissions coverage renewal is expected to cost approximately \$1000. Joe asked board approval of up to \$1200 in case there is an increase. LeBlanc's displeasure with the agency has been expressed to the agent, who has finally become more responsive, so we'll stay with this agency for one more year.
2. Liability coverage renewal is expected to cost approximately \$600 – Joe asks approval for renewal up to \$750.
3. Bond is expected to cost approximately \$300 – Joe asks approval for renewal up to \$450.

Mike Dennany asked limits of coverages. At a previous meeting the coverage had been passed out for review. Stephen Friedman stated that we should be named in a rider on the hotel's insurance. Ron Sirna explained what the coverage meant in terms of liabilities and coverages as best he could without seeing the full policy.

Stephen Friedman moved, and Greg Guseff seconded, a motion to approve renewals up to the requested limits, which motion passed.

C. Storage Yard Renewal Joe LeBlanc

Our case chairman Bill Summerell is happy with our current location. \$1200 is the approximate bill, but LeBlanc asked approval for up to \$1400 to renew. **Mike Dennany moved, and Larry Swisher seconded, a motion to approve up to \$1400 in payment of our next years' storage fee, which motion passed.**

D. 501 © 7 Change Status Joe LeBlanc

LeBlanc has not heard from the IRS in 3.5 – 4 months. He has attempted to call the reviewing agent, but had no response. At the last board meeting we requested Ron Sirna's assistance. Ron agreed to send a follow-up letter after the first of the year. It is not surprising that the process is taking 11 months, many have said. The IRS may be waiting for a second tax return. Karl Mark Pall explained that his company once had to hire a lobbyist to make this happen. Ann Bobrofsky also had experience with this, and explained that it cost the services of more than one lawyer. LeBlanc noted we may have a congressman on our membership rolls who could apply some leverage.

E. Book Purchase Status Joe LeBlanc

Pursuant to the authorization to obtain books for use in encouraging new and renewed memberships, Joe went to Krause Publications and purchased about 525 books for about \$5000 – about 25 of which are still on back-order. They gave us a great discount, approximately 50% off of the list price. We probably will use 350 or so at this convention. Based on the likely new member numbers, we should increase our membership by 7-8%.

F. Michigan Corporate Existence Joe LeBlanc

Our charter would have expired last month after 50 years. The paperwork has been sent in, and we think we have been approved to be perpetual.

G. MSNS Coats Joe LeBlanc

Joe LeBlanc obtained a quote for silk-screened shirts: there would be a \$50-\$100 one-time setup charge, and shirts with silk-screened logos would cost \$15 each. Several people stated that embroidered shirts would be better. Cliff Mishler can provide a company contact in Atlanta for what the ANA has done; their shirts are quite visible and attractive embroidered items. Stephen Friedman said Bob Palmer, a dealer in our membership, is also in this business. Two directors stated that they prefer the coats, because they are easily seen on the bourse floor and accommodate badges.

2 more coats have been turned in.

Stephen Friedman moved that shirts or coats be up to individual preference. This motion was tabled until next meeting.

H. MSNS Attire Swisher See above.

I. Meeting Times Swisher

Larry Swisher would like the board to have its meetings outside of bourse hours, because as a dealer he needs his floor time. Many others agreed. **The sense of the board is that they recommend to President Ann Bobrofsky that the board meet at conventions on Friday from 6-8pm, including a dinner served to all officers. Members could join us for dinner and pay the cost of the dinner.** The final decision remains with the President.

J. Spring 08 Bourse Fee

Swisher

Larry Swisher wants to lower bourse fees – we're losing dealers, he says, and the economy is tough. Larry suggests that the spring show fee should be less than the fall, say \$295. Stephen Friedman says a lot of dealers have told him that they can't make enough money here. Dealers from out-state say the hotel and flights costs are increasing, yet the sales aren't. We had earlier raised our fees to get ourselves out of financial trouble, and now we are out of that trouble. Greg Guseff said that 100 MSNS members talked to this summer had suggested reductions if you committed to two shows at a time. However, bourse applications for spring have already gone out. There are more dealers here this fall than last fall. Dany Rothfeld noted that the drawing for dealers who remain thru Sunday 3pm gives one dealer the following convention table free. Dany Rothfeld proposes to give 5 dealers their money back instead of one. No second.

Brian Malnar noted that no one has complained at this show of the price they are paying. Ron Sirna explained that CSNS gives preferential table positions to dealers who stay on Sunday, etc. **Stephen Friedman moved, and Julianna Wostyn seconded, a motion to lower the price for dealer tables to \$300 for the spring 2008 show. Motion failed.**

Julianna Wostyn moved, and Dany Rothfeld seconded, a motion to have an early bird discount of \$50 for submissions by dealers who pay in full by 1/1/08, and Joe LeBlanc to send out statements right away. Julianna Wostyn withdrew her motion. Mike Strub raised the same motion again, and was again seconded by Dany Rothfeld. Joe LeBlanc explained that if our goal is to reduce dealer fees, we would give him an easier task were we to have passed the first motion rather than the one that was on the floor. **Mike Strub withdrew his motion. Mike Strub then moved anew, seconded by Stephen Friedman, to reduce the dealer fee to \$300 for the spring 2008 convention. A roll call vote yielded the following: Ayes: Mike Dennany, Stephen Friedman, Wayne Hall, Ken Leach, Dr. Andrew Parks, Dany Rothfeld, Mike Strub, Julianna Wostyn, Larry Swisher. Nays: Greg Guseff, Larry Sekulich. Motion carried.**

K. Non-Board Member Comments

Dennany

Mike Dennany complained that non-board members are interfering with his explanations and discussions at board meetings. President Ann Bobrofsky agreed that this should be curbed by herself as the President.

L. Grievance Procedures

Dennany

Mike Denanny noted that dealers on the board are disgruntled. There should be a committee of perhaps 2 dealers and 2 non-dealers who can discuss and reach agreement to resolve these concerns. Mike Denanny asked Ann Bobrofsky to appoint a committee of 3 to address these concerns. It was felt that the convention committee can already handle these issues. Mike Dennany agreed, and withdrew his request.

M. Tim LaPointe Membership

Joe LeBlanc

The 2/11/07 Board minutes were cited by Joe LeBlanc. This reiterated the MSNS attempt to expel Tom Noe and Tim LaPointe. Dr. Parks pointed out that we have not followed proper procedure and neither is therefore expelled at this time. President Ann Bobrofsky noted that there are many supporting documents in favor of Tim's reinstatement. Joe LeBlanc noted that neither has actually been expelled, but Tim LaPointe has lapsed for non-payment of 2007 dues. Ron Sirna explained that we must first correct ourselves by noting that our motion of 2/11/07 actually failed due to lack of procedural compliance. **Mike Dennany moved we rescind that motion due to failure to follow through. Mike Strub seconded. Motion carried.** Ron Sirna suggested that Joe LeBlanc get Mr. LaPointe to pay his dues and thus continue his membership.

N. Synopsis of Educational Program

Bill Summerell re-iterated his proposed Monroe trip for the spring show from the last meeting. It was suggested that the trip start earlier, to mitigate the reduction of bourse floor attendance later in the day. **Dr. Parks moved that the board provide up to \$1300 to cover the cost of the historical educational trip. Julianna Wostyn seconded. Motion carried.**

XIII. New Business

A. Hire Accountant for 07 Taxes

Joe LeBlanc

Jack Huggins has done our taxes for the past several years. Joe LeBlanc seeks approval to re-hire him. **Mike Dennany moved, and Larry Swisher seconded, a motion that we re-hire Jack Huggins to do our 2007 taxes, which motion passed.**

B. Show outstate vs. Dearborn

Friedman

Stephen Friedman represented that MSNS used to do shows in lots of other cities. Grand Rapids, Muskegon, and Kalamazoo would like to co-host a show outstate. There are ample great hotels and a large successful philatelic show has recently been held there. The economy is better there

than in the Detroit area, and there is some draw from Chicago. Dr. Parks asked that the convention committee get all of the basic numbers. The President noted that Grand Rapids has grown a great deal. Al Bobrofsky as chair of the convention committee said he'd be interested in meeting with Steve and any others to discuss this. **The board consensus is to pursue looking into this idea of an outstate show.**

C. Mich-TAMS request to host

K. Freeland

Mich-TAMS has requested to host the convention of spring of 2009. Their proposal might be affected if we did an out-state show rather than Dearborn. We are only 50% covered for fall of '08.

Paper Money Collectors wishes to be considered for the next available show.

The number of clubs requesting to host, and discussion of how Hosting may be affected by a change in venue, and discussion of eligibility and equity in assigning host clubs, tabled until the next meeting.

D. New Exhibitor Award

Klunzinger

The exhibit committee is opposed to most of the categories proposed by Tom Klunzinger except for the people's choice. The board accepted this recommendation without a vote.

E. Essay Contest Scholarship

Klunzinger

The question of an essay contest and scholarship is referred to the education committee. Mike Marotta noted that essayists would be paid anyway for their submissions by virtue of being published in the MichMatist.

F. Case Rental Policy

Klunzinger

Joe LeBlanc stated that any member club could come to us and work it out an amicable case rental agreement; the terms as proposed are too complex to enforce. Bill Summerell indicated that he would be flexible and willing to help as needed should any club wish to retrieve or return cases.

Ann Bobrofsky directed Mike Strub to publish in the MichMatist that cases are available to member clubs at 0 cost, except for replacing and repairing as required. Bill will meet people whenever necessary to assist.

G. Traveling Show Proposal

Klunzinger

The Convention Committee will consider Tom's suggestions.

Julianna Wostyn and Greg Guseff developed an "MSNS Club Outreach Proposed Support of Outstate Mini-convention" proposal. The two page proposal was distributed to all members in advance of the meeting. **Dr. Parks moved to go forward with Julianna and Greg's proposal. Dany Rothfeld seconded it. Motion carried.**

H. Speaker Policy

Klunzinger

This proposal was tabled as redundant with a clause of the traveling show proposal.

I. Rebate

Dennany

This topic had already been covered with reduction of fee for spring 2008 show.

J. Educational Program Projector

Joe LeBlanc

An educational speaker program projector has been acquired by Mike Marotta. **Stephen Friedman made a motion to pay for the projector with club funds of \$79.70, Dr. Parks seconded, and the motion carried.**

K. Co-host fees

Mike Dennany

In partial compensation for previous reductions, **Mike Dennany moved to increase the fees to the host clubs by \$500, to \$3000 only for fall shows starting with the fall 2008 show. Mike Strub seconded the motion, which passed.**

XIV. Committee Reports

A. Exhibit

Passic

New rotating categories have been decided: Spring 2008: Civil War, and fall 2008: Classical Coinage. Frank asked to give Jack Huggins an honorarium for all the help he's been giving, with a \$100 value. **Dany Rothfeld moved that the board provide a \$100 gift certificate as the honorarium for the chief judge as a standard for each show. Mike Dennany seconded. Motion carried.** Joe LeBlanc agreed to obtain the card, and Ron Sirna suggested a debit card useable anywhere.

B. Auctions

Summerell

Bill Summerell stated that the SilverTowne auction was good. Others felt there were a few problems. The committee will now work on the issues. Ron Sirna suggested that they create a list so that next time the issues can all be dealt with. In fact, after every auction, "how we can make the next auction better" needs to be discussed.

C. Past Presidents

Al Bobrofsky

The past Presidents (there were 4 available) met and determined to make 2 recommendations to the board:

1) The past history of life membership funds was discussed, and the Past Presidents recommend increasing this fund to \$100,000 ASAP. This is based on the Cliff Mishler report that restructured our organization. Mike Strub asked why. Cliff Mishler answered: This fund protects MSNS against the lack of annual dues income from life members, especially because they paid a long time ago, in many cases, at a reduced rate. Joe LeBlanc noted: we have \$60,000 in a CD that is labeled as "cash reserve". \$50k could be transferred on our books to complete this fund right now. **Steve Friedman moved, and Greg Guseff seconded, that Joe LeBlanc make the journal entry immediately to have \$50,000 of our "cash reserve" CD transferred to our "Life Funds" account. Motion carried.**

Ron Sirna suggested the finance committee should develop a policy on handling the life funds for presentation at next board meeting.

2) The Past Presidents recommend that deserving potential recipients of George Hatie award should be eight individuals <Names available upon request from the Secretary, but will not be published so as to provide some element of surprise to the recipients>. This is recommended to be done over the next 2 years, but the timing, number, and frequency are up to the board to choose.

George Hatie awards have been given three times based on the Past Presidents' recommendations. Dr. Parks asked for a proposal to be provided to the next board meeting.

Dany Rothfeld moved, and Mike Dennany seconded, that Ray Dillard be the first to be recognized, that it be done tomorrow (Sunday, November 25 at the awards breakfast), and that the engraved award be sent to him after the convention. Motion carried.

D. MichMatist

Parks

Dr. Parks stated that there have been lots of positive comments. The biggest problem is timing; issues must be done earlier before the conventions than has been the practice. A month earlier would be better. The next problem is the cartoon. One comment received is that it is too big. Another is that a complainer simply didn't want something funny in the magazine. President Ann Bobrofsky said that the subject matter included in the magazine is "Editor's choice." Mike Strub agreed to make the pre-convention issues come out sooner, and to modify the cartoon to address the size and darkness problems.

i. Ad Rates – Mike

Mike Strub explained that the ad rates in the current issue of the MichMatist are a proposal for which he seeks board input. The board advised him to make ¼ page and higher the only color-available ads; and to make the color ad cost only nominally higher than that of B&W.

E. Publicity

Marotta

Mike Marotta asked to be removed from this committee.

F. Membership

Sekulich

Larry Sekulich commented that the free books have been a tremendous incentive. If it works, keep doing it. The website now has ads for the show. Life members could be in a drawing for a 50-year medal. We could have a coin calendar to be given out as a freebie.

Joe LeBlanc added that we're getting a lot of quality new members who are just starting to learn about coin collecting.

G. Conv. Manual

Al Bobrofsky

No Report

H. Conv. Committee

Al Bobrofsky

No Report

I. Finance Review - Audit

President

Ann Bobrofsky

Ann has to recuse herself, so Ken Leach will run this.

J. Communication Clubs Membership

Julianna Wostyn

Julianna attended the UAW club meeting. They were delighted to see an MSNS board member, and had several issues. They didn't know how to obtain videos. Many of them don't get on the computer, preferring mailings.

XV. Committee Appointments

None

XVI. Board Member Comments

Board members were advised to get their breakfast tickets from Joe LeBlanc tonight.

Mike Dennany: Mike stated he is running for CSNS Board of Governors, and would appreciate our support. Also: our many committees need to meet and pre-discuss these many issues.

Al Bobrofsky: We need new people for our hospitality room.

XVII. General Membership Comments

None

XVIII. Adjourn **Mike Dennany moved, and Mike Strub seconded, a motion to adjourn, which carried at 8:13pm.**