

## Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee (CCAC)

### Annual Report

### Fiscal Year 2019

October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019

#### **A. Background.**

The Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee (CCAC) was established by Act of Congress (*Public Law 108-15*) on April 23, 2003 to:

- Advise the Secretary of the Treasury on any theme or design proposals relating to circulating coinage, bullion coinage, Congressional Gold Medals, and national and other medals.
- Advise the Secretary of the Treasury with regard to the events, persons, or places to be commemorated by the issuance of commemorative coins in each of the five calendar years succeeding the year in which a commemorative coin designation is made.
- Make recommendations with respect to the mintage level for any commemorative coin recommended.

The CCAC serves as an informed, experienced, and impartial resource to the Secretary of the Treasury and represents the interests of American citizens and collectors. The CCAC is composed of members specially qualified in numismatics, numismatic curation, medallic arts and sculpture, and American history, as well as members appointed to represent the interests of the general public.

In accordance with 31 U.S.C. §5135(g), the CCAC is directed not later than September 30 of each year to submit a report to the Secretary of the Treasury, the House Committee on Financial Services, and the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. The report is to describe the activities of the CCAC in the preceding year and the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee to the Secretary of the Treasury. This report for Fiscal Year 2019 includes a summary of the CCAC's activities during the past fiscal year. The CCAC will be submitted an addendum to include some specific recommendations for the future of numismatic and circulating coins.

#### **B. CCAC Activities During Fiscal Year 2019.**

The CCAC held seven public meetings during Fiscal Year 2019, all at the United States Mint Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The following is a summary of the Fiscal Year 2019 CCAC public meetings, each of which was announced through the *Federal Register*.

**Public Meeting of October 16, 2018:** The meeting was called to order with 10 CCAC members. The agenda included review of candidate designs for the obverse and reverse designs for the 2020 Armed Forces Silver Medal Program, the 2021 and 2022 Native American \$1 Coins, and design concepts for the 2021-2025 American Eagle Platinum Coin series.

1. Review and discussion of the obverse and reverse candidate designs for the Armed Forces Silver Medal Program, United States Coast Guard.

- William Thiesen, Historian, United States Coast Guard participated in the meeting telephonically, and discussed the historical background of the designs and the preferred designs of the Coast Guard.
- Mr. Thiesen noted that the preferred design for the obverse was CG-O-01, which depicts a Coast Guard motor lifeboat speeding through rough water as an MH-65 Dolphin helicopter races ahead. It includes the Boston Lighthouse, one of the oldest lighthouses in the country in the background.
- For the reverse, Mr. Thiesen noted the preferred design was CG-R-07, which features a Morris-class topsail schooner sailing past the Cape Henry Lighthouse in the 1830s. The design included the Coast Guard emblem at the bottom of the design.
- After deliberation, the CCAC recommended CG-O-04B, which depicts a national security cutter at full throttle, speeding head-on towards the viewer, conveying the Coast Guard is “Always Ready.” For the reverse, the CCAC recommended CG-R-09, which features two iconic symbols of the Coast Guard – a life preserver ring and the distinctive Coast Guard Racing Stripe mark, which is found on most craft of the Coast Guard.

2. Review and discussion of the obverse and reverse candidate designs for the Armed Forces Silver Medal Program, United States Air Force.

- Bill Harris, Deputy Director of the Air Force History Program, participated in the meeting telephonically, and discussed the historical perspective of the designs, and noted the United States Air Force preferred obverse and reverse designs.
- Mr. Harris noted that the Air Force preferred AF-O-01, which features fighter jet pilots flying at high speeds alongside F-22 fighter jets.
- For the reverse, the Mr. Harris noted the Air Force preferred design as AF-R-04, which features members of the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard in ceremonial assembly at the Air Force Memorial.
- After discussion, the CCAC also recommended AF-O-01, and recommended that the additional inscription “Critical to the past, essential to the future,” be removed, and the CCAC suggested that a more gender-neutral pilot to honor both the men and women in the Air Force. For the reverse, the CCAC recommended AF-R-04.

3. Review and discussion of the reverse candidate designs for the 2021 Native American \$1 Coin Program – American Indians in the United States Military.

- Mr. James Adams, Historian at the National Museum of the American Indian, participated in the meeting telephonically, and discussed the historical background of the designs.
- After discussion, the CCAC recommended NA-2021-04A, which features eagle feathers, stars in the foreground that represent the five branches of the U.S. Military, and a circle.

4. Review and discussion the reverse candidate designs for the 2022 Native American \$1 Coin Program – Ely S. Parker.

- Mr. James Adams, Historian at the National Museum of the American Indian, participated in the meeting telephonically, and discussed the historical background of the designs.
- After discussion, the CCAC recommended reverse design NA-2022-05, which depicts Ely Parker with a quill pen and book, symbolic of his mastery of English and his graceful penmanship. The CCAC made a unanimous motion to change the inscription of Ely Parker's name to a depiction of his signature, and to add Tonawanda Seneca as an inscription.

5. Discussion on the design concepts for the 2021-2025 American Eagle Platinum Coin series.

- The CCAC had no issues with the proposed design concepts.

**Public Meeting of November 14, 2018:** The meeting was called to order with 11 CCAC members present. The agenda included installation of two new CCAC members, review of candidate designs for the obverse and reverse of the American Veteran's Silver Medal, Inscription change to the America the Beautiful Quarter for Weir Farm inscription change, approval of the 2018 CCAC Annual Report, and the American Innovation \$1 Coin Program inscription placement and privy mark.

1. Installation of two new CCAC members.

- David Croft, Acting Deputy Director of the Mint, installed two new members of the CCAC, Samuel Gill (member representing the general public) and Robin Salmon (member specially qualified in medallic arts or sculpture).

2. Review and discussion of obverse and reverse candidate designs for the American Veterans Silver Medal Program.

- Mr. Scott Miller, representative of the American Legion, participated in the meeting telephonically. He noted that that American Legion preferred the obverse design AV-O-03, which portrays a bald eagle spreading its wings as it prepares for flight and includes, five stars that represent the five branches of the U.S. Armed Services and the inscription, "Celebrating America's Veterans."
- For the reverse design, Mr. Miller stated that the American Legion preferred AV-R-04, which depicts an American carrying a shield emblazoned with the single star. The five lines at the bottom of the shield represent the five branches of the military.
- The CCAC recommended the following two obverse designs: AV-O-03 and AV-O-04.
- For the reverse design, the CCAC recommended AV-R-08.

3. America the Beautiful Quarter Program – Weir Farm.

- The CCAC discussed modifying the inscription on the America the Beautiful Quarter for Weir Farm from “National Park for the Arts” to “A National Park for Art” to reflect the mission of the park. After some discussion, the CCAC unanimously agreed to change the inscription to “A National Park for the Arts.”

4. CCAC 2018 Annual Report.

- The CCAC reviewed and approved its 2018 Annual Report to Congress with the following changes: adding a 2021 commemorative coin honoring Albert Einstein and the 100th Anniversary of his receipt of the Nobel Prize, and removing the 2017 suggestion of a commemorative coin featuring the 100th anniversary of the United States Mint’s transfer of assets to the Smithsonian. The 2018 Annual Report to Congress was unanimously approved with the recommended changes.

5. American Innovation \$1 Coin Inscription Placement and Privy Mark.

- The CCAC discussed adding a gear privy mark on the reverse of the American Innovation \$1 Coin Program, and having consistent placement of the inscription “United States of America.”
- After consideration, the CCAC recommended consistent placement “United States of America” inscription, and adding gear privy mark on the reverse of the American Innovation \$1 Coins beginning in 2019 through the end of the program. Both the inscription and privy mark placement were left to the discretion of the United States Mint.

**Public Meeting of April 16, 2019:** The meeting was called to order with 11 CCAC members present. The agenda included review and discussion of the reverse candidate designs for 2019 American Innovation Dollar Coins and the obverse and reverse candidate designs for the Mayflower 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 24K gold coin and silver medal.

1. Review and discussion of the reverse designs for the 2019 American Innovation Dollar Coins.

- Delaware:
  - The CCAC was presented with designs featuring two themes for the State of Delaware – (1) Annie Jump Cannon and the classification of the stars, and (2) the invention of nylon. After discussion and scoring, the CCAC recommended DE-R-05. This design features a silhouette of Annie Jump Cannon against the night sky with a number of stars visible in the sky.
- Pennsylvania:
  - The CCAC was presented with designs featuring three themes offered by Pennsylvania – (1) the Pennsylvania Turnpike, (2) the invention of the polio vaccine, and (3) medical innovation. After discussions, the consensus view of

the CCAC was that the polio vaccine was more significant as an innovation than the other options.

- The CCAC recommended PA-R-11, which depicts an artist's conception of the polio virus at three levels of magnification along with the silhouette of a period microscope, representing the extreme research that was conducted to develop a cure for polio. The additional inscriptions are "Polio Vaccine" and "1953."
- New Jersey:
  - The CCAC was presented with designs representing two themes offered by New Jersey – (1) Thomas Edison's electric light bulb, and (2) the Edison Company's invention of the Strip Kinetograph and Kinetoscope.
  - After discussion, the CCAC recommended NJ-R-02 featuring an Edison-style light bulb with a circular array of buildings oriented outward as if they were rays of light.
- Georgia:
  - The CCAC was presented with only designs featuring one theme -- the Trustees' Garden. In the early 1730s, James Oglethorpe established the Trustees' Garden, which was the first agricultural experimental garden in America.
  - After discussion, the CCAC recommended design GA-R-02, which depicts a hand planting seeds in the garden and the inscription "Trustee Garden."

2. *Review and discussion of the obverse and reverse of the Mayflower 400th Anniversary 24K gold coin and companion silver medal.*

- In an effort to aid the CCAC's review and recommendation, the subject matter stakeholders addressed the history of the Mayflower's arrival and its relationship and impact on Native Americans. The CCAC's review of these designs lasted over two hours. The discussion was beneficial to ensure the proper design was selected. It was also an important dialogue for the stakeholders.
- The CCAC scored all candidates during the meeting, but no design received the votes necessary to move forward as a recommendation. Ultimately, the CCAC recommended that the United States Mint staff continue dialogue with the subject matter stakeholder as a means of recommending appropriate designs for the program.
- The CCAC did note that none of the designs were well suited to small gold planchet size, and recommended that the United States Mint consider modifying any final designs to appropriately address that constraint.

**Public Meeting of April 17, 2019:** The meeting was called to order with nine CCAC members present. The agenda included review and discussion of candidate designs for 2021-2025 American Eagle Platinum Proof Coins.

- Artists submitted set portfolios that would cover all five years, as well as a variety of individual designs.
- After discussion, the CCAC recommended Set 2 (2021-02-to 0225-2). Set 02 uses the lifecycle of the oak from seedling to a mighty tree as a metaphor for our country's growth as a nation that values freedom. Specifically, it communicates that our

Liberty grows to a thing of strength and beauty from a seed-our Bill of Rights, and that each of the freedoms enumerated in the First Amendment contributes to the growth and development of our nation.

**Public Meeting of June 18, 2019:** The meeting was called to order with 11 CCAC members present telephonically. The agenda included review of candidate designs for the obverse and reverse of the Steve Gleason Congressional Gold Medal and the Anwar El Sadat Congressional Gold Medal.

1. *Review and discussion of the obverse and reverse candidate designs for the Steve Gleason Congressional Gold Medal.*

- Clare Durrett, the Associate Executive Director for Team Gleason, shared with the CCAC the preferences of Mr. Gleason.
- Mr. Gleason's preferred design for the obverse was SG-O-07, which features a portrait of Steve Gleason along with the inscriptions "Steve Gleason" and "Act of Congress 2018."
- For the reverse, Mr. Gleason preferred SG-R-03, which was emblematic of Gleason's childhood in the Pacific Northwest representing a lifetime of travel and exploration. The inscription "Keep Exploring", is an important phrase throughout Gleason's life representing both his travel and his journey with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). However, Mr. Gleason did suggest that the reverse design be shifted down to show more sky and an enlarged moon. He further suggested that "Act of Congress 2018" be removed (as it is on his preferred obverse design) and "Keep Exploring" be placed on an arc along the bottom of the design.
- All CCAC members of the CCAC agreed that a medal featuring obverse SG-O-07 and reverse SGR-03 would create a fitting tribute to Steve Gleason.
- The recommendation passed unanimously to recommend SG-O-07 and SG-R-03.

2. *Review and discussion of the obverse and reverse candidate designs of the Anwar El Sadat Congressional Gold Medal.*

- The CCAC discussed fourteen potential obverse designs and reverse designs for the Anwar El Sadat Congressional Gold Medal.
- Mr. Ezra Friedlander represented the Anwar Sadat Family and is the official program liaison. The family reviewed the candidate designs and expressed preferences for obverse design AS-O-04 and reverse design AS-R-02.
- All members of the CCAC agreed that obverse number AS-O-04 would be a fitting tribute to Anwar El Sadat. The uniqueness of the design features a dramatic portrait of Anwar El Sadat with the portrait sculpted in the manner of ancient Egyptian relief.
- Additionally, all members of the CCAC agreed with the family's preference of AS-R-02. The design depicts the Unknown Soldier Memorial and Anwar El Sadat's tomb with the inscriptions "HE LIVED FOR PEACE AND DIED FOR PRINCIPLES," "ANWAR EL SADAT 1918-1981," and "ACT OF CONGRESS 2018."
- The recommendation passed unanimously to recommend designs AS-O-04 and AS-R-01.

**Public Meeting of July 17, 2019:** The meeting was called to order with 11 CCAC members present. The agenda included review and discussion of the obverse and reverse candidate designs for the 2020 Basketball Hall of Fame Commemorative Coin Program.

- The CCAC reviewed 20 obverse designs, developed through a public competition. After review and discussion, the CCAC recommended BHF-O-19. The design portrays the intense, hands-on action of the game of basketball. It features three different figures all reaching for the ball in unison, suggesting how the sport has brought together millions of diverse people around the world through a simple, universal, and unifying athletic experience.
- BHF-O-02, which depicts the action of a slam dunk, one of the most exciting plays in the game, was a close second recommendation
- The CCAC reviewed 23 reverse designs and recommended BHF-R-01. The design depicts a three-quarter profile view of a basketball.
- BHF-R-17, which depicts a basketball about to pass through the net, was a close second recommendation.
- The CCAC additionally passed a motion to recommend an optional selection of BHF-O-02 with BHF-R-18.

**Public Meeting of September 18, 2019:** The meeting of September 18, 2019, was held with 11 CCAC members present. The agenda of the meeting included review and discussion of the obverse and reverse candidate designs for the *USS Indianapolis* Congressional Gold Medal, the reverse candidate designs for the 2020 Innovation Coin Program, and the obverse and reverse candidate designs for the Chinese American Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal.

1. *Review and discuss the obverse and reverse designs for the USS Indianapolis Congressional Gold Medal.*

- The portfolio for both obverse and reverse designs was well received by the CCAC.
- The liaisons for the *USS Indianapolis* joined the meeting via telephone. The liaisons are Peggy McCall Campo (Official Liaison, *USS Indianapolis* Survivors Organization) and Sara Vladic (Author and Historian). Sara has written books and documentaries about the *USS Indianapolis* and is a member of the *USS Indianapolis* Survivors Organization volunteer team.
- IND-O-07 depicts the *USS Indianapolis* with her ten battle stars. Interspersed among a border of rivets are the inscriptions "USS INDIANAPOLIS CA-35" and her dates of service, "1932-1945." The additional inscription "ACT OF CONGRESS 2018" is included.
- IND-R-07 depicts a group of survivors clinging to a raft. It depicts the group spotting either a plane or the *USS Cecil J. Doyle*, and shows it giving them renewed hope for their rescue.
- The PV-1 Ventura, the PBY-5A Catalina, and the *USS Cecil J. Doyle* were essential to critical moments in the rescue. Many survivors reported seeing the PV-1 Ventura tipping its wings and many also remember the search light on the *USS Cecil J. Doyle*

as a sign from above that help was on the way. Additional inscriptions include "1195 SAILED, 316 SURVIVED" and "ACT OF CONGRESS 2018."

- The CCAC respected the liaisons' preferences - IND-O-07, IND-R-07 but after discussion recommended the liaisons also consider as an alternative choice IND-O-09 and IND-R-05. After discussion with the liaisons, the CCAC voted to recommend two sets of designs -- IND-O-07 & IND-R-07 and IND-O-09 & IND-R-05.
- The CCAC unanimously voted by acclamation for the observe and the reverse.

## 2. Review and discussion of the reverse candidate designs for the 2020 American Innovation Dollar Coin Program.

### • Connecticut:

- The CCAC was presented designs that depicted one of the three themes offered by Connecticut – (1) Colt Armory, (2) the Gerber Variable Scale and (3) the *USS Nautilus*. After discussion, the CCAC voted to recommend CT-08 Gerber Variable Scale and *CT-16 USS Nautilus*.
- CT-08 depicts the Gerber Variable Scale being used to increase a geometric shape by 200%, a shape which resembles the state of Connecticut. The additional inscription is "GERBER VARIABLE SCALE." CT-16 depicts the *USS Nautilus* beneath the surface of the Arctic. An atom represents the uranium-powered nuclear reactor that powers the submarine. The additional inscription is "USS NAUTILUS."

### • Massachusetts:

- The CCAC was presented with designs depicting the following themes from Massachusetts – (1) telephone, and (2) basketball. The CCAC was concerned about the basketball theme due to the fact that a basketball commemoration is being minted in 2020. Therefore, the CCAC concentrated on the other themes.
- The telephone design (MA-01) was favored by the CCAC. MA-01 depicts the dial of an early rotary dial telephone. The additional inscription is "TELEPHONE."
- The second highest was design MA-14 basketball theme.

### • Maryland:

- The CCAC was presented with designs featuring the following two themes for Maryland – (1) Hubble Space Telescope, and (2) Mapping of the Human Genome.
- Both were considered unique themes.
- Ultimately, the CCAC voted to recommend MD-OS, which depicts the Hubble Space Telescope orbiting the earth surrounded by a field of stars. The additional inscription is "THE HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE."

### • South Carolina:

- The CCAC was presented with designs featuring the following two themes for South Carolina – (1) Septima Clark, and (2) the MASER Innovation.
- After discussion, the CCAC recommended the Septima Clark design SC-02, which depicts Septima Clark marching with three young African American students who carry books and an American flag, communicating that

education and literacy among oppressed people is necessary for empowerment and enjoyment of civil rights. The additional inscription is 'SEPTIMA CLARK.'

- SC-01, a close second recommendation, features Septima Clark teaching at a blackboard, rendered as the U.S. Constitution. Representing the concept of citizenship schools that helped African Americans learn to read and understand the Constitution.

3. Review and discussion of the obverse and reverse candidate designs of Chinese American Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal.

- The CCAC was honored to have present the following liaisons at the meeting: Major General Robert Lee (U.S. Army Retired, Chair); Mr. Ed Gor (C.A.C.A. National President and Congressional Gold Medal Overall Chair); Mr. Ed Moy (former Director of the United States Mint); Major General William Chen (U.S. Army Retired); Major General Stephen Tom (U.S. Army Retired); Major General Darryl Wong (U.S. Air Force Retired); and Rear Admiral Jonathan Yuen (U.S. Navy Retired).
- The Director of the Mint, David J. Ryder, welcomed the liaisons and made introductory comments.
- The preference of the liaisons was design CAV-O-07 paired with CAV-R-06 with the stipulation of a revised "outer rim" from CAV-R-04, as shown during the meeting in CAV-R-06A.
- CAV-O-07 depicts Chinese American servicemen and a nurse, representing all U.S. service branches in World War II and highlighting that they fought in every theater with honor. Inscriptions include "CHINESE-AMERICAN VETERANS," "WORLD WAR II," "DISTINGUISHED SERVICE," and "PROUDLY SERVED ON LAND, SEA, & IN THE AIR."
- The liaison asked that the text, "PROUDLY SERVED ON LAND SEA & IN THE AIR" be replaced with "PROUDLY SERVED AS AMERICANS." The liaison also asked that the hyphen be removed from "CHINESE-AMERICANS." The CCAC agreed with these requested changes.
- Additionally, the liaisons also asked for two technical accuracy changes to be made to the design (CAV-O-07): (1) to change the rifle held by the enlisted soldier to an M-1 rifle, and (2) to refine the appearance of the goggles atop the helmet of the member of the Army Air Forces. The CCAC agreed with these requested changes.
- CAV-R-06A features an Iowa class battleship, a M4 Sherman tank, and a P-40 Warhawk aircraft from the Flying Tigers to highlight that the Chinese-Americans fought in all theaters, from all services on land, sea and in the air. The design is encircled by text listing all six services the Chinese Americans served in and the inscription "ACT OF CONGRESS 2018."
- The liaisons asked that the text start at the bottom left quadrant of the border of the medal and end at the bottom right quadrant of the medal so that none of the services are upside down. The CCAC agreed with these requested changes.

- The liaisons also requested several technical accuracy changes be made to the design: (1) place a flagpole at the front of the ship, and (2) correct the positioning of the Army Air Forces roundels. The CCAC agreed with these requested changes.
- The CCAC unanimously recommend the preference of the liaison CAV-O-07 and CAV-R-06A with the requested changes.

### **C. CCAC Membership.**

The CCAC consists of 11 members appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury. Four members are appointed based on special qualifications; three members are appointed to represent the general public; and four members are appointed after recommendation by the leadership of the United States Congress. Members who served during Fiscal Year 2019 were:

- Thomas Uram - Chair 04/2019 (appointed after recommendation by Speaker of the House)
- Dennis Tucker (appointed based on special qualifications in numismatics)
- Robert Hoge (appointed based on special qualifications in numismatic curation)
- Erik Jansen (appointed to represent the interests of the general public)-finished his term at the September 18, 2019 Public Meeting
- Mary Lannin (appointed after recommendation by House Minority Leader)
- Michael Moran (appointed after recommendation by Senate Minority Leader)
- Donald Scarinci (appointed after recommendation by Senate Majority Leader)
- Jeanne Stevens-Sollman (appointed to represent the interests of the general public)
- Dr. Dean Kotlowski (appointed based on special qualifications in American History)
- Robin Salmon (appointed based on special qualifications in sculpture or medallic arts)
- Sam Gill (appointed to represent the interests of the general public)

### **D. CCAC Recommendations.**

The CCAC encourages the highest standards of artistic excellence for America's coins and medals. The CCAC recognizes the importance of the nation's coinage, not only in facilitating the needs of commerce, but also as an artistic medium to recognize the significant achievements of the nation and its people, to honor great national leaders of the past, and to illustrate the foundational values of the republic. Recognizing these goals, the CCAC serves as a resource in the review and development of proposals for circulating coinage and circulating commemoratives. The CCAC plans to provide an addendum to this report that will include detailed and specific recommendations. The following are general recommendations that the CCAC discussed during public meetings this year.

#### **Art Medals Program.**

Many of the world's mints prominently feature the artists who design their coins and medals. Except for a few private mints who manufacture coins for small nations, just about every world mint lists the name of the artists that design their coins on the promotional materials and informational certificates that come with the coins packaging and/or on their official web site.

Unfortunately, the United States Mint does include the artist on coin certificates but not with medal products.

There are lessons that the United States Mint can learn from the marketing efforts of the mints in other countries and from the pioneering efforts of the Franklin Mint in the 1960s. Chief among these lessons is that good art sells coins. Establishing familiarity with the artists who create the art on coins improves the marketability of the coins and encourages the artists to create even more impressive art on future coins.

Establishing an annual art medal program that features artists who design popular United States coins would accomplish several important objectives. Such a program would place some prominence to the United States Mint's infusion artists who design the coins and it would encourage their creativity and offer experience as sculptors to many whose primary experience is graphic design.

An annual art medal program would also serve as a research and development project for the United States Mint's technical staff and allow the United States Mint's marketing team an opportunity to feature United States medals as works of art created by these talented artists. The art medal program would also acclimate the American people to contemporary medallic art, increase the artistic status of United States coins in the world, and test the market for future medal programs that might increase the United States Mint's market share at home.

The CCAC recommends that the United States Mint begin slowly with an annual art medal program producing one medal a year. The artists who design the current year's coins and medals should be given a free hand to design the obverse and reverse of a medal on any subject or theme that they choose.

If the art medal program is successful, the United States Mint might add an art medal to complement a commemorative coin program or series of coins. The United States Mint could even select from the many good designs for coins that are rejected and ask the artist to rework the rejected design into a medal; or, the United States Mint could solicit artists to produce a new work of art based upon the theme of a program directed by Congress to be considered alongside the coin designs when they are reviewed by the United States Commission of Fine Arts and the CCAC.

While a silver bullion program disguised as an "art medal" program might be tempting for the United States Mint's marketing staff in the short term, such a program must be about the art and not about the bullion. It must also be about the artist designing the medal and not about the coin program the marketing staff is selling. With patience and proper focus, an increase in the United States Mint's bullion sales, an increase in the sales of coins and an increase in the overall collector base are inevitable.

**E. Misc.**

On August 26-28, 2019, the CCAC members toured the West Point Mint facility to see first-hand the designs that we have been providing comments on being minted and learning more about the manufacturing process.