

Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee

801 Ninth Street, NW; Washington, DC 20220



CCAC Public Meeting
Washington, DC
September 27, 2005

A public meeting of the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee (CCAC) was held on September 27, 2005 at United States Mint headquarters in Washington, DC. In attendance were Mitch Sanders (Vice-Chair), Ute Wartenberg (Secretary), Daniel Altshuler, Leon Billings, Bill Fivaz, Connie Harriman, Rita Laws, and Ken Thomasma.

After approval of the minutes from the CCAC's July 28, 2005 meeting, the committee heard updates about the CCAC website. Members discussed publicizing the website by contacting numismatic publications, listing the website in Federal Register notices about CCAC activities, and ensuring that the website is accessible to search engines.

The CCAC then considered proposed designs for the Dr. Martin Luther King and Coretta Scott King Congressional Gold Medal. Public Law 108-368 authorizes the President "to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. (posthumously) and his widow Coretta Scott King in recognition of their contributions to the Nation on behalf of the civil rights movement."

Designs were presented by Jack Szczerban of the United States Mint, who informed the committee that Mrs. King had reviewed the proposed designs. Some members expressed concern that the medal as currently designed had only limited sales potential. The committee also discussed the possibility of a design with higher relief. While high relief was considered advantageous in general, there was a consensus that high relief would not be artistically appropriate for the portraits on the obverse of the King medal.

The CCAC voted unanimously (8-0) to recommend the proposed obverse design. However, it was suggested that the image of Dr. King's shoulder, as currently drawn, detracts from the overall design.

For the reverse of the medal, the CCAC voted unanimously against recommending the proposed design, which features an image of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, along with two quotations from Dr. King. Members suggested that a symbolic representation, with a shorter and more familiar quotation, would have been a more powerful design. Members also felt that the fountains in the forefront of the design detract from the image of the building.

Madelyn Marchessault of the United States Mint then updated members on pending numismatic legislation before Congress.

There was an extensive discussion of the committee's Annual Report. Members agreed on recommendations for proposed commemoratives to be issued in the years 2006-2011, and decided to finalize the report at the next CCAC meeting.

The next CCAC meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2005.

Proposed Medal Designs

