

Women In Numismatics (WIN) General Meeting
April 27, 2017
Schaumburg, Illinois

Kevin Foley welcomed everyone on behalf of the Central States Numismatic Society at 8:59 AM. WIN President Charmy Harker made the following announcements: (1) Don't forget to apply for the WIN scholarship to the ANA summer conference for 2018. (2) WIN will hold a 50-25-25 raffle ticket sale at the ANA in Denver. WIN's 50% of the money raised goes directly into our scholarship fund, and two winners each receive 25%. (3) WIN has a mentoring program in place. There are WIN members ready to be mentors, but no one has asked to be mentored yet. (4) There will be a profile of one of our members in each future issue of *Winning Ways*. (5) There are 4-piece sets of WIN elongates for sale for \$10.

The meeting was then turned over to Louise Boling to give her educational program, "From Demure Maiden to Wild Child: Saint Barbara, Patron Saint of Those Who Make Things Go Boom." Louise became interested in these pieces when her son was serving in Afghanistan and asked her to send him some medals of Saint Barbara, who is the patron saint of people who deal with explosives.

According to lore, Barbara was the daughter of a devout pagan named Dioscorus. She was kept in a tower by her father. She had tutors who were Christian, and she converted to Christianity. She was sentenced to death by beheading, and her father carried out the sentence. After the deed was done, her father was struck down by a lightning bolt. She became the saint of explosives because her father was killed by a bolt of lightning, and people then prayed to her for protection.

Depictions of Saint Barbara often include a cannon, sword, cannon balls, chalice and palm frond, which signifies her martyrdom. Many of the coins and medals were given to firefighters, miners, engineers and military. Saint Barbara is often illustrated on these coins and medals with big puffy sleeves on her dress, but no one knows why. They also frequently include a tower with three windows or three turrets, representing the father, son and Holy Spirit – the trinity.

Some of the pieces in Louise's collection are military challenge coins. They can be carried by members to prove their membership and are often presented by a commander in recognition of a special achievement. She also showed several pieces from a Saint Barbara's Day held in Seoul, South Korea. The oldest piece Louise has located is a 1982 piece from Vicenza, Italy.

Saint Barbara items go back as far as World War II, but weren't popular until the 1970's and 80's.

The program concluded with a question and answer session, and also a viewing of the Saint Barbara coins and medals that were on display. Harker presented Boling with a certificate of appreciation, and the meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Wibker

WIN Secretary