

# **PAWCATUCK VALLEY COIN CLUB**

## **GEORGE CHAMPLIN JR. SCHOLARSHIP**

**\*Established and proudly dedicated to his memory, 2026\***



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George H. Champlin IV was a 'gentle giant', or so he was described by friends who knew him. He was 6' 3", caring, sincere and naturally intelligent. Generally, he was quiet, but when eager to tell a story, or caught up in a game, his voice boomed, usually accompanied by laughter, or his unique brand of sarcasm.

George lived in the town of Westerly his entire life and was an active member of the Pawcatuck Valley Coin Club. He was a professional numismatist, having learned the trade from his father at a young age. George collected coins since he was a child and was already knowledgeable by the time he started working with his father, George Sr., at their family's business, Westerly Enterprises, (Est. 1981), in 1998.

From 2003, to 2006, George IV traveled to major coin shows around the country to expand his knowledge and build working relationships with dealers further afield. During that time, he started his own company, GC Rare Coins, which was successful and no small feat for a 20-year-old! In 2007, he took on a major role at Westerly Enterprises and operated the business until his untimely passing, February 2020, at the age of 37. His wife, Melissa continues to run the family business today.

Aside from his career and passion for coins, George IV was an avid reader, enjoying golf and fly-fishing as well. He was a devoted family man and a steadfast friend to so many- George would be humbled and proud to know this scholarship has been established in his name.

## **Pawcatuck Valley Coin Club – George Champlin Jr. Scholarship**

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### **\*\*OVERVIEW \*\***

#### **Purpose –**

The scholarship program for junior members of the Pawcatuck Valley Coin Club will provide a framework for the attainment of numismatic education. The program will introduce presenters to elements of the hobby, which can include discovery, enjoyment and experience in public speaking.

#### **Structure –**

By the club offering prizes for exhibits, young members will be encouraged to share in friendly competition and offer a presentation of their special interests. The frequency of these displays will be contingent upon various factors, including current number of junior members and their willingness to participate.

#### **Exhibit Guidelines -**

Instruction sheets will be provided to junior members who wish to present an exhibit. Coaching will be available to juniors, with parent and/or guardian, by the PVCC Youth Coordinator, who can assist with research, preparation and presentation of exhibits. The prizes, with their educational value, will provide additional numismatic knowledge to the winners.

## Funding –

Various streams of funding for scholarship prizes have and will be secured, based on frequency of participation. A partial list follows:

- 1) In-house contributions to the fund might include a monthly or annual sum, voted upon by PVCC membership, designated for the purchasing of prizes.
- 2) Members may donate funds and/or in-house auction items, and designate proceeds go to the scholarship fund.
- 3) A way to raise funds AND awareness of the club might be to place donation cans or boxes in various establishments, (Library / Police / Fire Det, / Retail, etc.).

## Prizes-

Prizes for completed youth presentations can be chosen, funded and issued, commensurate with the quality of an exhibitor's presentation.

An incomplete list of prizes might include, but not be limited to:

- a) American Numismatic Association membership/subscription, (annual)
- b) A.N.A. online classes
- c) New England Numismatic Association membership/subscription, (annual)
- d) Gift certificates for – coin stores / eBay / 'Wizard' or 'Lighthouse' coin/currency supply Companies, etc.
- e) Numismatic books, such as the 'Red Book' and other resources for learning
- f) Third Party Certification of favorite coin(s)
- g) U.S. Mint Proof Set, (for the birth year of the exhibitor)
- h) Other U.S. Mint products
- i) Resources to facilitate travel, admission and/or lodging for numismatic shows, seminars, forums, etc.

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In summary, the Pawcatuck Valley George Champlin Jr. Scholarship Committee will on an ongoing basis, review and develop the program and award prizes, as junior members participate with educational presentations. If young members become interested and active over the long term, club funds can be utilized on an as needed basis.

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**Pawcatuck Valley Coin Club  
George Champlin Jr. Scholarship  
Guidelines For Youth Numismatic Exhibits**

### **Choosing a theme**

- Select a topic you are interested in and display a variety of numismatic items. There are no rules for the collecting of coins and currency, it's what you enjoy.
- Feature coins or paper money from a specific country, such as the United States, Great Britain, China or any nation of your choosing. Provide information about mints, mintages and designers.
- Numismatic collectibles may represent a certain historical or modern time frame- you can feature coins which display animals, famous people, events and other topics.

### **Information about your exhibit**

- Study your subject's impact on history. Were the coins, or paper money in your exhibit accepted and used by people and how did this currency affect the economy and culture in the area where it circulated?
- How did the presenter become interested in these coins or notes?
- Present your exhibit clearly, so fellow collectors and non-collectors can easily understand the subject

## **Designing and arranging the exhibit**

- A) How much floor and table space do you need for the layout?
- B) Make your display neat, well designed and use color where you can
- C) Your Title, text and labels should be correct and easy to read
- D) Balance your collectables, information and related items, to best tell the story of your subject

## **Exhibit Results**

- A blank copy of judging guidelines will be provided for each presenter, to facilitate understanding of exhibit features
- Completed judging guidelines will be provided for each presenter, post-Exhibit
- A copy of Judges' results will be kept confidential in Scholarship Committee ledger

**Pawcatuck Valley Coin Club  
George Champlin Jr. Youth Scholarship - Exhibit Evaluation**

Exhibitor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title Of Exhibit \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's Name and Initials, (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Rating Element	Comments	Score
The title should indicate the story which the exhibitor's display will tell		7>8 pts.
Are aspects of the exhibitor's collectables shown? These may include explanations of mints, mintages, composition, engravers/designers.		9>12 pts.
Is the exhibitor able to talk about historic-biographical-economic-artistic elements of the display?		8> 12pts.
Does exhibitor's display spark interest among audience members? Are methods of collecting offered?		8>10 pts.
Does the design and presentation of the exhibit show imagination and creativity?		8>12 pts.
Is the display colorful and well designed? Are title/text clear? Are grammar and spelling correct?		12>15 pts.
Does display include all numismatic material necessary to tell a complete story?		8>12 pts.
Has the exhibitor advised the viewers about the rarity and/or availability, (not the value), of numismatic materials?		7>10 pts.
Has the presenter offered to answer questions about the exhibit?		6>9 pts.
Total score- 100 Points Possible >		