



# Maryland Free-State Treasure Club

Recovering & Preserving History

## Newsletter

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November 2017

### November Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 PM by President, **Gary Pennington**. Gary introduced the club officer; **Howard Shettle**, Vice President, **Steve Cunningham**, Treasurer and **Chris Wisnom**, who substituted for **Dave Miller**, Secretary.

A special thank you to **Mike and Gina Stinemire** who always provides a wide range of delicious food and snacks for the meeting.

Attendance: 38 members were in attendance as reported by **Dave Franz**.

Treasurers Report: by **Steve Cunningham**: \$2,951.88.

Mini Hunt: Our mini hunt held prior to the meeting, starting at 6:30 was well attended. There were multiple winners who found tokens for silver coin prizes.

Special Presentation: **Gary Pennington** brought in a host of civil war items that he has found over the years.

Legal Beagle Report: **Phil Kolocotronis** discussed the topic of a decades old detecting ban that was overturned in Youngstown, Ohio at the Mill Creek Metroparks. The issue surfaced when a new parks director was appointed and began enforcing the ban. Local media picked up the story and the news was disseminated to the Tri-State metal Detecting Club. A meeting was scheduled with the new director and the club. After much discussion, and a presentation by the club describing the ethical and legal guidelines utilized by the hobby, and a demonstration of target retrievable, the ban by the park board was overturned. Permits are now issued for a one year period with restrictions on target recovery in areas such as golf courses, athletic fields during sports season, and headphones must be worn in order to prevent disturbances to other park visitors. This is an example of the process at it is supposed to unfold. Many thanks to efforts of the Tri-State Metal Detecting Club and the new park director for making this happen.

Monthly Club Outing: Our monthly club outing was held at a Park in Towson. Many clad coins were found. Please remember to sign up at the next meeting if you interested to attend a club outing.

December Club Outing: will occur on Saturday, December 16, 2017. Location to be announced. Members who signed up will be notified of the details via email.

Meet the Member: This month's "Meet the Member" was none other than our president, **Gary Pennington**. Gary is 60 years old, married with children and grandchildren. He has been active in the

community, coaching many athletic teams for his children, and he has been a 30 year member of the Rec Center. He started hunting when he was about 14 years old. He enjoys all types of hunting. But currently spends more time beach hunting with his wife, due to difficulty with his knee. He has used multiple metal detectors. His fondest memories are of his family traveling the country metal detecting when he was young. Some of his best finds resulted when he was accompanied by his wife, who he considers his lucky charm. They met when they were both in the same 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class. Some of his favorite finds include a seated dime that he found on his honeymoon, a diamond ring and an 1877 Indian head penny. Finding a gold coin is on his bucket list. He uses Google Maps and Historic Aerials as his research sites. Gary's advice for beginners would be to never give up, learn to use your machine, the more time you devote the better you will be, and watch YouTube for informational and instructional videos.

Membership Dues: Steve Cunningham, treasurer was collecting dues for the 2018 treasure hunting season. Please see Steve at the December meeting with your dues if you wish to continue your membership in the club.

Officer Nominations: Nominations for board positions were: **Gary Pennington** for President, **Steve Cunningham** for Treasurer, **Howard Shettle** for Vice President and **Dave Miller** for Secretary. A vote was conducted and the nominees were unanimously elected. Those nominated accepted and agreed to serve for a two year period. The club offered our gratitude to these officers who have dedicated much time and effort to make our club a success. We look forward to working with them in the future.

Leg of Gold Contest: will begin again next year. The person who has his or her name drawn three times will be awarded a gold coin.

Monthly Board Contest: **Dave Franz, Mat, Eric Ritter, and Andy Cooper** were winners in the coin category. **Dave Franz** won the relic category. Club Favorite Find of the Month: A Wax Seal – found by **Jamie**.

Our Annual Holiday Celebration and Meeting will be held Thursday, December 28, 2017 at 7:00 PM in the main auditorium of the Rec center, located immediately inside the front door. All family members are welcome. No mini hunt will be held prior to the Holiday Celebration. Please sign up for dishes with Steve Cunningham via email.

Next Meeting to be held Thursday, December 28th, 2017 at 7:00 PM.