

Hidalgo Coin Club Celebrates 50 Years

There are special moments and milestone events in everyone's lives that are worthy of commemorating and celebrating. Such was the case for the members of the Hidalgo Coin Club on Dec. 16, 2010.

The club celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a banquet at La Mexicana Restaurant in McAllen and was the site for the official launching of two commemorative coins to mark and preserve the occasion. Both coins were designed by club members Raul H. Gonzalez and Jesus Solano.

The special guest speaker for the evening was McAllen Mayor Richard Cortez, who was presented with an autographed 'Limited Edition 2-Coin Set' in appreciation for his attendance. One coin features the Rio Grande Valley area and the other, the great state of Texas. Both coins commemorate the inaugural year of the Hidalgo Youth Coin Club on the reverse.

After enjoying a wonderful dinner, the banquet committee presented awards to several deserving members. Lifetime memberships were bestowed on five current members that have been a part of the club the longest. Robert Prasek, Patricia Prasek, Ben Nibert and Holland Wallace have been members since 1963 and Ralph W. Ross since 1965.

Four major awards were also presented to deserving members that have provided outstanding service to the club. Rod E. Bates of Port Isabel was honored for his outstanding service as the club's auctioneer for many years. Tom Henke of Missouri received the Winter Texan of the Year award and Nicholas Jenkins of Edinburg won the Young Numismatist of the Year. The club's Vice-President, Raul H. Gonzalez was selected as the Coin Club Member of the Year for 2010 by the membership.

The debut of the club's new logo, banners and web site were revealed on the same evening. Member Leo Ris of McAllen generously contributed two beautifully designed banners that feature the aforementioned commemorative coins. Mr. Ris is currently working on having one more banner designed for the youth club.

The club was founded in 1960 during the heyday of coin collecting. It was a time when the hobby was sweeping the nation. The coin hobby has recently seen a resurgence of popularity ever since the U.S. Mint began implementing new coin designs. Today, there is an estimated 140 million collectors throughout the country. Evidence of the rising popularity has been experienced right here as well with the growth our local coin clubs.

The Hidalgo Coin Club will be sponsoring two large coin shows in 2011. The members are currently preparing for the 23rd Annual Coin and Collectibles Show that will take place on Saturday, Feb. 5th at the Nomad Shrine Hall - located at 1044 W. Nolana Loop. The new Fall Coin Show has been scheduled for November 5, 2011. More details on this coin show will be available at a later date.

There have been numerous locations in the valley that have housed the monthly

meetings. The club now makes its home at St. Mark's United Methodist Church on the corner of Pecan and 4th St. in McAllen. The meetings are always on the 2nd Monday of the month at begin at 7:30pm.

For more information on joining the Hidalgo Coin Club or the Hidalgo Youth Coin Club, please visit and explore their new web site at www.hidalgocoinclub.com New members and guests are always welcome to attend the meetings. All contact information can be found on the web site or you can call 956-566-3112 to learn more.