



THE NORTH CAROLINA LIONS PIN TRADERS CLUB

Winter 2026



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Art of Celebrating the Past While Embracing the Future

An opinion piece reflecting my personal views.

Being part of the North Carolina Lions Pin Traders Club has always felt like belonging to a living history book — one written in enamel, metal, and memories. As collectors, we don't just trade pins; we trade stories, friendships, and moments that have shaped our club for decades. And as I reflect on where we've been and where we're headed, I'm reminded of how important it is to honor our past while keeping our eyes open to the future.

Remembering a Different Era of Pin Trading



A set I personally chased and finally was able to acquire in an auction

Many of us can recall a time when the excitement around pin trading was electric. At our auctions, certain pins would climb into the hundreds dollars — a testament to both their

rarity and the passion of the collectors bidding on them. Those moments were thrilling, and they spoke to the deep pride we had in our collections.

Today, the landscape looks different. Prices have softened, and pins that once sparked bidding wars now bring in significantly less. It's easy to see this as a loss, but I've come to view it as part of the natural evolution of our hobby. The value of a pin has never been measured solely in dollars; it has always been measured in meaning.

When "More" Isn't Always Better

Another shift we're seeing is the sheer number of sets available. New designs, new themes, new series — the options seem endless. For new collectors, this abundance can feel overwhelming. For longtime collectors, it can feel like the chase never ends.

But maybe this is where we rediscover an old truth: sometimes *less* truly is *more*.

There is beauty in focusing on the pieces that speak to us personally — the pins that carry a story, a memory, or a connection. A smaller, more meaningful collection can be just as fulfilling as a massive one. In fact, it can remind us why we fell in love with pin trading in the first place.

Continued ...

Honoring Tradition While Welcoming Change

Our club has always been rooted in tradition, but it has also thrived because of its ability to adapt. New members bring fresh perspectives. Technology gives us new ways to share and trade. And the changing market encourages us to think differently about what we collect and why.

Embracing the future doesn't mean letting go of the past. It means carrying forward the parts that matter most — the fellowship, the craftsmanship, the joy of discovery — while being open to new ways of experiencing the hobby.

Moving Forward Together

As we look ahead, my hope is that we continue to celebrate the legacy that built this club while embracing the opportunities that lie ahead. Whether your collection is large or small, rare or simple, expensive or sentimental, it is part of the story of who we are.

Here's to honoring the past that shaped us and welcoming the future that awaits us.

Here's to the North Carolina Lions Pin Traders Club — yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

In service,

*Randy Hall
President*

FROM THE SECRETARY

Let me start out by saying Gloria and I hope each of you had a great Holiday Season and that 2026 will be a special year .

It has been a while since our last newsletter and I apologize for that. Between recuperating from the ASM in Asheville, the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum and an extended vacation to Vermont and the Poconos, the Virginia Swap, Gloria serving as President of our local Club while also serving our church as Chairman of Trustees, my involvement with Local and District Lions, the church, Masonic and Scottish Rite things have been pretty hectic. With the Holiday Season behind us we are finally catching our breath and getting ready for 2026.

After volunteering with the AARP TaxAide program for TWENTY YEARS, we have

we have put away our pencils and tax forms and SHOULD now have more time for FUN things .. like travel .. and pins!

We are really looking forward to going back to the pride and joy of North Carolina Lions for our 2026 swap, our own CAMP DOGWOOD! Hope to see you there!!

Lion Gene



Check out our website: <https://nclptc.org/>

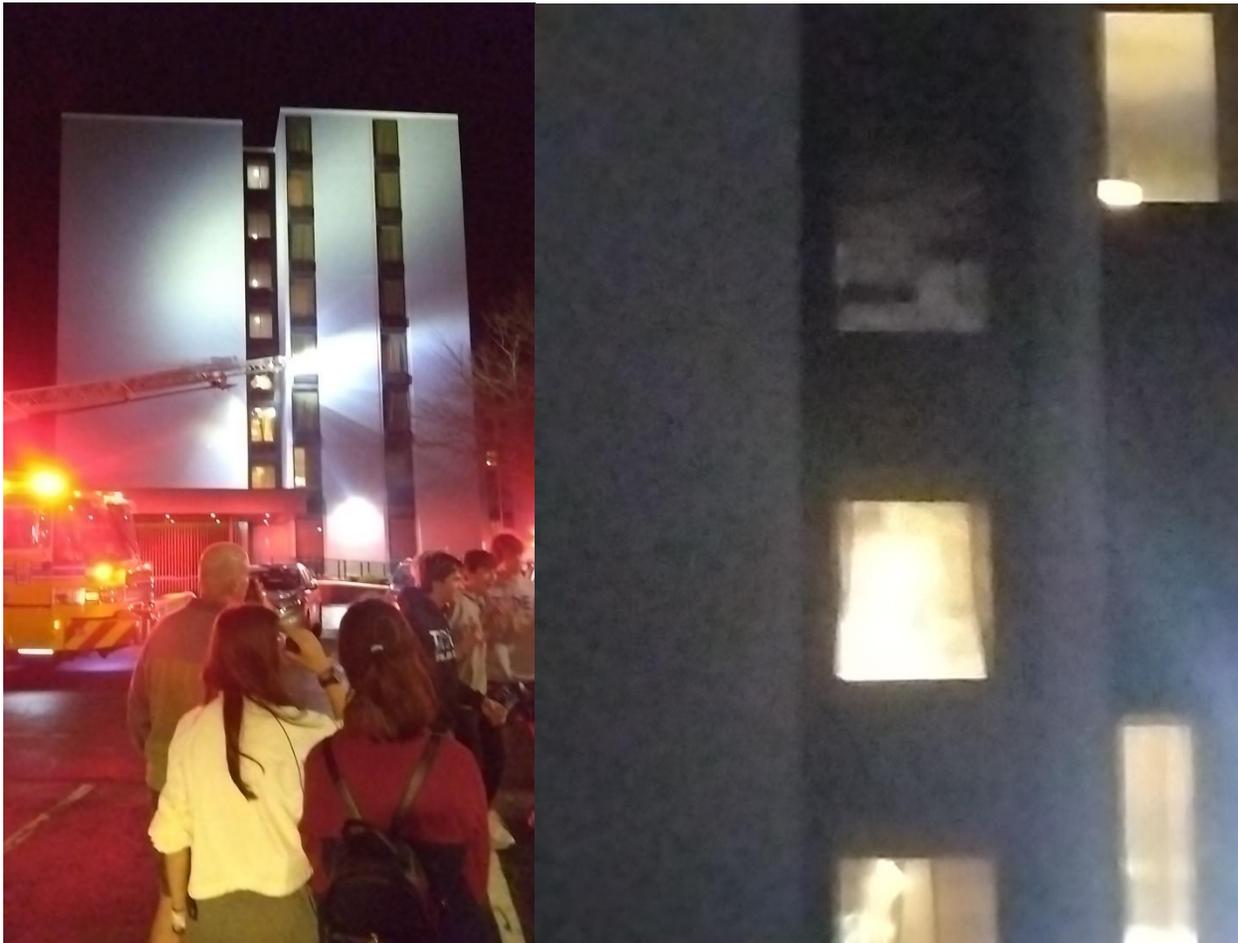
Thanks to PCC Phil Schrack of Virginia for updating and maintaining this for us!!

FROM OUR VICE-PRESIDENT

Hot times at the Virginia Pin Swap

The Virginia swap last November was enjoyable with excellent trading and fellowship.

The two days of trading went on without any problems, but Friday night a fire broke out on the 4th floor that sent everyone out into the streets at 9 pm. We were outside for 3 hours until the fire was out and the building checked. At 1 AM, we were assisted by firefighters to our rooms to remove all of our items and vacate the hotel. The hotel was calling around to find rooms for the guests but the line was so long I decided to start back home.



I had a great view of the fire. The ladder truck stopped right behind my car.

I spent most of the time out of the cold wind in my car with LITPC VP Fred and Vrla, who got wet in the stairwell during the evacuation.

The HVAC system under the window started the fire and you can see the flames in the first picture. Everyone was safe but a few were sent to the hospital due to smoke inhalation.

Sherman McCutcheon



In Our Prayers

As is too often the case, I am sad to report a few deaths from our Pin Traders family.

Lion Don Ager from New Hampshire died recently following a brief illness. He attended the Virginia Swap in November in November and shortly after that was diagnosed with a couple of major issues. Lion Don was a true friend and the epitome of what a Pin Trader should be. Please keep Lion Meg in your thoughts and prayers.

We also learned recently of the death of Lion Chuck Boeding. Lion Chuck also exemplified the finest traits of a Pin Trader. He was very active in the Iowa Pin Traders Club, being their Bulletin for many years.

And we also recently learned of the death of Lion Bill Collins from Texas, again a great Pin Trader and Lion.

If you know of situations that need to be shared with our members please let me know Secretary Gene

2025 and 2026 NCLPTC Pins Available

We still have a few 2025 and 2026 NCLPTC pins available. The 2025 pin features an Indian on a horse riding into a sunset. The 2026 pin is similar, but features a Cowboy riding into a sunrise. Pins are \$3.00 each plus postage. An order form is included with this TARHEEL TRADER.

2025 ASM Pins

We have some of the ASM Asheville pins available. These feature various Biltmore house themes. The three-pin set is \$10.00. You can see pictures of these on the order form. These are featured in the May update of the Wild West catalogue.



2026 North Carolina Prestige Pins

We also have some 2026 NC Prestige pins available.

Dues

I recently sent out dues notices. If you did not get one, this most likely means you are current, and in some cases paid ahead. If you have questions about your dues status, please contact NCLPTC Secretary PDG Gene at ggenglish@nc.rr.com or (919) 740-5295. If you do owe dues, please send them in as soon as you can.



2026 NCLPTC Swap

We will be returning to beautiful Dogwood on Lake Norman (formerly Camp Dogwood) for our 2026 NCLPTC Swap.



Dates are May 7, 8 and 9. You will be able to check in the day before. A registration Form

is included in this TARHEEL TRADER. Hope to see many of you there.

We will offer a build-your own sandwich bar, complete with drinks and dessert on Thursday, a potato and salad bar on Friday, again complete with drinks and desserts, dinner Friday evening (menu to be determined) and full breakfast Saturday morning. More information as we get it.

Upcoming Opportunities

There are a number of upcoming opportunities for trading and fellowship. Rather than listing these, I refer you to the LITPC website for details.

<https://www.litpc.org/>

LITPC



If you are not a member of LITPC I hope you will considering joining this year. Here are just a few of the benefits:

- Able to purchase Annual pins
- GREAT newsletter edited by PDG Rich Evans (Virginia). Keep up with what is going on in the world of Pin Trading.
- Listing of upcoming opportunities to gather as friends and to trade.
- Tremendous web-site hosted by PCC Phil Schrack (Virginia) includes pictorial directory of state and MD pins, many countries from Europe, Scandinavian countries, Asian countries etc., current and past special series, pin stories and much more.

For additional information check our web-site: <https://www.litpc.org>

Reflections ..

Tax time is fast approaching .. but wait! It doesn't affect us this year! We RETIRED after last tax season! It is starting to seem very strange not to be working on tax problems .. but it will be EXTREMELY strange when I hand over all our tax documents for somebody else to prepare our taxes! Nobody else has ever done my taxes!

But the PLAN .. if we follow it ... is to do more of what we want to do this spring! We have booked another Viking Ocean Cruise ... this one to the British Isles. We leave April 10 and will be gone for two weeks! It should be a fun and relaxing trip! Viking really knows how to spoil their passengers and I am looking forward to that 😊

Stay safe ... take care of yourself .. and try to make at least one person's day better every day!!

Remember



... Gloria

