

Partners for Pennies

Good things can happen when Rossmoor clubs and organizations partner for a worthy cause. “My wife will tell you I have many ideas,” Rossmoor Scholarship Foundation (RSF) Trustee Wayne Wiegand emailed Rossmoor Library Association (RLA) Board member Lori Weston June 7; “only problem, she says, is I don’t always know the difference between the good ones and the bad ones.” A posting had recently popped up in his Facebook feed that read: “One-cent coins are expected to stop entering circulation early next year. ...Some 60% of actively circulating coins, as much as \$14 billion, sit in coin jars, according to the Federal Reserve.”

“What if our two organizations formed a partnership to relieve Rossmoorians of their unwanted pennies by the end of this calendar year?” he asked. “For whatever we collect, we could split the ‘take’ right down the middle.” For its part the centrally-located Library could function as the “site” where Rossmoorians could bring their pennies. Wiegand guessed not a few Rossmoorians who hate carrying coins in their purses or pockets already have collections of pennies sequestered in containers in their manors. This campaign would give them a way to get rid of those unwanted pennies, and for good causes. “So, good or bad idea? I’ve been married for nearly sixty years, so I’m quite used to being told - ‘bad idea.’”

RLA very quickly decided it was a “good idea.” On Sunday afternoon—one day later—Weston wrote: “On behalf of Kit Kennedy, President of the Rossmoor Library Board, the Board of Directors and myself; we would like to thank you for the opportunity to work with the Rossmoor Scholarship Foundation on ‘Partners for Pennies’-- a fund raising effort to benefit both organizations. We are eager to begin whenever RSF is ready.”

“Partners for Pennies” will launch today—July 2—and continue until the US Mint runs out of blank templates used to make one-cent coins (estimated to be early next year). The Library will function as the collection site. During its open hours, Rossmoorians can bring their coins in and deposit them in the one gallon jar on the circulation desk. During hours the Library is closed they can deposit coins (bagged or jarred) in the Library’s book drop.

What will the pennies fund? For RLA, that’s easy—new books, hopefully lotsa new books for Rossmoor residents to borrow. For RSF, that’s also easy. For this campaign its birdsong “every dollar donated goes into a scholarship” will be modified to “half of every penny donated goes into a scholarship.”

So, the challenge to Rossmoorians is now out. They can start small by removing coins from old pairs of penny loafers (Martha Stewart recommends renaming them “dime loafers”). Or, they can step up their game by depositing unwanted coins in appropriate receptacles (we’ll take nickels, dimes and quarters, too) every time they pass the Library. Or, they can go even bigger by saving them up in jars on kitchen counters, soliciting friends and neighbors to contribute through them, and periodically bringing their coin caches to the Library. And hopefully, those few Rossmoorians out there who may be among Americans sequestering \$14 billion in jars will donate their entire collections for these two good causes. Rossmoor Library users and RSF scholarship recipients will, of course, be grateful to all donors, no matter the size of their gift.

Submitted by: Wayne a. Wiegand, RSF Trustee and Kit Kennedy, RLA Board President