

Liberty Dollar celebrates 6th anniversary, gaining in popularity across U.S.

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It's gorgeous, it's shiny and it's legal. The Liberty Dollar is now the second-most popular currency in the United States.

Since its inception on Oct. 1, 1998, over 30,000 people have started using this alternative currency. The unique appeal of the Liberty Dollar to some people is its stunning look. But to most people who use Liberty Dollars, it's the currency's economic appeal that is important. According to Bernard von NotHaus, Liberty Dollar founder and economist, Liberty Dollars are superior to U.S. dollars. NotHaus is a retired mint master of the Royal Hawaiian Mint, who spent 23 years developing the concept of the Liberty Dollar. "A lot of people are concerned about the decreasing value of the U.S. dollar," said von NotHaus. "I started working on this and found out there was a real consensus of people that were aware of the non-federal, non-reserve money that we're purporting to be using. I did a test tour here on the mainland and found the idea was well received."



The Liberty Dollar comes in three silver denominations of coins and certificates of \$1, \$5 and \$10, along with one gold denomination of \$500. Unlike the U.S. currency, the Liberty Dollar is 100 percent backed by gold and silver. "This cuts across all barriers - young, old, rich, poor, black and white," von NotHaus said. "Money knows no bounds. We are very popular with the working man. People can purchase the Liberty Dollar at a discount and use it at face value. That really appeals to people, too."

According to von NotHaus, most people who have taken the time to investigate the Liberty Dollar are very impressed. "It returns real value to the marketplace," he said. "It brings discipline to the monetary system and gives a positive and peaceful model for the national currency to evolve into. You hear a lot about problems, but you don't hear much about solutions. We are bringing competition to the economy's most basic unit - money."

As von NotHaus points out to the many groups he speaks to across the country while on tour, the belief that most Americans hold about the U.S. dollar is wrong - our "federal" money is actually controlled by a consortium of international and private banks. There are almost 50 communities in the U.S. that have their own currencies, but what makes the Liberty Dollar superior is that it can be used anywhere in the world. "Those other currencies were only designed to strengthen local economies," von NotHaus said. "The problem is, you can't spend them elsewhere. The Liberty Dollar was designed to strengthen our national economy."

Actually a warehouse receipt, the Liberty Dollar is redeemable in .999 pure silver or .9999 pure gold anywhere in the world. It is issued by NORFED, the National Organization for the Repeal of the Federal Reserve Act and the Internal Revenue Code. It is a supporter-based non-profit organization made up of "associates," and governed by a board of directors and a supporters' advisory council. The silver backing the Liberty Dollar is stored in the warehouse of Sunshine Minting Inc., located in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Sunshine Minting is the premier supplier of silver blanks and minted products to the U.S. Mint, private mints, foreign mints, marketing companies and corporations. "Some of us are old enough to remember when we had real money that belonged to the people, and not to private banks," said von NotHaus.

"When Congress unlawfully gave private interests the control of federal money in 1913, the states were left without any lawful money to use. By default, the people began using Federal Reserve Bank Notes in lieu of gold- or silver-backed currency. They had no choice. "Originally, the people's money was issued without interest and left little room for inflation," he continued. "Today, however, Federal Reserve Fiat money is loaned into circulation with interest and creates inflation. Federal Reserve Notes do not belong to the people and are not redeemable."

As von NotHaus points out, there is no real incentive for Congress to repeal the Federal Reserve Act. "Action is necessary on the part of the American people to provide the proper incentive to get Congress on track and back within Constitutional boundaries. NORFED has identified necessary actions and has created a new currency to provide a choice of currencies that Americans can use. They can either use a debt-based depreciating currency, or use a value-based currency that is redeemable in pure silver that will meet the needs of the people and reign in government monetary policy."



The \$10 Liberty Dollar certificate is backed by one Troy ounce of pure .999 fine silver, the \$1 and \$5 certificates by proportional amounts of silver, as required by the Constitution. NORFED does make a small profit when it exchanges Federal Reserve Notes for Liberty Dollars, which is used for marketing, overhead expenses, printing of flyers and presentations at conferences. The Federal Reserve and Internal Revenue Service, along with knowledgeable attorneys have all said the Liberty Dollar is absolutely legal in the United States.

Currently, there are almost 1,500 Liberty Associates who purchase Liberty Dollars through NORFED. Many of these associates are retailers who can easily move Liberty Dollars into their local economies. But there are also associates who simply like the concept of a currency backed by gold and silver, while still others are simply collectors. The only drawback to the Liberty Dollar seems to be the reluctance of banks to accept the coins and notes.

"When you accept a \$100 Federal Reserve Note, you are trading \$100 worth of goods or services for a 3-cent piece of paper, backed by nothing but debt and delusion," von NotHaus said. "Partial backing with value is infinitely better than zero-backing with debt." The NORFED Web site lists businesses in the U.S. that accept Liberty Dollars, as well as a complete listing of Liberty Associates who offer Liberty Certificates. The company already has started offering Digital Dollars, and there is a debit-type card that is currently in the development stage. "People really love the Silver Liberty," von NotHaus said. "When you drop one in their hand for the first time, the initial reaction is usually 'cool' because they enjoy the look and feel of the

coin. We like to say is that it is as beautiful as the ideals it represents. And that's really the bottom line. A country's money reflects the culture and beauty of that country."

Timothy Johnson, owner of Herbs-N-More in Knoxville, has been a Liberty Associate for several years now. He embraced the concept of the Liberty Dollar when he first heard about it because he likes the ability to make money on his money. "I've heard that silver may go to \$50 per ounce soon," he said. "I wish I knew for sure as I'd put my money into silver. Of course it doesn't really mean silver is going up, it means the Federal Reserve is going down."

Johnson said he would be glad when there are more Liberty Dollars in circulation so that people are more willing to accept it. "Any merchant can sign up for free and get a 10 percent discount," he said. "If you have a business, I think you should get into the program. It's such a good idea because money is worth less and less. If half of your savings are in silver and the price of Federal Reserve notes go down, you still have some security. If you don't, you don't have any security. It's a good idea to buy some, even at face value." Johnson admits it easiest to show people how the Liberty Dollar works.

"Federal Reserve notes are really just IOUs anymore," he said. "It's not real money. Real money is silver and gold, and a lot of people don't realize that. And the Constitution specifically spells out what money is. A lot of people don't take the time to read that."