





The M&M'S® Dispenser

Volume 16, Issue 1

May, 2014

This newsletter is not affiliated in any part with Mars Chocolate North America. Trademark is used with permission.

2014 CONVENTION EDITION



Jennifer and Jo Ann Welcomes Everyone!

Highlights From the 16th Annual M&M'S® Collectors Club Convention in Charlotte, NC

By Jo Ann Bellamy

As I sit here reminiscing about the year that has past since we offered to host the 16th Annual M&M'S® Collector's Club Convention I am a little sad that it is over. We were so excited to host our first convention and bring you all to our area of the country.

The Place, after several conversations and lunch meetings Jennifer and I finally decided on Charlotte, North Carolina. The easy part was done. It is amazing to think back on all the details that had to be planned and taken care of. Notepads were filled with things that had to be done, items to find, calls to make, etc. Just when you were feeling great that you crossed two things off the list, three more were added. Thanks to Jennifer and her organization, we kept on track. We owe a big thank you to Monty for lending us his man cave for our workspace. A year and he never peaked, or tried to add a Hershey item. LOL

We want to thank all of you that volunteered to help us make this convention a success. Although we tried to keep everything a secret so you would be as excited as we were it was awesome to have the help and advice. It really is a family affair and can't be done alone. Thanks to Carolyn McAlarney, Vera Cothorn, Greg & Vickie Brown, Mike Murphy, Janice Jones, Mark Lloyd, Jill Flynn, Wanda & Dennis Taylor, Linda Gill, Sara Landis, Ralph Corner. Special thanks to our husbands, Bill and Monty, for putting up with our shenanigans and craziness throughout the planning process.

We had 65 attendees this year, from 24 states, Germany and New Zealand. I think we had the most sellers this year with 22. We hope everyone found some great things to add to their collections.

Thursday was our Welcome Reception with snacks galore. White & milk chocolate covered popcorn, Texas Trash, Rice Krispy Treats with M&M'S® Brand Milk Chocolate Candies. Chocolate Drop Pretzels, M&M'S® Brand cookies, and a Racing Themed Cake. Sugar overload was seen on several faces... To get things started we had a trivia game. WOW!!! Was that hard! You guys did great!!!

Friday started with the board meeting and then the general meeting. Lots of things to chat about. Then time for some fun. Silent Auction to start off, some great items from all parts of the world. A Happy Birthday song for Ralph... Happy 29th! Then some more fun, games and prizes. More room hopping to get those interesting items.

Saturday was the club auction, with Mike Murphy as our auctioneer. We tried to get him and his trusty sidekicks, Greg and Dennis to use the helium but they wouldn't - should have made it a rule!!! Later that evening was the farewell party which started off with a group picture. Members were greeted to a table decorated with a Racing Trophy Centerpiece and a special gift consisting of a Racing Themed Insulated Cooler. After eating, everyone enjoyed the White M&M'S® Brand Game. Like a White Elephant game, everyone gets a chance to pick a bag or steal one from someone else. I think Wanda is the winner for the most stolen bags!!!

We thank all of you for attending and hope you had as much fun connecting with old friends and making new one's as we did!!!

- See you next year!! Jo Ann and Jennifer



Rose Hudson preparing for Room Hopping. During the White M&M'S® Brand Game Steve Flynn and Wanda Taylor go back and forth winning a display only for Ralph Corner to snag it at the end. Vicki Brown is keeping close tabs on her M&M'S® Ms. Brown Character that her husband Greg won in a claw machine. Elizabeth Kern is proudly displaying her M&M'S® Brand Ms. Brown Dispenser to her father Steve.

2014 Convention General Business Meeting Minutes

The Annual General Business Meeting was called to order by President John Olah on April 25, 2014. Board members also attending were: Vice President Barry McGhee, Secretary Ralph Corner; Treasurer Libby Dixon; Trustees Greg Brown, and Jill Flynn. Trustee Bill Merritt was absent.

John Olah opened up the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 2014 Convention in Charlotte and thanked Jo Ann Bellamy and Jennifer Seawright for their hard work and help with this year's convention. John asked Ralph Corner to read the minutes from the 2013 General Business Meeting and Libby Dixon gave a Treasurer's Report.

John announced that the board voted to have the 2015 Club Convention in Springfield, Ohio and that Bill and Juanita Merritt will be hosting the event. The announcement was met with some discussion from several members who thought the convention was going to be held in Las Vegas. John and several board members explained that the decision was based on the proposals they received, economics and membership size of the club.

Patricia Wilson questioned the authenticity of the club's convention merchandise received in the past two conventions as well as the 2014 convention. Wanda Taylor, Carolyn McAlarney, Jo Ann Bellamy and Jill Flynn all stated the items were completely approved by Mars Chocolate North America representatives, explained the policies set up by Mars with regards to the club and the use of their trademark and that they all had invoices to prove the purchases. Mike Murphy was questioned how he was able to have artwork done for his cruise when the club was having a difficult time trying to obtain artwork for the 2014 convention. He stated that he ordered the shirts online. Jill stated that the club is only allowed to have one set of authorized artwork per year for the club as part of Mars Chocolate North America policies.

Jill announced that she is heading up a club improvement committee and was asking for volunteers to work on the committee.

John announced that past club pins were being offered for sale in case anyone was interested. He asked if there were any other comments and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted; Ralph Corner, Secretary

M Provement Committee

At the general meeting during the 2014 Convention, an M Provement Committee was formed. The purpose of this committee is to try to improve the M&M'S® Collectors Club. We want to increase membership and encourage the current members to get involved.

I will be contacting the members who volunteered at the convention and would also like to hear from anyone else who would like to contribute. You can contact me, Jill Flynn at secada27@verizon.net

**Congratulations to
David Lane!
This Year's Club Wide
Raffle Winner!!**



Get Well Soon!

Rose Hudson, Pete Christiano and Bill Merritt!!
All are recovering from surgery. We hope you
get feeling better soon!!

M&M'S® Collectors Club	
Income & Expense Report 3/22/2014 – 5/26/2014	
Submitted by Elizabeth Dixon, Treasurer	
Beginning Balance:	\$10,949.04
Income	
Memberships	\$480.00
Auction	1,270.50
Total Income:	\$12,699.54
Expenses	
Newsletter	\$322.94
Pins	702.50
Pins Mailing	269.02
Bank Fees	12.00
Supplies	6.35
Conference Calls	86.27
Total Expenses:	\$1,399.08
Balance as of 5/26/2014:	\$11,300.46



Rose Hudson displayed some of her M&M'S® Brand Characters recently for Memorial Day.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the newsletter including Rose Hudson, Jill Flynn, Jo Ann Bellamy, Elizabeth Dixon, Robin & John Korbler and especially Bob & Sandy Bantz, and Dennis & Wanda Taylor for sharing all of your great convention photographs!!



Beach Chair and Umbrella found by Bob and Sandy Bantz at their local Meijer store. There are two other designs using the M&M'S® Brand Red and Green Characters.



In the Club's last newsletter there was an article mentioning about Mars Chocolate North America opening a new plant in Topeka Kansas. Shown above are pictures from opening day.



At left are various ads for current promotions, followed by a picture of two gumball dispensers exclusive to M&M'S WORLD® Stores for FIFA World Cup Soccer. Next is a M&M'S® Brand shaped ball that was a promotion at CVS Stores.



CONVENTION CANDIDS!!







