

2013 M&M'S® Collectors Club Convention - Kansas City, MO

Welcome to Munchkinland







The M&M'S® Dispenser

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M&M'S® Collectors Club 2013 Convention Goes To Kansas City

The 15th Annual M&M'S® Collector's Club Convention has Come & Gone!

Holding true to unpredictable Missouri weather, the people arriving on Tuesday (in shorts) were welcomed by freezing weather and snow. Luckily, the weather improved for the rest of week. Everyone seemed to like the Embassy Suites hotel. The breakfast they provided each morning was great, and everyone really seemed to enjoy Happy Hour! Both of these events also provided great opportunities to make new collector friends.

I want to thank all of our volunteers who always help with everything! Greg & Vicki Brown, John & Shirley Olah, Janet & Leo Rinderle, Marilyn Griggs, Sara Landis, Michele Nelson, Joan Perrin, Ralph Corner, Bill & Juanita Merritt, Wanda & Dennis Taylor. - Because of them, everything seemed to go very well. Bob Humphrey set up a nice train display for everyone to enjoy.

We had 83 people attend the convention. There were members from 20 different states, as well as Germany and New Zealand. Being in the middle of the country turned out to be a good thing for traveling. Many people drove, which was great for room hopping!! I heard there was a lot of buying and selling going on.

We had registration on Wednesday night. The registration bag included a lanyard that can be used from year to year. The pen is also a stylus for your phone/touch-screens. The M&M'S® Brand Quadricorn Milk Chocolate Candies bags were a 1-time St. Patrick's Day promotion from Ameristar Casino. The crystals are from Hong Kong. The pin was donated by Michael (Germany). Our 2013 T-shirt had a picture of a large Tornado with the characters looking scared. Luckily, there were no real tornadoes this week!

On Thursday we had our Welcome Party. Members brought in treats made with M&M'S® Brand Milk Chocolate Candies & we had a cake with our Tornado logo. We played a few rounds of LCR, a game where you roll dice to determine what happens to the chips in front of you (you either keep them, or move them left, right or center); the winner is the last person to have a chip in front of them. One person at each table won an M&M'S® Brand prize for each round.

We also held a Silent Auction on Thursday. Members got to walk around and bid on all of the items they wanted. There were a lot of items & certainly great bargains to be had at this auction! This was followed by Game Night where there were also a lot of nice prizes. This was a great day to reconnect with the friends we only see once a year.



hard to beat that first act, Bobby entertained the whole audience for a couple of hours. I bet a few of the ladies are still blushing! Somewhere Linda Sawyer, Janet Rinderle & Vicki Brown are probably still practicing the moves he taught them for "Suspicious Minds". His renditions of "My Way", "Sweet Caroline" & "You'll Never Walk Alone" brought the house down! You can find more info about Bobby here – <http://www.elvistabobbysimkins.com> The Kansas City Elvis Fan Club made the Elvis / M&M'S® Brand Centerpieces. We held drawings for those before everyone went off to room hop.

On Saturday we had our live auction. Mike Murphy was the shining star of the day. He is so great at getting money out of people! There were some great items in the auction. Some of the most fought over are the foreign items. These are hard to get in the USA, so we really love it when those items are put in the auctions. One of the highest bid getters was an older-style Yellow Character Clock with the box. I believe it went for over \$300. For both auctions, 20% of the bid amount goes to the club, so we appreciate members putting the items in the auctions & the bidding! Our Banquet was on Saturday night. We had a BBQ buffet. I heard only compliments about the food. The one thing you should know about Kansas City, we don't let you leave hungry! The



centerpieces were made and donated by John & Shirley Olah. They do such an excellent job! These were so cute – made to look like the Wizard of Oz characters. We also held drawings for these centerpieces. Congratulations to those that won them! We drew the ticket for the Club-Wide Raffle, and the winner was Rick Pray, who was present.

After dinner, we played the “Not-So-Newlywed Game”. Our contestants were Dennis & Wanda Taylor, Gene & Shirley MacLaughlin, Greg & Vicki Brown, and Rose & Dennis Hudson. We learned a lot about those couples that night! Mostly we learned that unless you’re Gene, the guys really don’t know their wives all that well... Gene & Shirley won in a landslide! But all of the couples are winners to us, so we gave them all M&M’S® Brand Rugs. Actually, all of our members are winners, and everyone received a door prize. This year’s banquet gift was a 6-pack, insulated picnic cooler in either Red or Blue. Everyone at the banquet received a brand new M&M’S® Brand Milk Chocolate Candy bar – even before they

were supposed to be available in stores! I hope you enjoyed everything!!

- Thank you all for coming to Kansas City! - Carolyn

Editor Note: Special Thanks to Carolyn McAlarney, Rose Hudson, Wanda Taylor, Beverly Kuemin, and Jill Flynn for photos and help with the newsletter.

2013 Convention General Business Meeting Minutes

The Annual General Business Meeting was called to order by President John Olah on April 26, 2013. Board members also attending were: Secretary Ralph Corner; Treasurer Libby Dixon; Trustees Greg Brown, Bill Merritt, and Jill Flynn. Vice President Barry McGhee was absent.

John Olah opened up the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 2013 Convention in Kansas City. John asked Ralph Corner to read the minutes from the last General Business Meeting and Libby Dixon gave a Treasurer’s Report.

John thanked everyone who attended this year’s convention and said that this is the only one time of the year that everyone in the club has the opportunity to meet everyone. He said he was glad to see all the members who came and welcomed the new members. John thanked Carolyn McAlarney and her helpers including Vera Cothorn, Carolyn’s mother for their help.

John stated that the Trustees completed the annual audit of the financial records and everything was in order.

John then asked if anyone had questions or comments from the membership. Mike Murphy said that if anyone was interested in going on another cruise to contact him. He was looking at the last week in January thru the second week in February of 2014.

John announced that there were parties interested in hosting a convention in Ohio for 2015 and that the board approved Ohio as the location and would review the two proposals. Dot Maslin questioned when the club could go back to Las Vegas for a convention. A discussion resulted regarding looking into the matter. Mike Murphy said that if the club needed someone to host it, he would. John took an unofficial survey of the members present by show of hands those interested in going to Vegas. There were quite a few members interested so John asked Mike to check into the matter by fall.

John reminded everyone about several upcoming summer events and since there were no other items for discussion the meeting was adjourned. Mike Murphy made the motion to adjourn. Dennis Hudson seconded the motion. Motion passed by all members present.

Respectfully Submitted; Ralph Corner, Secretary

Happy St. Patrick's Day!!



Gene & Shirley MacLaughlin celebrated St. Patrick's Day with Miss Green in Florida!



Rose Hudson sent this photo of her granddaughter Gwen Hudson modeling a lion's mane costume that Rose purchased at the M&M'S® Collectors Club Convention. The lion's mane is an M&M'S® Brand Brullie from a promotion in Holland.

AUGUST 15-17, 2013 ALLENTOWN, PA

The Crispy Critters Chapter is pleased to announce the following event:

CRISPY'S 20 SUMMER 13 CELEBRATION

The Hilton Garden Inn offers numerous amenities including a FREE airport shuttle that runs 24/hrs, FREE shuttle service to the vast array of restaurants and attractions within a 5 mile radius, indoor pool, gym, business station and more!!!

Restaurants: Applebees, Bethlehem Brew Works, Taste of Italy, Jack Creek Steakhouse, Bravo, Red Robin, Denny's and many, many more all of which are within walking distance or within the territory of the FREE Shuttle!!

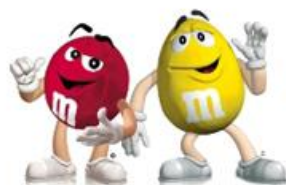
Attractions: There is a vast array of attractions within a short drive. These places of interest include Dorney Park/Wild Water Kingdom Amusement Park, Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs baseball at Coca-Cola Park, Sands Casino and the Whitehall Mall just to name a few.

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

THUR: **EARLY REGISTRATION**
ROOM SURFING (All Day)

FRI: **REGISTRATION (All Day)**
SHOW & TELL: 2:00pm
GAME NIGHT W / DJ PETE: 6:30pm
AUCTION: 8:00pm
ROOM SURFING (All Day)

SAT: **M&M'S® BRAND SQUARED: 12:30pm**
GROUP PHOTO: 1:30pm
LUNCHEON: 2:00pm



Hilton Garden Inn Allentown Airport
1787-B Airport Road, Allentown, PA 18109
(610) 443-1400



The room rate is \$105.00 per night plus tax and includes 2 breakfast buffet ticket vouchers per room / per night. Reservations can be made online at:

<http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/groups/personalized/A/ABEGIGI-MMC-20130813/index.jhtml>

Or by calling the hotel direct and using the group code M AND M CANDY.

All hotel reservations & registration forms **MUST BE MADE & RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 7/1/2013!!!**

Crispy's 2013 Summer Celebration Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Goodie Packet (\$20 Each) QTY.: _____ Total: \$ _____ Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Lunch Buffet (\$25 per person) QTY.: _____ Total: \$ _____

Mail Registration Form & Payment to: Dottie Christiano, 16 Ivy Lane, Dupont, PA 18641

2014 Club Cruise Now Boarding!

The 2014 Club Cruise will set sail on the Carnival Conquest, from the port of Miami on Feb. 2, 2014, at 7pm, a night voyage to Nassau, St. Thomas, San Juan and Grand Turk Island..... Does it get any better than that?? Early saver prices start at \$429, but must be booked 6 months before departure to get the cheapest rate. To book your cruise, call Terri Byron at 1-800-819-3902, extension 85642. Mention my name so she will know it is the M&M'S® Collectors Club Cruise. If you have questions, contact Mike Murphy at 859-339-2271. Previous cruises have had rave reviews.....you don't want to miss this one!!

Sara Landis To Host Ohio Picnic in Fall!

According to the Club's Bulletin Board, Sara Landis will host an Ohio Picnic tentatively October 5. It will be held in Willoughby, OH. Watch the Bulletin Board and newsletter for more details!



Bob Humphrey set up his train display in the banquet room for everyone to see. Members and other hotel guests enjoyed the display! Thanks Bob!

Convention Craftsmanship

One of the many fun things to check out at the conventions is the decorations and table centerpieces made for various events. We really do have some talented members with creative ideas in our club! This year, two groups of people made centerpieces to help Carolyn. The Kansas City Elvis Fan Club did a great job making the Elvis / M&M'S® Brand Centerpieces using M&M'S® Brand Plush Characters along with various miniature Elvis memorabilia. Each centerpiece depicted a song sung by Elvis. These were on the tables the night Bobby Simkins, aka Elvis entertained the members.



We're Off to See the Wizard

John and Shirley Olah did a great job making the wooden M&M'S® Brand Character cutouts for the Banquet centerpieces. They donated all the materials and their talents into making the wooden cutouts look like The Wizard of Oz Characters. John & Shirley made a special cutout and presented it to Carolyn in appreciation for all of her hard work. Bill Merritt is proudly showing off a plaque to Carolyn that John & Shirley made. John has a lot of neat ideas when it comes to taking dispensers or other collectibles and turning them into something useful such as a lamp.



