

The m&m's Dispenser

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**Convention
Highlights and
Pictures Inside!**

2024 Convention Issue



Thank You Rose and Dennis!

26th Annual M&M'S® Club Convention Converges in Pittsburgh, PA May 29 - June 1, 2024

What A Great Convention!

Lots Of Fun!

Thank You Rose and Dennis!



What a great convention eh! This year we had 114 people attend our fantastic convention from the U.S., Canada, Australia and Europe. Thanks to Rose and Dennis Hudson and their team of helpers! We had 10 people who were attending their first convention. Even though the convention wasn't scheduled to begin until Wednesday, May 29, members began arriving on Monday May 27 and several members arrived even before that! Our hotel was the Double Tree in Green Tree, PA. Arriving early allowed some members to take advantage of sightseeing around Pittsburgh and riding the Duquesne Incline down and back up Mt. Washington.

The hotel staff was very supportive of our club and went out of their way to accommodate us and help promote the convention. Some of the employees wore M&M'S® Brand T-Shirts and they made sure there were plenty of M&M'S® Milk Chocolate Candies available in their Bistro. They managed to put us on 3 floors, filling most of the rooms on two. They gave us a larger meeting room at no extra charge. The hotel provided free buffet breakfast every day including waffles and cookies with M&M'S® Brand Milk Chocolate

Candies in them made by the chef!

Registration packets and Convention t-shirts were handed out on Wednesday night. As part of the gifts, members received a tote bag from the M&M'S WORLD® Store in London, England and were surprised to receive a special Krispy Kreme Doughnut box that appeared to have their 6 special M&M'S® Brand doughnuts in it. It was funny to see many members carrying their box delicately to their room only to discover that the box contained smaller convention gifts instead of actual doughnuts! A Photo Booth with props was set up near the Convention Banner for members to grab pictures and as can be seen throughout the article we have some very funny pictures of members taken from everywhere!

After everyone had their themed name badges, gifts and room signs, we were ready to start our 2024 Convention with a Welcome Party beginning Thursday morning. There were two themes for this year's convention.

The convention began with a salute to our military theme on Thursday. Since Memorial Day was the weekend before the convention and people were arriving on the ending holiday Monday, Dennis and Rose wanted to do something to salute the military for their service. A beautiful centerpiece designed by Jo Ann and Bill Bellamy was made for the tables. It included swimming pool noodles with M&M'S® Brand colors cut and shaped like candles with candle lights that flickered accented with bowls of red, white and blue M&M'S® Brand Milk Chocolate Candies.

We introduced ourselves lasting most of the afternoon. During a break, we were treated to a delicious decorated cake which incorporated a photo of our theme with the M&M'S® Brand Characters riding a replica of the Duquesne Incline down Mt. Washington towards the City of Pittsburgh and M&M'S® Brand Doughnuts, both made by local bakeries. On Thursday afternoon, we learned a lot about collecting from three workshops put on by Vickie Brown discussing Pogo Stampers, Candy Tins and Other Facts; Rose Hudson sharing information on Pocket Surprises; and Dennis Hudson talking about Candy Tube Toppers.

After a break on Thursday night, members participated at Fun Night, which included several games of Left, Center, Right (LCR) for some great prizes and a beach ball game hosted by our worldly renown beach gal Jo Ann Bellamy! Host Dennis Hudson began a Scavenger Hunt Game that was slated to end in 24 hours on Friday night. These meet and mingle activities are a great way for new members to meet and socialize with other members and win some cool prizes!

Friday Morning began with the Silent Auction with all of the tables filled with items to bid on. Following the silent auction and after a break, our club's General Business Meeting was held at 1pm. We discussed club bylaw changes, elections and next year's convention. The Nominating Committee is (Becky Shaffer, email: Shafferr524@yahoo.com); (Sheila Mansfield, email: m_mbear@yahoo.com); and (Wanda Taylor, email: dlwtlt80@outlook.com). After the meeting, Friday was left open for Room Hopping and visiting while the hotel meeting room was being setup for more Club Activities including Wings and Pizza Night. Since there are so many hills in Pittsburgh, we chose Pittsburgh's history as a second theme. At one time there were 24 funiculars or inclines used on the mountains surrounding Pittsburgh. They were built for transporting coal from hillside mines to the industrial complexes situated along the rivers. Later, the lifts were used to transport passengers, freight and vehicles. Two inclines remain, the Duquesne and Monongahela. Jo Ann and Bill Bellamy designed a pretty lighted centerpiece for our theme featuring a pictorial map of Pennsylvania showing many of the historical places in Pennsylvania and Pittsburgh decoupage on wood. The hotel prepared some very tasty wings and pizza for us. After filling our stomachs, we worked it off by playing special games of BINGO hosted by our very own Jackie and Dan Blindauer. Winners selected their own mystery bag filled with an exciting gift. The Scavenger Hunt ended and the winners were determined by Dennis.

Saturday brought the Live Auction! - which like other conventions lasted most of the day! Our Auctioneer Greg Brown and his helpers Dennis Taylor, Steve Flynn, Darren Smith, and Dan Blindauer did a fantastic job with the auction! There were many great items to be won! We took our group picture before the Farewell Banquet outside since the group was so large. The

centerpieces for Saturday night were made by Ralph and Karen Corner. They featured a G-Scale replica of the Duquesne Incline with the M&M'S® Brand Characters riding down Mt. Washington similar to the convention items, cake and banner. Sticking with the theme, everyone at the banquet received a picture magnet fitted into a really cool decorative plastic frame in M&M'S® Brand colors made by Dennis and Rose's son Dennis Jr. The food was an Italian Buffet. The Italian food was awesome with several specialties, salads and pastries!

We played Spin-the-Wheel and gave out more prizes. Wendy and Lloyd Kerbel won our club-wide raffle. Shelly and Darren Smith from Canada took home the t-shirt for traveling the furthest. There were drawings for all three table centerpieces each night. As members were leaving the banquet, they were given a themed special tote bag. And then it was time to pack all of our goodies into cars (or jam-packed suit cases), say our good-byes and head home.

Two gifts were given to Rose and Dennis for their hard work in orchestrating this year's convention. The gifts were a Jim Shore signed M&M'S® Brand Crispy (Orange Character) Figure and a Convention themed blanket.



Rose & Dennis Hudson's Gift and Winners of Jim Shore's Signed Figures



Special Thanks to Jim Shore for donating the M&M'S® Brand Crispy Character figure for Rose and Dennis Hudson and also 3 other signed pieces won by lucky club members Dave Miller, (his First Convention), Marianne Johnston, and Wanda Taylor.

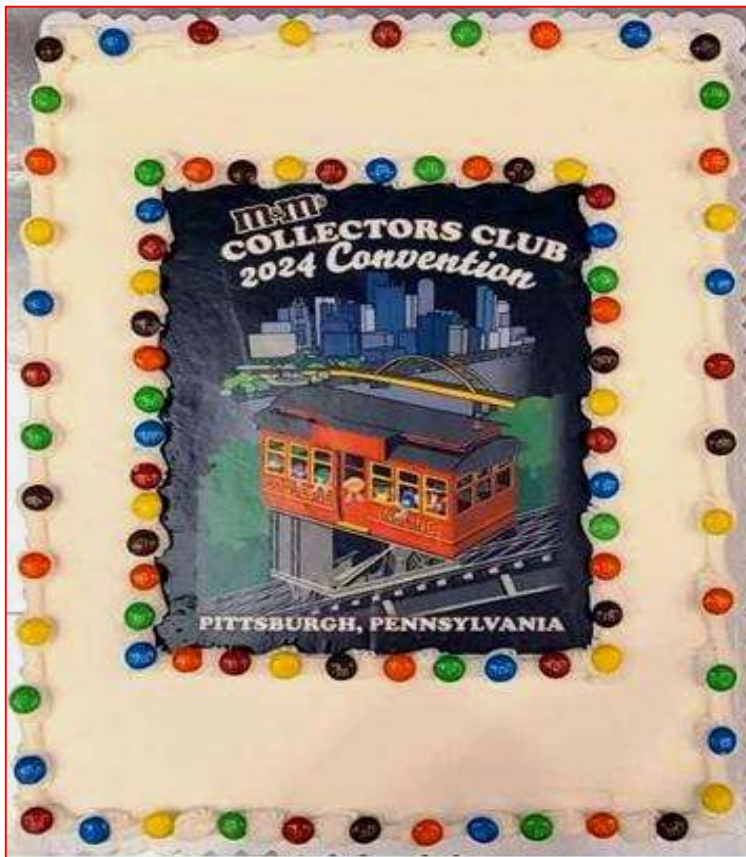
Our convention is a great opportunity to obtain items from other countries. Some of the registration packet items and prizes were from Australia (M&M'S® Brand Diamond Art Picture and M&M'S® Brand Brownie Candies -Thanks Bob and Karen Hawkes!); England; Belgium and China. While room hopping (when we aren't doing activities, we are shopping in each other's rooms), members were able to buy items from Canada, Australia, Europe and Hong Kong. This is also a good way to rehome those duplicate items you get during the year.

Thank you to all the members who attended and Special Kudos to all of the members that helped behind the scenes to make this a great convention! It is our members that make our club and conventions so much fun!

See you next year! - Rose and Dennis Hudson







Welcome Party



Patriotic Salute

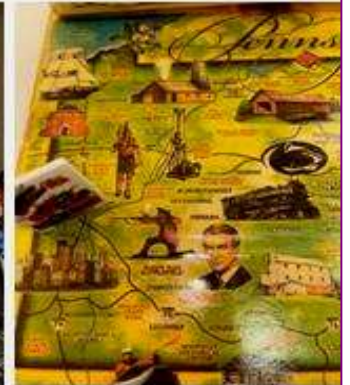




Silent Auction



Pizza & Wings



Live Auction









Gifts & Game Prizes



T-B, L-R: Row 1: & 2: Game Prizes, Member photos Row 3: Five members won Jim Shore figures given out by Vickie Brown and Sara Landis in memory of John and Shirley Olah, Members photos and another close-up of Rose's Jim Shore Crispy figure proudly displayed on their fireplace mantel. Row 4: Gifts given to Sara for helping Vickie with John Olah's collection. Gifts to Sara, Vickie and Ralph from Rose and Dennis for helping them. All 12 Incline displays sitting on Ralph's table.

Room Hopping



**Congratulations Lloyd & Wendi Kerbel!
Club Wide Raffle Winners!**

**Convention American Flag Diamond Art
Donated by Bob & Karen Hawkes!**



Field Trips



Several groups of members took advantage of some free time in the beginning of the week to visit the Duquesne Incline and Pittsburgh. Ralph Corner snuck a ride in the backseat with Betty McManamay and Libby Dixon. Karen Hawkes, Sara Landis, Jackie Blindauer, Carolyn and Marty McAlarney braved a trip with Rose Hudson to see the incline followed by lunch at Primanti Bros., (a popular restaurant in Pittsburgh).



T-B: Along with summer comes ice cream and treats! Mars, USA sponsored various treat stations at venues in several cities such as NYC and Chicago and National Ice Cream Day was also celebrated. Canada sponsored Movie Night in several cities. Two members Shelly McDonald Smith and Carmen Williams and their families were able to attend! Shelly went to Calgary and Carmen visited Toronto! **Bottom: NEW** Yo Crunch Yoqurt from Canada.



T-B, L-R: Row 1: The first two columns of candy wrappers are from the U.S. **Next Group** are Limited Edition Sets from the Olympics in Paris. **Row 2:** NEW M&M'S® Brand MINIS® Halloween Tubes from the U.S., Wrappers from The Netherlands for a chance to win a Marvel Adventure to Disneyland Paris. **Row 3:** Larger Party Wrappers and NEW wrapper for Candy Pop popcorn. **Row 4:** Family Wrappers with NEW style writing, Kar's Trail Mix found at Loves Truck Stops.



L-R, T-B: Capture the Color sign spotted in a store, NEW Notebook at M&M'S WORLD® Store, Candy wrappers from Mexico, Row 2: Checkers Game Mark Draganjack made for his ice cream cup lids, Candy Wrappers from Japan, New Brownie Brittle at Five Below. Row 3: Haunted Castle is out again in a NEW designed box. The older version is pictured next to it, NEW Set of 6 Quote Mugs from M&M'S WORLD® Store. Rows 4 & 5: , NEW Comic books. Row 5: Older ad from a commercial in the 60's, email ad from Mars, NEW ad in People Magazine.



Brussels, Belgium Airport Duty Free The molecule display in the Brussels, Belgium Airport was made after the building also in Brussels. It's called the Atomium, built for the World's Fair in 1958 and was supposed to last for 6 months, but today it's still standing because of it being a popular tourist attraction. It's an iron molecule 1 billion enlarged. I was told from a friend the attraction just spent a lot of money remodeling it since it's so popular. The top sphere is a restaurant.



**Spend \$30
OR MORE ON M&M 14oz
POUCHES, GET A FREE
M&M'S NOTEBOOK**



Above: Flying Out of NYC? Check out JFK
Airport Duty Free



Right: Iowa's Nuts Under Cover Chapter met at Sheila Mansfield's home in July for their annual picnic meeting.

NEW Peanut Butter & Jelly M&M'S® Coming Soon!



It's peanut butter jelly time...in the candy aisle! On August 27, the popular Instagram account Candy Hunting announced the upcoming debut of a new M&M'S® flavor that's actually a throwback to a version of the candy that was introduced 15 years ago but has since gone off the shelves: Peanut Butter & Jelly M&M'S® Milk Chocolate Candies.

"Peanut Butter & Jelly M&M'S® are expected to launch soon! They will debut at the NACS Show this coming October. They have a flavored peanut butter filling, similar to the Strawberry Peanut Butter M&M'S® from 2009, CandyHunting captioned the post.



Belgium Halloween Candy



*Thank You
Rose & Dennis!*



Fantastic!

**Super
Job!**

*Thank You
Rose & Dennis!*

Great Time!

**Lots Of
Fun!**



Thank you! I would like to thank Mark Draganjac, Nancy Lee, Jill Flynn, Jo Ann Bellamy, Rose & Dennis Hudson, Carolyn & Marty McAlarney, Sara Landis, Greg & Vickie Brown, Bob & Karen Hawkes, Carmen Williams, Shelly McDonald Smith, Sharon Cross, Libby Dixon, Melissa Eller, Jackie and Dan Blindauer, Sandy Bantz and my sister Karen for your contributions to this newsletter. - *Ralph*