

Rock 'N' Roll



M&M'S® COLLECTORS CLUB 17th ANNUAL CONVENTION

April 22 - 25, 2015 • Springfield, Ohio



The M&M'S® Dispenser

Volume 17, Issue 1

May, 2015

This newsletter is the official publication of the M&M'S® Collectors Club for its members and is not affiliated in any part with Mars Chocolate North America. Trademark is used with permission. Reproduction of any portion of any issue is strictly prohibited without the consent of the club. The M&M'S® Collectors Club is incorporated.



2015 CONVENTION EDITION • Highlights From the 17th Annual M&M'S® Collectors Club Convention in Springfield, OH



Members attending this year's 17th Annual M&M'S® Collector's Club convention were ready to Rock 'n' Roll especially on Friday night! The convention was held April 22nd - April 25th, 2015 in Springfield, OH. "Let's Rock 'n' Roll" was the theme focusing on the 50's. This year's host were Juanita and Bill Merritt.

The turnout this year was terrific with several new members attending the convention for their first time. It was great meeting new friends. There were a few members who usually attend who couldn't come this year due to illnesses. We hope those of you who are on the mend are getting better.

As everyone knows once again this year the club was on the edge of their seats wondering if we would have Convention Shirts in time. Even on Monday of the week the shirts were to be shipped the representatives from Mars Chocolate North America made a design change before approving the shirts to be made.

Registration began on Wednesday with a huge Convention Welcome

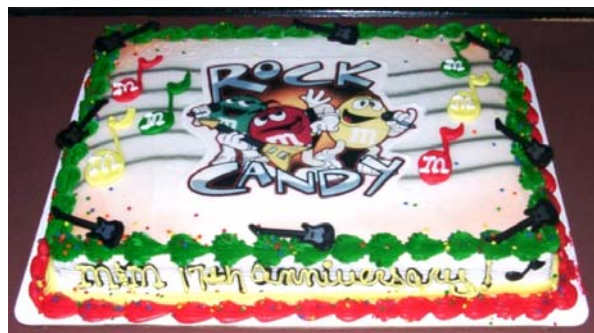
Packet consisting of a large amount of M&M'S® Brand items including some one of a kind items. The convention name badges came with a picture of a M&M'S® Brand Jukebox on them that incorporated two different songs titles on each badge for each person. Juanita had clues to particular songs in the Registration Room where members were asked to match the clue to a song title and also provide the correct person's name that corresponded to the badge with the song title on. During the banquet on Saturday night, Juanita announced Vera Cothorn as the winner, answering all of them correctly and presented Vera with a prize.

At Thursday's Welcome Reception members were treated to a variety of treats, cookies, chips, soda pop, and a Rock 'n' Roll themed cake beautifully decorated using the logo created by Mars Chocolate North America for our t-shirts. After some socializing and handing out door prizes, each table was given a plastic pumpkin, M&M'S® Brand Pumpkin Decorating Kit, costume accessories such as wig hair, hats, goofy eyes etc. to create their own M&M'S®

Brand Halloween Character. One table even used items of their own including a cell phone! Three judges strolled amongst the tables observing each table's creatures and construction. When everyone was through, the judges announced which table created the best looking character as the winner. It was a hard decision because everyone did such a fantastic job! Each person at the winning table received a prize and everyone at each table were asked to count off and who ever had the lucky number won the costumed pumpkin (as the centerpiece) to take home.



Bed full of items found in the Convention Welcome Packet.



Rock 'n' Roll Themed Cake

Friday began with a full schedule of activities beginning with Silent Auction check-in, General Business Meeting, Silent Auction, Hospitality Pizza Party and Bingo. After the General Business Meeting and Silent Auction, Friday Night's Pizza Party was held. It was also the night where our Rock 'n' Roll Members got to show off their handy work on their costumes. They were all magnificent. This time judging was done by

Continued on Page 5



THURSDAY'S WELCOME RECEPTION







Rock 'n' Roll Convention Continued From Page 2

the response from our group. Michele Nelson received the loudest response and was honored as the winner. It was decided to give everyone a prize because they all did an equally superb job. We have some amazing talent in our club when it comes to sewing and crafts! And the participation was great also! Thank you Beverly Kuemin, Ruth Preston, Bob & Sandy Bantz, Cheryl & Duane Fritz, Bob & Margaret Gowdy, Janet & Leo Rinderle. You all looked awesome!!



Besides pizza, snacks, and soda each person received a gift as well as door prizes. Door prizes were passed out and everyone's knowledge was tested with M&M'S® Brand Trivia. Several rounds of BINGO were also played with Bill Merritt calling out those famous Rock 'n' Roll Numbers.

The convention auction was held on Saturday with Greg Brown as auctioneer.

Helpers were Steve Flynn and Bill Merritt. Libby Dixon and Richard Stern stole the show entertaining the crowd of bidders with their antics, keeping them laughing and on their toes!





Saturday evening was the Farewell Party which began with a delicious dinner that included salad, ham, roast beef, stuffing, mashed potatoes, green beans, and dessert. Each table was decorated with a lovely centerpiece made by a friend of Juanita and Bill. The centerpiece carried through with the same theme created by Mars Chocolate North America. Juanita began by welcoming everyone to the 17th Annual M&M'S® Collectors Club Convention and thanking those who helped them.

Vickie Brown asked everyone for a moment of silence in memory of Al Griggs who passed away on April 10, 2015. Marilyn Griggs spoke afterwards thanking the club members for their condolences and support. Al and Marilyn were Charter Members of the club and attended every convention!

Richard Stern thanked Juanita and Bill for hosting the 2015 Convention and presented them a gift which was a M&M'S® Brand bear from M&M'S WORLD® Store and a gift card. Richard also thanked John Olah for his work as president and presented him a gift card. Several rounds of door prizes were passed out which consisted of some great items including items never seen before from Galerie. A group of members at one of the tables showed off their red nose. Greg and Vicki Brown, Sandy and Bob Bantz, Sharon Cross, Sara Landis, Richard Stern, and Libby Dixon all sported a red nose in honor of the upcoming Red Nose Day.

Everyone at each table counted off for a chance to win the centerpiece. Then at the closing each member received their banquet gift which was a M&M'S® Brand blanket. One thing is for sure no one went home empty handed and everyone had a fun time!! Again many thanks to Juanita and Bill for hosting the event and all the members who helped put together another great convention for the club!!!



Club-Wide Raffle Winner

The winner for the club's 2015 annual Club-Wide Raffle was drawn by Elizabeth Kern at the Convention Banquet and this year's lucky winner was Bill Merritt! Many thanks to all of our club members who participated and congratulations Bill!!



*In Memory
Albert David "Al" Griggs
1937 - 2015*

Charter Member of the M&M'S® Collectors Club



Albert David "Al" Griggs

Sadly on April 10, 2015 the club lost one of our Charter Members. Albert D. Griggs Sr. affectionately known as "Al" and "Dave" passed away. He was 77. Many of us know Al and his wife Marilyn as they have attended every club convention and most all of the local picnics together since the club's inception. They even celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with us at the 2011 Convention in Texas. Al was retired from Micro-Surfaces in Wilton, IA. He volunteered for 11 years at the Moline Police Department. Al enjoyed fishing and deer hunting in Missouri as well as gardening and flowers. He loved spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Al was a very kind man and was enjoyed by everyone. We will sadly miss him.

*Vickie & Greg
& all the "M&M" friends
On behalf of my family
I want to thank you for
the beautiful plant.
My dad came home
after each convention
with a new gathering with
stories of the trip & the
"deals" he found. He
supported my dreams
and for the M&M's
along with the friendships
that were made.
Sincerely, Karen (daughter)
& family*



Thank you sincerely for
Sharing our Sorrow.
Your kindness
is deeply appreciated
and will *Always*
be remembered by our family.

*The family of
Albert D. "Al" Griggs*

President's Message

Things are finally settling down a little since the convention. I had a great time and hope that everyone else who was able to attend also had some fun. I want to again thank Bill and Juanita Merritt for doing a great job hosting us this year and for taking such great care of us.

I also want to apologize for the delay in getting the newsletter out. Those of you who were able to attend the convention and business meeting know that there were a couple of unfinished and important issues to resolve. The board wanted to resolve those issues and include the information in the newsletter. As I'm sure you can understand, that plan made great sense, but unexpected delays in resolving the issues resulted in an unacceptable delay. I accept full responsibility for that and promise to have things back on the right track going forward. I'm the type of person who "leads" believing that anything that goes wrong is the fault of the person in charge (me), and that everything that goes well is due to the hard work of the people who did it - despite the person in charge (me).

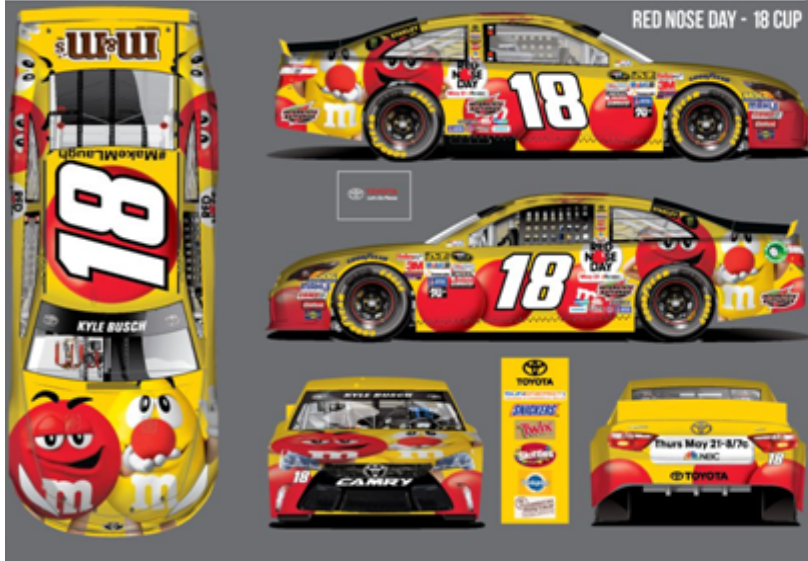
The membership cards will be mailed very shortly to those who were unable to attend the convention. We mentioned at the convention that we'd like to plan for a large blowout 20th Anniversary Convention in Las Vegas in 2018. Because of that we thought it might be fun to return to Orlando (for an M&M'S WORLD® store location) in 2016. The M&M'S WORLD® store folks took great care of us the last time we went and it seemed like a good time to return. So far we haven't been able to find a volunteer or volunteers to host the convention. So that we can keep things moving I'm going to lead the effort to make this happen. We're in the process of trying to confirm room rates, dates, M&M'S WORLD® store support, and more. With our membership numbers down from the last time we were in Orlando it's likely that the attendance numbers will also be down. We're hoping this will not appreciably increase our cost to the attendees. We'll have more details in the next newsletter.

The last big open item are the membership pins. As was discussed during the convention, the minimum order for pins is about twice as many members as we currently have. Since there is little long term value in membership pins, it leaves us with a large quantity of unusable pins and effectively doubles the cost per pin that we provide to our members. We discussed some options during the convention, including finding an alternative to pins, like a patch, or possibly finding ways to offset the increased costs by either raising membership dues or having some small charge for the pins. The board has decided that we will maintain our current membership dues and not charge for 2015 pins. We'll do whatever we can to minimize the costs to the club, but we believe our members expect and deserve a 2015 membership pin as part of their dues. We are still trying to confirm that the supplier Mars requires us to use can supply pins this year. As long as we can "legally" get 2015 membership pins we will make it happen. More details on the final resolution and the expected availability date will be in the next newsletter.

I tried to stress at the convention that the primary goal of this board is transparency. We are committed to that. A huge part of that includes us being answerable to the members. We want to hear from you. If there is anything you don't understand, don't like, want to see changed, anything at all, please contact any of the board members. We know that some things can and probably should be done differently, but we need to hear from you. We are all members of the club and we all want the same thing. We want the club to function in the most cost effective and least obtrusive way to provide the members with a fun and rewarding experience. I'm 100% committed to this and I know I can count on all of you to help keep me on track and help to make our club the best it can be. - Richard

2015

RED NOSE DAY - 18 CUP



ADS, TREATS AND ITEMS SPOTTED L-R Red Nose Day Graphics for Joe Gibbs Race Car 18 Kyle Busch will be driving. Jeep found at Duty Free, Keebler M&M'S® Brand MINIS® Bite Size Cookies, Several Coupons, M&M'S® Brand Ice Cream Cookies, Ads for Share a little Funshine at Walmart and M&M'S® Brand Crispy Flavored Candies, NEW Rice Krispies Treats, Patriotic Keebler Cookies, Patriotic Candies exclusive to Target with Red, White & Blue M&M'S® Brand Milk Chocolate Candies. Thank you Sandy Bantz for taking newsletter photos at the convention, Jo Ann Bellamy and Jill Flynn for photos of new items they found.

M&M'S® Collectors Club Income & Expense Report 1/01/2015 - 6/16/2015 Submitted by Carolyn McAlarney, Treasurer	
Beginning Balance	\$ 10,947.57
Income	
Auction	\$ 535.00
Membership Dues	2,300.00
Other Inc.	70.00
Raffle	570.00
Total Income	\$ 3,475.00
Expenses	
Uncategorized Before March	\$ 184.41
Convention Expenses	145.50
Fees & Charges	12.00
Newsletter	108.17
Website	75.98
Total Expenses	\$ 526.06
Balance as of 6/16/2015	\$ 13,896.51