

The m&m's® Dispenser

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m&m's® COLLECTORS CLUB

25th Anniversary



Kansas City 2023



Convention Hosts Marla, Marty and Carolyn

Traveled From					
Location	Members	Location	Members	Location	Members
AR	2	KY	2	TX	2
CO	4	MD	2	VA	1
FL	4	MI	7	WA	2
GA	2	MO	4	WI	4
IA	7	NC	2	Canada	5
IL	10	OH	7	Europe	2
IN	7	PA	8	Australia	2
KS	5	SC	2	Total	93

I hope everyone had a great time! Here's a recap for members that couldn't join us.

Registration was held on Wednesday night. This is where everyone received their registration packet. If a t-shirt was ordered, this was the first time you saw the 25th Convention theme. The registration packet contained: Room Signs, Name Badges, Berlin Bag, Socks from Belgium, Purple Magnets, Purple Pin, Purple Coin Holder, 25th Badge Holder, 25th Water Bottle, 25th Carry-all, 25th Ornament, Club Lanyard and a Club Pen.



CONVENTION HI-LITES

During registration, we also made a list of people who were selling for room hopping. More than 30 people were selling & I heard there were some great bargains to be found! This is a great place to sell your duplicate items & replace them with something you didn't have.

We had our Welcome Party Thursday afternoon. 93 people attended the convention this year. We recognized some special people by giving them shirts so everyone could find them. We had 7 Charter Members attending this year. Karen Hawkes (& her husband Bob, who will hopefully join us next year) are founding members of the Club. Other Charter Members were: Sara Landis, Greg & Vickie Brown, Ralph Corner, Larry & Janice Foss and Sheila Mansfield. We also gave shirts to members who had attended 20 (or more) conventions – Sara Landis, Libby Dixon, Michele Nelson & me (Carolyn McAlarney).



We welcomed 13 new members attending a convention for the very first time, they also received a gift of a metal sign with the 7 characters on it. **New Members keep our**

Club going! It's great to meet new collectors and make new friends!

We had members attending from 20 states and Canada, Europe and Australia! The conventions are a great place to add non-USA items to your collection. Michael Wegjan, Germany took home the t-shirt for traveling the furthest distance. We appreciate those who drive / fly so far to spend time with us!

Introductions took a while, so we made a game out of it. As you introduced yourself, you could earn balls to throw at a dartboard to win prizes. I don't remember who the top 10 were, but let's just say Larry Foss was by far the winner. **Photos Left** are of Michael Wegjan with his father Bernhard and Vickie and Greg Brown



introducing themselves. We played a few rounds of LCR (Left / Center / Right) and the prizes were lunch bags, blankets and scarves / shawls (which were needed because the room was cold). No Welcome Party is complete without cake – we had chocolate and another was white with M&M's colored confetti pieces inside.



We had a 'photo booth' opportunity for everyone to have some fun posing with the Character's faces & props. We also started a 'Most Liked Post' game to get members to post pictures in the Facebook group. The team with the most likes by Saturday night would be the winner.



Thursday evening, the 25th Anniversary party continued with chips, pretzels, candy and popcorn. We played a "Pass the Gift" game where you passed the prize to people at your table meeting certain criteria - the prize was a 25th Umbrella. We also played a Candy Dice game to win a 25th Sequin Pillowcase. At the end of the night, we drew names to win the 25th Tablecloths.

Friday started with the Silent Auction. Always great items to bid on here. The fun of a silent auction are those last-second bids, before time is called! After the items were collected, we had a General Meeting where we discussed next years convention. We played a Word Search game where the winners received 25th Clocks. Then everyone took a break for Room Hopping!

Friday night, the tables were decorated with acrylic characters. Depending on the character you sat by, your task was to come up with a list of items that were that color. People were grouped by character and then had to eliminate duplicate answers. The winner would be the person that had the highest number of unique items for their color. The prize was a sign with the same

TABLECLOTH DRAWING



FRIDAY'S SILENT AUCTION





color character. After dinner, we played a game, where the goal was to get the highest number of points by bouncing a ball into a cup. The prize was a 25th Clock. We played another round of the Candy Dice game and the prize was a Berlin Dispenser. We ended the night by drawing names for the larger Acrylic Character Centerpieces.





Saturday was our live auction. There were some great items to bid on in the Auction! This is not where the bargains are... You can get some prize pieces here!



M&M'S Collectors Club 25th Anniversary Floor Mat and Candy Dice Game



FAMILY FEUD GAME and BANQUET CENTERPIECES

Saturday night was our Banquet where we enjoyed a KC BBQ buffet. We played a “Family Feud” type game where the answers didn’t have to be right, they just had to match another table. We also played one final round of Candy Dice & the winner received a 25th Floor Mat. M&M’S WORLD® Orlando Store donated some Characters that were in their store break-room and we drew names for those. The Character Lampshade Centerpieces were also given out by drawing names. The winners of the “Most Liked Post” were given their choice of prizes from the prior games. Anne’s Team was the winner - Congratulations!

Members also received some special 25th Anniversary themed items – a Deck of Cards, Pin, Flag, Sign and a Puzzle (aren’t you glad you got to take it home instead of putting it together?!)

The hotel included breakfast, so most members started the days together. And room hopping & visiting always continues until late in the night. 😊 We had lots of Club items – pins, magnets, merchandise and prizes from prior years, etc. for sale during the convention.



Jo Ann Bellamy had a trailer sale in the parking lot! With all the convention items & buying going on - I think most people went home with a lot more than they brought with them...



We had some great helpers during our games this year, the Unger kids - Sophia, Lyle IV and Greyson. I hope they earned enough for Disney! **We appreciate everyone that helped in any way!!** We wait all year for the convention & then once we are together, time flies by!

The winner of the Club-wide Raffle was drawn – Congratulations, Tracy Steffen!! It was her first national convention and she won several great prizes!

Thanks to all of our Great Members – **You** are what makes our Conventions so much fun!



We hope many of you can join us next year!
Carolyn

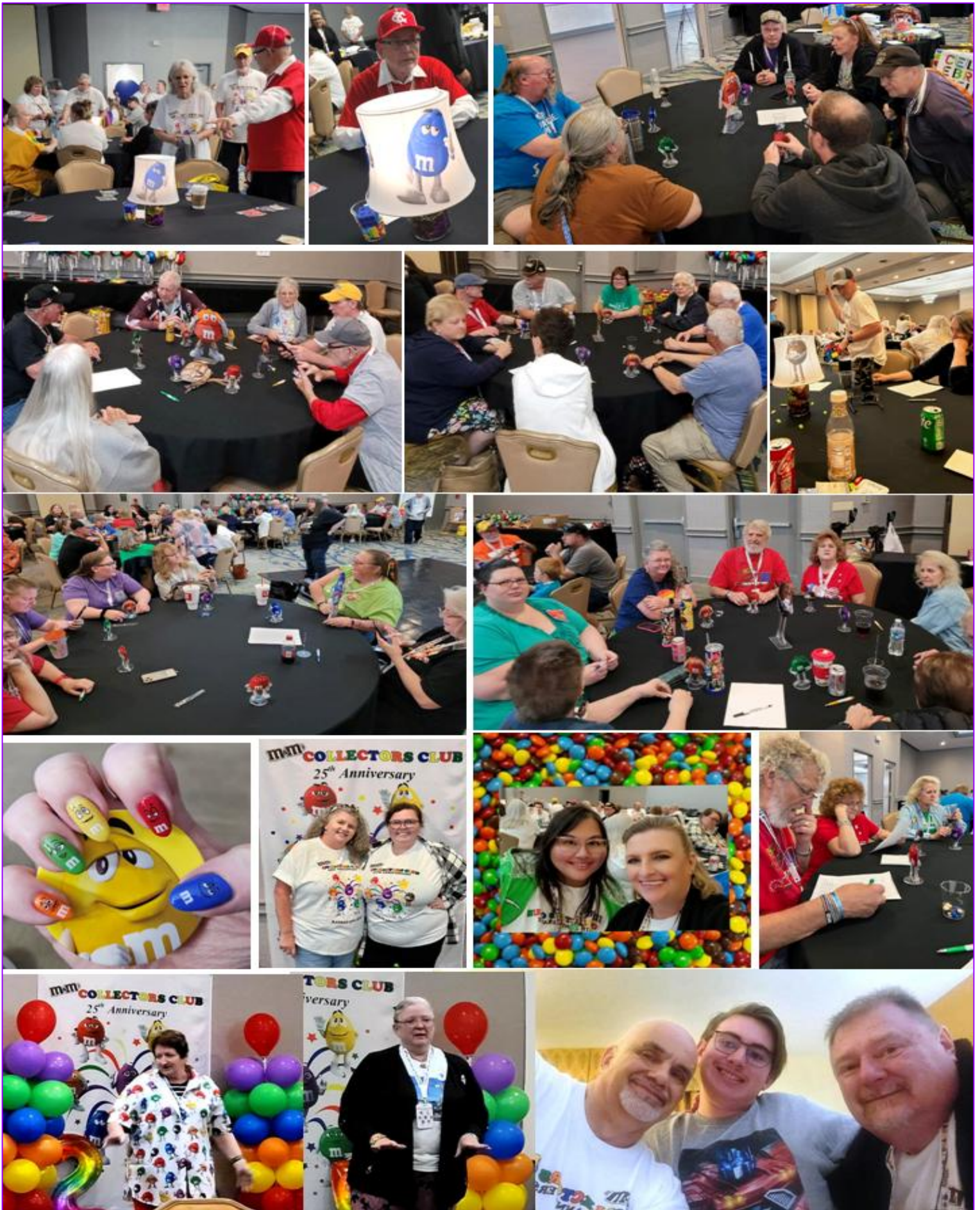
Additional Convention photos on Pages 10-14!





CONVENTION CANDIDS







Those humans think they're so funny - We can do that too!



"Please take a little off the top and watch my ears!"

CONVENTION FUNNIES



Richard Muslusky hauls his wife Kimberly's purchases home! Unsure where Kimberly is!

Thank you! I would like to thank Carolyn McAlarney, Dennis & Rose Hudson, Jill Flynn, Jo Ann Bellamy, Sara Landis, Karen & Bob Hawkes, Lyle Unger & family, Sheila Mansfield, Dennis Taylor, Ray Verbeem, Richard Stephan, Libby Dixon, Greg & Vickie Brown, Tracy Steffan, Jackie Blindauer, Ann Davis, Stephanie Acker-Heatherman, Michael Wegjan, Kimberly and Richard Muslusky, Melissa Billings Eller, Shelly & Darren Smith for your contributions to this newsletter. I'm sorry if I missed anyone. I didn't mean to. Everyone's help is always welcome! - Ralph



Six Flags Ads and July 4th Ice Cream Sandwich.

Thank You Carolyn!



This year marked the M&M'S® Collectors Club 25th Anniversary! And we could not have had a better host than Carolyn! Carolyn joined the club in 2001. She is our club's current Treasurer and she really gets into working on the conventions. When talking to Carolyn, I asked her how many conventions she hosted and helped out on. She said she hosted 6 conventions (2013, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2022, 2023) and helped out on all the others since the 5th one. She is very knowledgeable and knows how to deal with the hotels and questions to ask. She puts together a small team with her mother Vera, husband Marty and friend Marla. Then they gather helpers as needed. When she is helping another member with their convention she is ready to support them and answer questions they may have. She is a great asset to our club and we are very fortunate to have her as a member. Even though Carolyn will not be hosting the convention next year per say she is already working behind the scenes giving advice to the new hosts! Carolyn also started the Club's Facebook Group and we now have over 19,000 members. She reads and screens everyone and answers their questions also. The M&M'S® Brand Blue Character is her favorite so this year we commissioned another club member Rick Stephan, to make a painting for the club to give to her as a Thank You gift. Just as the character is doing, our hats are off to you Carolyn for your volunteer work you provide for everyone else's enjoyment! Thanks, Carolyn!

2024 M&M'S® Collectors Club Convention

COMING SOON! What a great convention we had in Kansas City! There was a lot of good times! While we are on the topic of conventions and after celebrating the club's 25th Anniversary, discussions are already under way for our 26th Convention in 2024!! Watch for convention news to come soon most likely in an email similar to the announcement in 2023. We have a few things we are working on and realize many of you have to make scheduling and vacation arrangements. We will let you know as quickly as possible.



Photos Above.: Menards train cars, Jada brown Porsche, M&M'S WORLD® Store playing cards, New Jim Thorpe Collection coming soon!



New Summer Items - Photos Above T-B, Row 1:

International S'mores Day Ad 8-10-23. Various M&M'S® Brand Milk Chocolate Candy Flavors, S'mores, Caramel Cold Brew, Cookie Dough in U.S. **Row 2:** New Australian Mocha Mudcake, Canadian International Women Flipping, Popcorn New in Canada. New in the U.S.: Coffee, Compostable Packaging. **Row 3:** New YoCrunch Packaging, M&M'S WORLD® Orlando Store Tote Bags. **Row 4:** Big Lots Lip balm and keychain, Exclusive Target Family Size Packaging. **Row 5:** Kroger Summer Display. **On Page 16, T-B, Rows 1-2:** Krispy Kreme Doughnuts Limited Time. **Rows 3-5:** M&M'S® Brand Summer Music various candy and ice cream packaging and a display spotted at Michigan Sam's Club..



