

The 10th Annual M&M'S® Collectors Club Convention

By Wanda Taylor



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What better way to hold the 10th convention than to return to the site of the first ever M&M'S® Collector's Club Convention – Las Vegas, Nevada! Membership has grown dramatically since that first convention (13 attendees) and that translates into over 100 convention attendees in 2008. Seven of the 2008 attendees also attended that first convention! How exciting it must be for Mike Murphy, Danny & Ginny Wolfe, Al & Marilyn Griggs, and Don & Janet Williams to have participated in the growth of this club for the past 10 years.

Holding a convention in a large hotel like The Orleans presents both opportunities and challenges. One of the challenges is trying to get our rooms close together. Room hopping is much better that way, and, we don't disturb as many of the other guests☺. Sara Landis and a few others took it upon themselves to meet as many people as they could at the hotel registration area. We were then able to request rooms near other collectors. Thanks to you guys for getting a fair number of us close together. The hotel offered a great buffet where many of us enjoyed several meals together, and as much gambling as any one person could handle.



M&M'S® Brand characters. The evening ended with room-hopping for all.



Sara Landis' room turned into the registration room and central headquarters. A work party was held on Sunday to finalize registration packets and last minute details. The packet gift had not arrived so we all found a picture of the gift instead. We will be receiving the gifts hopefully towards the end of June in the mail at our homes. If you have never helped with this work party, you are missing out on a lot of fun (and some work). It always takes a team of people to have a successful convention and this is one of the ways you can help.

Most everyone had arrived in time for the welcome party on Monday night. This event brought us all together for bingo, fellowship and fun. It really is hard not to have a good time when the reason for the event is those fun and exciting

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Tuesday brought what has become our mandatory visit to M&M'S World® Store any time the convention is near one. It is always so much fun to have the entire store to ourselves for a couple of hours. And certainly the discount we get makes it even better. We offer many thanks for the breakfast and the goody bags we all received. I don't think anyone left without purchasing some special items. I still can't believe Greg Brown didn't buy that Swarovski Crystal M&M'S® Brand leather jacket! I'm sure he enjoyed modeling it in the store.

The afternoon brought the business meeting (minutes can be found in this newsletter) and the auction. The auction held many interesting items including several unique items donated by Mars, Inc. It is always quite a treat to see what items will be in the auction. And as usual, light-hearted fun was the name of the game. The auctioneer and his team did a great job, keeping it exciting and fun.

The evening brought another great meal at the buffet for many of us. Good food is something that's always available in Las Vegas. And then of course, we had another round of room hopping. Hunting for that special item to add to your collection is always exciting and the most fun place to do this is at a convention!

On Wednesday came the banquet/brunch, and for many their last day in Las Vegas. As Mike Murphy welcomed

Welcome Party

Their Mistakes!

Our Helpers!

Sarah hard at work!

Dennis Hudson & Jane Lawlor arrive at airport!

Tired Crowd – Is that Shirley?

us to the final event and thanked everyone for their support in putting on the convention, he was presented with his own 24 hour cross-your-heart support. His "support" was signed by many of those providing him with on-going support throughout the convention. Brian McNally, Lanita Isler, and Norm Vida from M&M'S World® Store and Mars, Inc. joined us for the event. They brought some special door prizes that we won by playing the M&M'S® Brand trivia contest. We all love those "special" door prizes! They also judged the "Inner M look-alike contest". Many of us went to the M&M'S® Brand website and created our "Inner M". Armed with our printed "Inner M's", we were judged on how closely each of us resembled our "Inner M". Ginny Wolfe and Dennis Taylor were the winners! Ginny won a purse and Dennis won a notepad holder -both were made from M&M® Brand candy wrappers. Dennis and Ginny got the prizes, but everyone who participated and those that just watched the contest had a great time. Thanks to Brian and Lanita for suggesting the contest, being the judges, and providing the prizes. It was great fun! We enjoyed a good meal with plenty of food for seconds and thirds if you wanted them. Several lucky people won door prizes, and Sara Landis won

the club raffle. The banquet gift delivery had also been delayed so we received a picture of what each of us will receive at our homes. The event closed with thanks to all, best wishes for safe travels home and a "Hope to see all of you in Michigan next year".

Thanks to Mike Murphy and his team for a year of hard work in putting together another exciting and fun M&M'S® Collectors Club Convention.



And A Fun Afternoon At The Auction!



Farewell Banquet!



Find Your "Inner M" Contest



The Winners! Dennis Taylor and Ginny Wolfe

Convention Attendees

(Shown Below) When the club first started 10 years ago, a group of people held their first convention in Las Vegas. This year, several of those members were able to attend the 10th Anniversary Convention. They are Al and Marilynn Griggs, Danny and Ginny Wolfe, Janet and Don Williams and Mike Murphy. Al and Marilynn Griggs and Danny and Ginny Wolfe have attended every convention so far! Congratulations!

