

2017 RMS Convention Report

by
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The 2017 77th RMS Convention is history and I think it was a great one. Since this was my 32nd I think I'm a pretty good judge. Linda Wolf and her UES group did a fine job of putting the convention together and are to be commended.

We had 129 collectors from around the country with 10 from Canada and two from England.. Gayle Hofacker once again did a terrific job with registration. She had a very nice colorful shopping bag to pass out filled with matches (of course) and other goodies. Gayle is stepping down as registration chairperson and she will be missed.

In addition to handling the printing of the program book Greg Wolf took over handling the grab tables and always kept the tables overflowing. There were ten dealers and they all had lots of goodies for sale.

On Tuesday night we were treated to a desert event with an entertaining illusionist who every one really enjoyed.

There were 122 displays entered by 27 exhibitors and almost everyone visiting the display room marveled at all of the great displays that many had never seen before. Bill Evans was the big winner with 6 RMS awards, Rich Greene with 4 RMS awards and two club awards, First time attendee, Poppy Evans, won three RMS awards and three club awards, Some other multiple winners were Mitzy Mantz, Marc Edelman, Morris Pasternak and Denise McKinney. Joel Acus won the People's Choice Award with a great display of Feature Display covers. It was real beauty. Bill Longnecker won the Best of Show Award with a terrific display of Navy ships sunk at Pearl Harbor. Pat Shappell was elected to the RMS Hall of Fame and Jene Lyle received the Outstanding Collector awards. Both were well deserved.

We had 74 people at the final banquet. There were nice watering can centerpieces filled with matches as centerpieces along with a colorful wind fan. We were served a nice meal and everyone seemed to have an enjoyable time. We ended the evening with our usual trip to the bar with Bob Borton carrying on the tradition by toasting "not goodbye but until next year".

We voted to hold our 2018 Convention at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Tulsa. It's great modern facility and everyone in the meeting got really excited. I hope to see a lot of you there next year. Until then take care and happy collecting.