

2018 Convention Report

by
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This year's 78th Annual RMS convention was great. That's what all of the attendees I spoke to told me and I certainly agree. Great friends, great collectors and lots and lots of great matches both at dealer tables and the freebee tables. The Hard Rock Hotel & Casino helped to make our stay a pleasant one and is one of the nicest hotels where we've held a convention and I think that is what helped to make great. I got a kick out of the fact that everywhere you looked in your room there was the Hard Rock logo. It was on the soap, the shampoo and conditioner, on the extra roll of toilet paper and even on the k-cups they provided. Every morning they left a chocolate guitar on our nightstand which was a nice treat.

Mitzi Mantz did a terrific job at registration and Bob Hofacker kept the freebee tables always piled high while our President, Marc Edelman, was always there to make sure all went well.

We had 111 registered from 24 states and Canada. Oklahoma had the most attendees with 12 followed by Canada and Pennsylvania. and there were 7 dealer tables. 84 people signed up for the banquet, a great percentage of those attending.

The display room was ably handled once again by Lorne Ross's team consisting of Pat & Wally Mains, Barbara & Herb Sperry and Arlene Cole. The displays this year were some of the best I've ever seen. We had 78 display from 18 collectors. The big winners this year were Bill Evans with 9 RMS awards and 2 local club awards, David Nudleman with 4 RMS awards and 2 local club awards and Mike Schwimmer with 2 RMS awards and 5 local club awards. Denise McKinney was also a multiple winner with three club awards and 1 RMS award. Both the People's Choice and Best of Show awards went to Marc Edelman for an unforgettable "Shadow" display. Wow! What a beauty! Congratulations to all, you did a really fine job.

The four auctions brought in \$22,034 with RMS getting \$4,406. Marc Edelman and the fine auction staff did another wonderful job. Sadly I couldn't stay for the estate auction on Saturday so I don't have any figures for it.

The final banquet was something new we tried this year. It took place on Friday night and was an Italian buffet. Instead of the usual rubber chicken type hotel dinner we had a terrific choice of salad, pasta, chicken parm, shrimp and garlic bread with cheesecake for desert. Everyone really enjoyed their dinner and the hotel did a fine job of serving us. Dinner was followed, as usual, by our meeting out by the pool for final drinks and, as Bob Borton says every year, "Not goodbye but until we meet again next year". JJ Bachochin and Mary Alice hosted a barbeque at their home on Saturday and I was told about 30 people signed up for it. John and Mary Alice are such fine hosts that I'm sure it was a fun time for all. I look forward to seeing you in Cleveland/ Strongville next year.