

2021 RMS Convention ... *We're Back!*

by Joe DeGennaro

Our 80th annual convention was a good one. I would like to say it was great but, sadly, the hotel (which we booked over 2 years ago) has fallen on hard times due to the COVID-19 epidemic. They can't get enough people to work and so they can't adequately service their rooms and had to close their restaurant. The major problem we had was the lack of air conditioning in our meeting space. They couldn't get it fixed since the epidemic had caused a backlog in the ordering of new equipment. In spite of these problems we matchcover collectors are a hardy breed and we made the best of it and made it a success. Our President, Nancy Smith, made every effort to make sure the convention ran well and was constantly filling an ice chest with water and Ice for our people to enjoy, along with candy and other snacks.

Registration was handled by Mitzi Mantz and she did a terrific job. We had 85 people registered and everyone registering received a beautiful canvas bag with the convention logo and filled with goodies. There were a number of first time attendees.

There were ten dealers and all of them had wonderful stuff for sale. The grab tables were always overflowing thanks to Bob Hofacker and Greg Wolf.

The display room was once again manned by Lorne Ross and Pat and Wally Mains and they did a terrific job. We had 91 exhibits from 16 exhibitors and they were some of the best I've seen in recent years.

There were 4 auctions with Marc Edelman serving as our auctioneer assisted by Linda Wolf and Shirley Sayers and a number of volunteers acting as runner. The first three auctions brought in \$17,934 which brought the Society's share to \$3586.00. There were many great items available for sale and many went at bargain basement prices. I didn't get the figures for Saturday's auction since we were all leaving before the final figures were in but, even with a smaller crowd, I think it brought in a nice figure. All of those involved did a terrific job.

There were 60 people at the banquet and the hotel served a very nice catered meal of salad, bread, chicken, ham, potatoes and mixed vegetables. Everyone enjoyed themselves.

The big winner in the display awards was Denise McKinney Who took home 6 RMS awards and 3 Local club awards. Nice going Denise! Other winners were Rich Greene with 5 RMS awards and 2 local ones, Marc Edelman with 3 RMS awards, Bill Longenecker with 4 RMS Awards and 2 local ones and Mark Quilling with 3 RMS awards and 1 local one. There were a number of other winners, too many to list here, who won awards and I commend them.

The major awards of the night, The People's Choice and Best of Show were both won by Tom Gray for his wonderful girlie features. The 2020 Outstanding Collector Award went to our president, Nancy Smith and the 2021 Outstanding Collector Award went to Rich Greene. Elected to the Hall of Fame were Pat and Wally Mains. All of these honors were well deserved.

Since the hotel's bar was closed, we closed out the convention with John Woods famous "Not good-bye but until we meet again in Cleveland next year.



Right>left: Charlie Bressler, Bob Cigrang, Denise Barnard, John Stroka

Left>right: Charlie & Barbara Myers, Penny & Lyle Smith, Bob Cigrang, Charlie Bressler, Doreen & Stephen Moldovan



Left>right: Steve Smith, Martha & John Stroka, Linda Wolfe, Shirley & Rich Sayers, Sherri Kayhoe, Nancy Smith

Left>right: Joe DeGennaro, Rich Giardini, Wayne Eadie, Marc Edelman, Grant Gehringer, Kathy & Rich Greene, Rich & Ruby Lamothe