

11th Annual CC>CC Convention Highlights

by Jim Steffner
Photography by John Yee

Well, are you home and unpacked? A long week that went by too fast. So many friends that I haven't seen since last June, and unfortunately won't see again for another year. Las Vegas is such a great city, all the happy people, always smiling because they are on vacation or like me remembering the cold and rain back in Ohio. There are those who say "Hello" in the elevators and carry on a conversation as if they've known you for years, and of course the many club members beaming from ear to ear when they saw all the great chips, tokens, and other collectibles as they entered the show floor. They're like kids in a candy shop. Ahhhh what a fun time in a fun city.

The 15th Anniversary and 11th Annual convention are now history, and many are already counting the days till June 2004. The fun filled



Opening day ribbon cutting. Mike Quinlivan, Ralph Myers, Sandi Steffner, Nate Pincus, John Zoesch, Tyrus Mulkey and Jim Steffner

days of festivities started out with a Blackjack Tournament hosted by the Palms Casino with the help of Bob Pardue and Gene Trimble. Ninety three members joined in to "hit" or "stay" for the afternoon. This turned out to be a very popular event and will be repeated again next year.

The excellent Early Bird Banquet, arranged by Wayne Thompson was overstuffed with 370 hungry participants. The Tropicana Hotel staff effi-

ciently and quickly had them all thru the buffet line and back to their seats in less than 30 minutes. And a special thanks to Jim Kruse who persuaded one of the most wonderful and down to earth ladies you could ever want to meet, to be our speaker. Miss Claudine Williams, owner of the Silver Slipper and the Holiday Casino in Las Vegas and presently on the Board of Directors at Harrahs entertained the audience with her stories of the old days of operating a casino in Las Vegas as well as tales about Howard Hughes.

Volunteer Directors and Chairpersons were recognized with an award presentation. Numerous other members who volunteered to help in one way or another and deserve our gratitude for their efforts. Their names are listed elsewhere in this issue of the magazine. A tribute to Bruce Landau was read and a presentation plaque was shown that



Claudine Williams



Claudine Williams receiving her plaque from Jim Kruse

Blackjack & Poker Tournaments a Hit during the 2003 Convention

David Lazarcheck wins Blackjack; Patti Norris wins Poker

by Robert Pardue

Blackjack Tournament

The annual convention activities started early this year, with the 1st annual Blackjack Tournament on Wednesday afternoon. Hosted at the Palms Resort-Casino, 93 club member entrants vied for a piece of the \$4185 prize pool. The top two winners at each preliminary-round table advanced to the semi-finals, and the top winner from each semi-final table advanced to the final round. The runners-up from each semi-final table also received a cash award, as well as one winner from a random draw of non-finalists.

First place winner David Lazarcheck received a framed set of tournament chips and \$1465 prize money. Other final table winners (2nd through 6th place) were: John Zoesch, Brett Patin, Joe Fiore, John Schwartz and Diane Myers. The runners-up prizes went to: Greg



Bob Pardue awarding the first place plaque in the blackjack tournament to David Lazarcheck

Susong, George Gloria, Chuck Linsey, Bob Weingarten, Bob Feeney and Mike Quinlivan. The random draw winner was Lloyd Tereno.

Thanks to Roy Brennan and Terri Abshire of the Palms, and all the dealers for running a smooth tournament for the club.

Poker Tournament

A record 160 players entered the 5th annual Poker Tournament on Thursday evening, competing for a prize pool of \$7170. Also hosted at the Palms Resort-Casino, Gene Trimble and his crew of poker dealers managed the 5-hour tournament without a hitch.

The tournament was structured to pay the final 10 places. First place winner Patti Norris takes home the travelling trophy, a framed set of tournament chips and cash. Norris and 2nd place winner, Chuck Mades, each received \$1887 when they elected to split the money for the top two spots. The remaining final table winners (3rd through 10th place) were: Dave Shron, Brian Watts, Fred Lamb, Jim Blanchard, Charlie Sill / George Davis (tied for 7th & 8th), Will Knight and



Terry Lazarus / Christine Smith (tied for 10th).

Tournament Chips

Club member Kevin Norris provided the design idea for the 5-piece set of chips, which included tournament information on one side and the Palms logo on the reverse. The tournament chips were used in both tournaments. Chips are still available through Club Promotions at \$15 per set, plus mailing.



Poker tournament winner Patti Norris

Images from the Poker Tournament

Pictures courtesy Dick Covington
and Dr. Anatole Karmen



will be given to Eileen Landua. Hall of Fame inductee, Phil Jensen was presented with his prestigious award and a standing ovation recognized his past efforts and contributions to our hobby. Jim Follis, "OTY" chairman, presented the "best of" awards in several categories to casino representatives accompanied by a slide presentation of each of the ballot nominees. An energetic trading session followed the banquet with many chips and tokens changing hands.

Several hundred members attended the educational seminars on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday mornings organized by Dick Covington. Dick lined up a bevy of excellent speakers and panel members. Dick was also responsible for the graphic Power Point display of auction lots shown on the big 10 x 10 foot screen Friday evening at the Bruce Landau Memorial Auction. For the first time, bidders were able to view each lot in full living color. Great job Dick!

Thursday morning the show opened to a multitude of eager collectors swarming onto the show floor about to devour 108 tables of every imaginable casino collectible. Thanks go to Paul Bender and Barb Jones



Jim Steffner

and their hard working crew who made sure everything was in place on the show floor, all the tables, chairs, table covers, sign holders, signs, and display cases. Business was brisk and the throngs kept coming in all day long. Many dealers reported an excellent day of selling, buying, and trading.

The new Board of Directors was sworn in and assumed their duties at



Several Chapters held meeting and manned tables at the show and the Building Fund had a table to accept

donations for the fund or for their auction and raffle on Saturday evening in conjunction with the Last Dance Trade Session which incidentally raised over \$9000 for the Building Fund.



Bruce Landau presentation plaque



Hall of Fame, Phil Jensen



Auctioneer, Jim Kruse

the Thursday evening business meeting. Following the business meeting, the Fifth Annual Poker Challenge, staged by Bob Pardue, was held at the Palms. More than 160 eager, energetic, playful, but fiercely competitive and winning spirited players joined in for an evening of battle.

On Friday the Bruce Landau Memorial Auction brought out several new bidders securing some excellent lots. The auction totaled over \$77000. Thanks to Barry Weintraub and the many auction assistants for making this event one of which Bruce would have been very proud! Many times during the evening I had the feeling he was looking over my shoulder, as he usually did, checking on the bid total. We missed you Bruce!

Over the four days of the convention 3690 people came through the doors, what a great turnout. The pre-registration and daily registration went smoothly thanks to the well organized efforts of Brenda and Archie Black, plus Art and Muriel Sanderson, Registration Co-Chairs and their hard working crew. Four alphabetical lines kept everyone moving quickly,

Thanks go to the many dealers who donated items for the club raffle that raised over \$700 and produced a lot of happy winners. Thanks also to the Riviera for putting out a special commemorative chip for the convention and to the Stardust for the raffle Grand Prize of a three night room package including dinner and show tickets, and for their coupon for the nice bronze paper-weight/ coaster which was offered to all club members. Also thanks to club member Don Totoian, California raisin farmer who donated a multitude of sample raisin packets for our members to taste. Great raisins Don, wish we could get the same good taste in the stores.

Next year we head to the Riviera, our host for the 12th Annual Convention, June 17th to June 19th, 2004. Look forward to a larger show floor, bigger meeting rooms, expanded activities,



The New Board of Directors
Ralph Myers, Mike Quinlivan, Mike Skelton, Wayne Thompson,
Belinda Hixon

and a beautiful banquet facility at the Top of the Riv which will hold close to 560 while providing a spectacular panoramic view of the city and the strip. The mid strip location puts collectors in the midst of casino country. The Riviera offers close parking, easy loading for dealers and quick access to the show floor. Watch for more details in future issues of the Chip & Token News.



If you would rather not give your name, I'd still like to hear what you have to say, but without a name you can not be included in the drawing. Either way, please send in the form and help make the next convention another great event.

The Megabucks is still at almost 12 million, and for now, it's back to reality (work), but I can start day dreaming and planning for 2004.

Jim Steffner
Sandi Steffner
Convention Chairman



New board members. We just wanna have fun.
Newly elected Wayne, Belinda and Mike



Jim Kruse and Jim Follis



Sandi and Jim Steffner, Cheri Pierce



Promotions Table



Chris and Alicia Collangelo



Al Poluyanskis



Derek Cowan, Dale Seymour



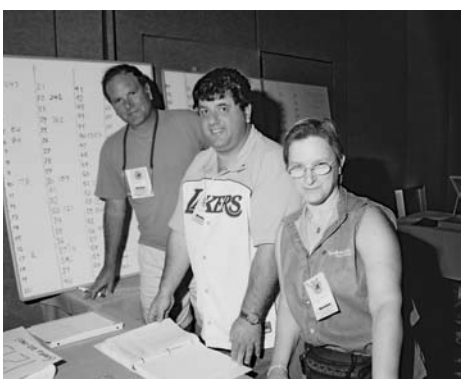
Barbara Wright and R. C. Smith



Linda and Dennis Finn



Jodi Sones and Marci Herz



Alex Cilento, Marc Shapiro, and Sunday Silverman



Bob Weingardt, Mike Quinlivan and Allan Anderson



Paul Bender



Jeff Veres



Gale and Tom Pleau



Rhona and Ralph Myers



Mark Bufton, John Johannes



Peter Van Der Kaar, Lloyd Melani



Bud Meyer



Mr "D", Walter Dirzulatis



George Dmitrevsky, Jill Bitner and Patrick Fleming



Jim Sarra, Marc Shapiro



D.J., Sabrina and Tami Mills



Rich Burgel



Jay Sands, Barry Weintraub



Mark Freitag, Randy Pisane,
James Campiglia, Tammy Kongrud



Dennis Foltz



Pam Focazio, Casey Focazio-Follis and
Jim Follis



Mike Spinetti



John and Sue Rauzy



Alexi Harber



Sarah Bedo, Sarah Kongrud



Doug Saito, Jr. and Doug Saito



Dick and Candy Allard



C.T. Rodgers, Tom Hartel



Bill Eichorn, Joe Benon



Nate Pincus, Charlene Brach, Helen Riggins



Wayne Murphy, Katie Smith



Debbie and Alexi Harber



Scott Hartman, Charles Crate



Terry Lazarus



David Sarles, Jim Blanchard



Tegan, Drew and Steve Passalaqua



David Johnston, Jim Munding



Jack Haddock



Eric Rosenblum



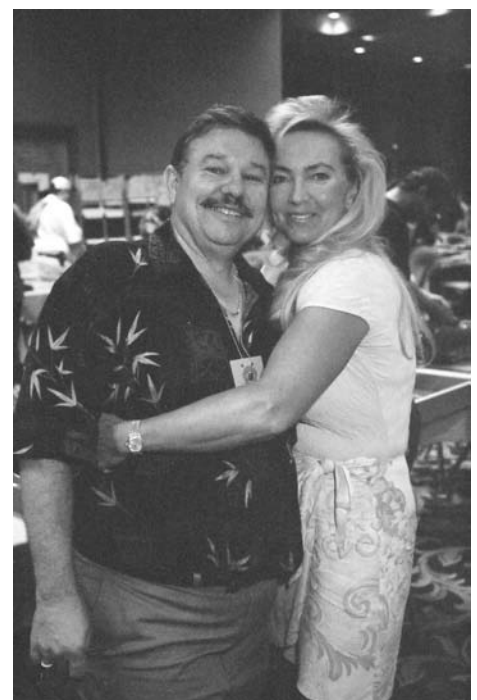
Larry Hollibaugh, Steve McClendon



Chips, chips and more chips



Robert McColum



Mike and Anne Spinetti



Bruce Karli



Janice and Gerald O'Neal



Bill O'Day



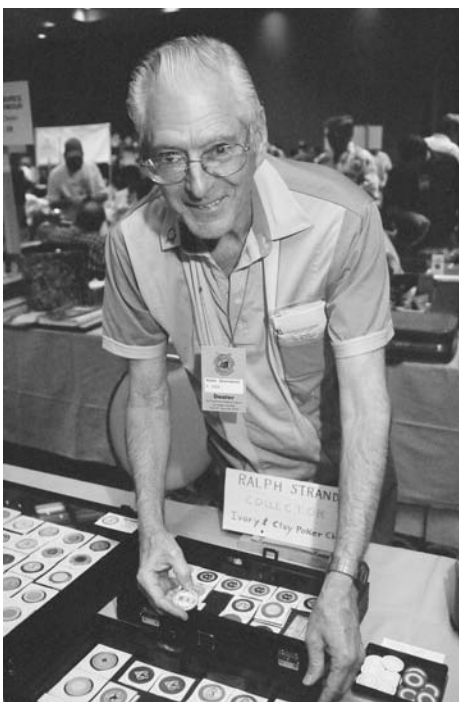
Jim Rauzy



Bill Judge



Greg Susong



Ralph Strandwold



Jim and Barbara Episale



Kregg and Howard Herz



4 Presidents
Mike Skelton, Nate Pincus, David Sarles, Archie Black



4 Secretaries
Barry Weintraub, Michael Knapp, Belinda Hixon, Tyrus Mulkey



Jim and Susan Cassidy



Michael Gersie



The Auction

11th Annual CC>CC Convention Exhibitor Awards

by Joe Shaw



Robert Feeney, Jim Steffner and Joe Shaw

First place

Robert Feeney

Snappers of the World.

The exhibit took up 12 display cases.



Second place

Jack Haddock

Patriotic Silver Strikes of Nevada



Third place

William K. Brooks

A Striking Tribute to the Pentagon.

Other exhibitors included

Charles P. D'Ambrogi

Harvey's Tahoe

Doug Conley

Las Vegas Casinos Show Their
Patriotic Colors

Paul Donohu

Triple Crown

Charles Kaplan

Nevada \$1 Chips - Town by Town

Robert Pardue

The Monte-Carlo Casino of Monaco

Robert Chaffin

In Memory of 9/11/01

Douglas Jacob

Diamondfield Jack

Henry Garrett

I'll see your bet and raise 500

Volunteers – a BIG Thank You from the Convention Chairman and Club Members

by Jim **Steffner**

Below are listed other volunteers who helped make this past convention a great success. Without all your help, it would not be possible. You all played a big part. Thank you!

Steve Passalacqua

Ross Poppel

Georgia Feeney

Jack Weingarten

Robert Eisenstadt

Edward Hoffman

Martin Thaw

Myrna Lighterman

Alex Cilanto

Sunday Silverman

Marc Shapiro

Rich Klabacha

Tony Tricoli

Tyrus Mulkey

Carey Burke

Pat Burke

Jay Sands

Steve Zacchi

Kent Hedberg

Andy Hughes

Marci Herz

J.J. Engle

Marion Engle

Gordon Ellison

Fran Ellison

Bob Feeney

George Dimitrevsky

Chuck Tomarchio

Glenda Blake

Jim Reilly

Charles Davis

Carol Davis

John Berube

Joanna Berube

Cindy Zoesch

Sue McHargue

Rick Miner

Fred Bergman

Mike Pasternack

Charlie Turner

Casey Focazio-Follis

Bob Bickford

Brien Bellous

Jill Bellous

Bernie Choma

Ed Bigley

George Buckner

Stu Lovett

Edward Hoffman

Kevin Norris