

# 9th annual CC&GTCC Convention



by Wayne Thompson



**And Trade Session** exceeded even our expectations. We had over 330 attendees who had the privilege of hearing our keynote speaker **Mayor Oscar Goodman** give an entertaining presentation. Then through the efforts of Rich Burgel we were able to bring in two surprise guests to add to the excitement. **Steve Rossi**, from the famous (Marty) Allen and Rossi duet, did a great stand up comedy routine. Then as a final surprise **Bob Stupak** arrived and gave a brief presentation. He must have liked our group, as he was back on the show floor Saturday. We then presented the COTY/TOTY and Silver Strike of the year awards. Also the Hall of Fame inducted two new honorees, **Harvey Fuller** and **Doug Saito**. We finished with recog-



nition of all the volunteers who devoted so much effort to make the Convention a great event for everyone. After the banquet was over the trading began and went well into the night. It was a great evening for everyone!

Thursday morning started with our first educational seminar "**How to research illegal clubs and their chips**". Everyone came away with a new appreciation for the history of illegal clubs. At 10:00 a.m. the bourse floor opened to a huge crowd, and stayed packed most of the day. For those of you who have never attended there was every imaginable casino collectible for sale. With 108 dealer tables it's hard to see everything in three days. In the afternoon the **Silver**

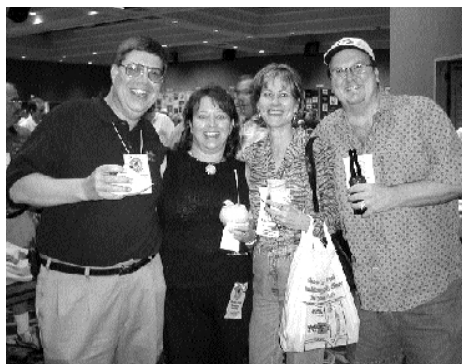
**Strike chapter** put on a very well attended seminar on Silver Strikes. After the bourse floor closed the **Annual Business Meeting** was held and new officers were installed. There were some very active discussions about a variety of issues. After the business meeting adjourned the activity increased. The **Colorado chapter** had their chapter meeting, the **Silver Strike chapter** had their chapter

second.

Friday morning started with the second educational seminar **“Chipology 201”**, a follow up to last years very successful **“Chipology 101”**. As always Michael Knapp and



*Michael Knapp, Chuck Tomarchio & Dale Seymour*



*Wayne, Belinda, Anne & Michael Skelton*



*Scott & Estelle Hartman*



*Lou Lucci*



*Fran Betker*



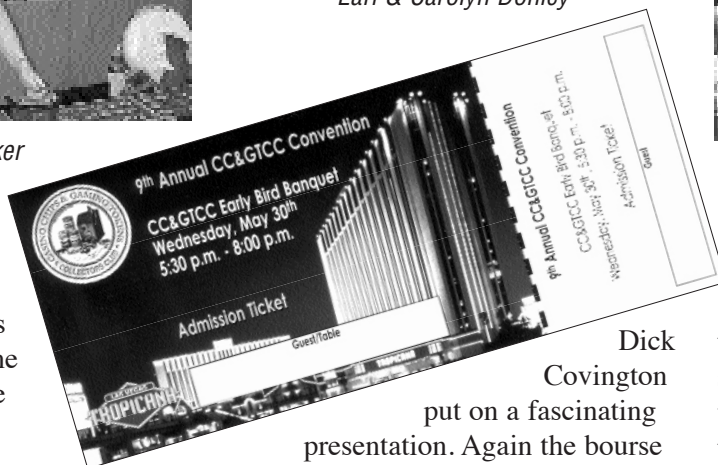
*Earl & Carolyn Donley*



*Dick Allard*

meeting, dessert social and chapter auction, and another open trade session was held. And of course one of the highlights of the Convention, **The 3rd Annual CC&GTCC poker**

**tournament** was played at the Orleans hotel. 105 members started and when it was all over Russ Diaz was the winner and Paul Sax finished



Dick Covington put on a fascinating presentation. Again the bourse floor was packed most of the day as the members and public perused the dealer tables and all the exhibits. We had 9 exhibitors with some great displays of every conceivable area of collecting. Jim Kruse won the

Now that everyone has had time to recover from the Convention it is a good time to look back on all that took place. Belinda and I have known since last fall that after three years it was time to retire. We set our minds to making this the best Convention yet. I hope that everyone who attended will agree it was a great one. So much went on that I will just try to hit some of the highlights.

**The Wednesday Night Banquet**



*Henry Garret*

you to the following individuals.

**Bruce Landau, Howard and Kregg Herz, and Jim Kruse** for another great auction. **Eileen Landau** for taking on the task of planning the banquet. **Archie Black** for chairing the exhibits and the COTY/TOTY awards. **Eric Rosenblum** for his legal advice. **Liz Conrad** for making sure we had the proper permits and all the tax forms were filed. **Mark Lighterman** for being the official



*Janice O'Neal*



*Jim Kruse & Kreg Herz*

the best educational seminars yet and completing his ninth year as educational Chairman. **Paul Bender** and **Barb Jones** who took on the huge task of setup and take down. **Gene Trimble** (who worked on many other projects) and **Robert Pardue** for putting on the poker tournament. Four people who have one of the toughest jobs involved with the convention are **Art and Muriel Sanderson** and **Vern and Alice Blanck**. They manned the registration table four straight days and have been fabulous ambassadors for the Club. **Brenda Black** who helped at the registration table for the same four days and **Sandi Steffner** who along side



*Joe Shaw & Doug Saito*

photographer for the ninth consecutive year. **Richard Allard** for taking care of the Club promotion items and awards. **Rich Burgel** who not only handled the Convention publicity but also delivered two great surprise guests for our banquet. To show the growing interest in our hobby Rich had live ABC and FOX remotes from the show floor, one local TV station, and both Las Vegas papers covering the event. **Michael Knapp** for chairing



*Jim Steffner*

husband **Jim** worked the Club membership table throughout the Convention. One of the other toughest jobs most members don't even know exist is the management of all the Club property. **Nick and Andrea Moericke** deliver and pick-up all the showcases, sign uprights and all the other Club property they manage year round. A new twist for this year was the Tropicana gave out room keys promoting the Club and the Convention. This whole idea started with **Robert McCollum** who worked with both the Tropicana and the card manufacturer to make this happen. Three people that contribute more to this Club and Convention than anyone can imagine are **John Yee, Allan Anderson, and Dick Covington**. John and Allan helped design the program, banquet tickets, and provided constant assis-



*Mark Freitag with daughters Pamela and Samantha*



Todd Dingley



Tyrus Mulkey, Katie Smith & Mark Buffon



Wayne Thompson & Belinda Hixon



Skip Harouff



Tom Hartel & Charles Rodgers



Chris Burns

“People Choice Award” for his exhibit “casino quilts”. In the afternoon interested “**Illegal Collectors**” had a meeting and took the first step in forming a new Club chapter. The highlight of the day was the **Annual Club Auction**. As always Bruce Landau, Howdy and Gregg Herz, and the infamous auctioneer Jim Kruse ran a great auction. This year set the record for the highest auction total in Club history at over \$55,000.



tance before the Convention and helped with even the most menial tasks everyday of the Convention. And yes, John Yee convinced the Hard Rock Casino to put out a special chip for the Convention. Dick designed the Tropicana “live” chip, the Poker chips and worked everyday of the

Saturday being the last day of the Convention is always hectic day for everyone. The morning started with our last educational seminar “**Chip slabbing: What is it? How does it work? Why should I care?**” Needless to say attendance was high and a very active discussion took place. Again the bourse floor was full with everyone trying to find those last deals. During the day the “**Slab-Free chapter**” held their first meeting. After a busy day the 2001 Convention floor closed. To end the evening the traders still standing spent a long evening at the “Last Dance Trade Session”. And the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention was history.

Needless to say the success of the Convention is a culmination of a lot of work from a very dedicated group of volunteers who give very freely of their time. It’s always difficult to try and single out

individuals for recognition because there are others who gave a lot but get left out. I do feel that it is important to recognize the Committee chairs that worked on the Convention long before it started. My sincerest thank



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Convention doing whatever task needed done.

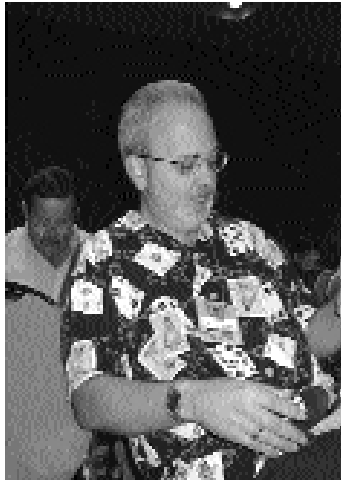
There is one person who does not get near the recognition they deserve. I truly can't say enough about all the work Co-Chair **Belinda Hixon** has done over the last three years. Belinda solicited and scheduled all the volunteers, wrote the Convention program (which has grown from 25 to 70 pages in three years), solicited the ads, and oversaw the design and printing. She also handled all the Convention pre-registrations, banquet reservations, awards, coordinating the educational seminars with the education Chair, preparing the pre-registration packages, and worked with the registration Chairs. And most of all told me when I was wrong! Makes you wonder what I did? Thank you Belinda for three hard years of work and for being a good friend!



*Bud Meyer*



*Bill Neal & Al Poluyanskis*



*Mike Quinlivan*



*Bob Stupak & Jeff Laudeman*



*Mark Lighterman*



*Lisa Jung*

In closing I want to say I have had the pleasure of working with the last Board of Directors for two years who have always been supportive and who have worked very hard to serve the best interests of the members. I also had the pleasure of working for the previous Board who gave me the same support and believed in me enough to name me Convention Chairman. I want to congratulate the new Board, they are already hard at work and I think the Club is getting ready to move to a higher level.

Lastly I want to wish **George and Liz Conrad** the best as they take over the Convention for 2002. They are great people who will do a fabulous job. I hope everyone will step up and offer to volunteer their assistance. Only with everyone's help will the Convention and the Club continue to grow.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you for the last three years!

Wayne Thompson  
Retired Convention Chairman ♦



*Roger Morgan*



*Ken Hallenbeck*



*Jack Weingarten*



*Bill Judge*



*Vince & Bettye Mowery*



*Dick Covington & Michael Knapp*



*Charles Kaplan*



*Jim Rauzy*



*Steve Cutler*



*Steve Covey*



*Keith Reeves*



*Dean Richmond*



*Dave & Debbie Harber*



*The Auction*



*Estelle Hartman & Eileen Landau*



*Jerry Birl*