

# NEWSLETTER

of the Casino Collectibles Association

**FEBRUARY 1, 2021**



Volume 3, Issue 2

Visit us on-line at:  
[www.ccggtcc.com](http://www.ccggtcc.com)

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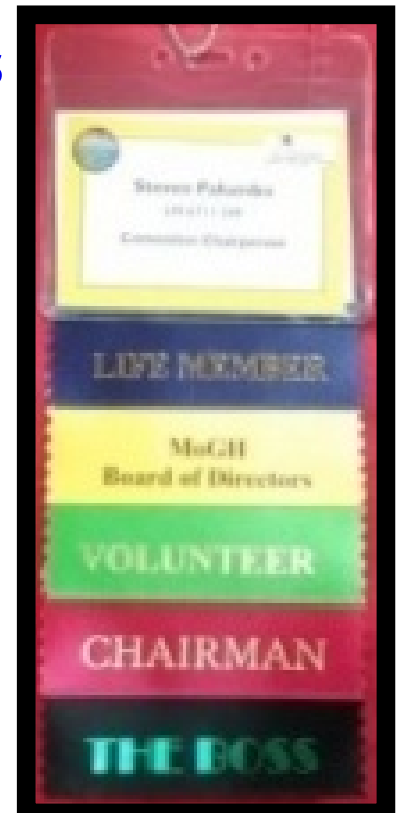
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# CCA OFFICERS

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The **CCA Newsletter** is a monthly publication of the **Casino Collectibles Association**.

Jerry Vergatos - Content Editor

Jim Follis - Copy and Layout Editor

Richard Huber - Distribution Manager

**Current circulation is at: 2251**

**Please invite others to get onto our list by contacting Richard Huber (linked above).**

## **IMPORTANT MAGAZINE (CCN) AD DEADLINES**

**SPRING - FEBRUARY 1**

**SUMMER - MAY 1**

**FALL - AUGUST 1**

**WINTER - NOVEMBER 1**

**Advertising Manager: Nate Pincus**

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## **Thank you to our Contributors...**

Regular Contributors: David Spragg,(On the Docket),Chuck Sikora IV (Suggestion Box), Paul Schaffer (New Releases), Erik Dauplaise (Office Surprise), Roy Nelson (Membership Info), Jerry Vergatos (President's Corner).

Guest Contributors this month:

Robert Baker, Trey Warren, David Spragg, Jim Follis, Bruce and Mary Ann Massey, Brad Smith, Mark Lighterman, Richard Huber, Allan Charles, Robb McPherson, Ken Hallenbeck, and Pam Focazio.



**VOTE** is the word of the day. This year's election cycle shows to be a remarkably interesting one.

The positions of President and Secretary are this

year's focus. It is imperative that all Club members make an informed and knowledgeable decision. As with any election, the future of the Club rests in your vote. It is your vote, that will determine how we proceed. So casting your vote will help solidify your desire for the future of our great Club.

It is important to be completely informed on the candidate positions, and their agendas in fulfilling their positions. The election deadline is May 22, so there is plenty of time for you to make your decision and vote accordingly.

Doug Smith will be moderating a virtual, Town Hall style meeting this month on Zoom. He will be soliciting questions to ask of the candidates, so your participation is needed. The meeting will be limited

to 100 members to observe and will also be recorded, and a link will be placed on the Club's website. This excellent suggestion was made by a Club member and I believe this should be done on a regular basis concerning elections.

This Issue of the CCA Newsletter, and all subsequent issues, leading up to the election deadline, will include the Election Ballot, as well as another ballot for the Greg Susong Award.

The Susong Award is, in my opinion, a very important one, honoring a Club member for their contributions of time and efforts to the Club this past year.

Until the next Issue, I wish everyone to stay Safe and Healthy

Thank You

Jerry Vergatos LM-8093-241  
President

# ON THE DOCKET...

## CCA Board Actions through December, 2020 Presented by David Spragg, CCA Secretary

### Website Revision

The new Club website remains in the process of being written.

Action: No action required

### Claims

For info only, the Claims Director is in receipt of a new Claim which is not yet resolved.

Action: Pending

## CCA Newsletter Announcement...

On behalf of the Staff of the CCA Newsletter, I wish to welcome **Chuck Sikora IV** as our newest Regular Contributor, in charge of managing the Suggestion Box submissions. He has volunteered his time and efforts so that the suggestions made by our readers can be documented and enacted.

Any suggestions must be sent to him directly to Chuck at [ccasuggestionbox@gmail.com](mailto:ccasuggestionbox@gmail.com) in order to accurately and efficiently document your suggestions. Suggestions posted on the message boards do not qualify for this process. Along with any suggestions, you will be asked if you can offer any assistance in implementing your suggestion. It is not a requirement but would greatly contribute to having your suggestion come to fruition in a timely manner.

Jerry Vergatos



# SUGGESTION BOX

## The Suggestion Box, Managed by Chuck Sikora.

The purpose of this Section is to allow all of our viewers a chance to speak up about what they feel may help our Club become even greater. All are welcome to submit to Chuck, any ideas and thoughts. Submissions will be shared here, but they must be sent to Chuck via email to: [ccasuggestionbox@gmail.com](mailto:ccasuggestionbox@gmail.com). This is done so that they can be meticulously organized and implemented, or, forwarded, to the Club's President for appropriate assignments.

Please feel free to offer your assistance in implementing your suggestion. This will ensure that your suggestion can be accomplished much sooner than expected and offer the Club a new benefit. When listed here, Suggestions will be anonymous, so please feel free to express your ideas openly. The suggestions listed will have a disposition to show progress.

### New Items

No new items have been added for this period.

### Prior Items

**Club Magazine** - Due to the high cost of printing the Club's magazine (Casino Collectibles News) it should be made available in digital format only, similar to the CCA Newsletter. Member could then print it, if desired.

**Action** - This suggestion will be discussed at the CCA semi-annual meeting to be held in Mid February, 2021.

**Advertising** - The club should advertise more to increase our visibility in magazines and collectible publications.

**Action**—Matter to be turned over to our new Publicity Chairman Brad Smith for consideration.

**Audits** - To determine the credibility of our Finances

**Action** - An Accounting firm has been contracted to perform a year-end review. Report to be posted upon completion. Estimated date is Mid February, 2021.

## Suggestion Box (continued)

**Inventory** - Storage units to have all items recorded.

**Action** - Jim Follis is presently conducting a systematic record of all contents. Report to be available upon completion.

**Advertising** - Solicitation from Casinos for our Magazine and Convention Program

**Action** - Suggestion was referred to Nate Pincus for consideration and implementation. Outcome pending.

**Memorial** - Establishing an *In Memorandum To...* section in the Club's Newsletter, Magazine and Website.

**Action** - A call to membership for a volunteer to coordinate and gather information has gone without a volunteer. Anyone wishing to get involved please contact Jerry Vergatos at [vergatos@msn.com](mailto:vergatos@msn.com).

The suggestions listed above, do not necessarily include all that were submitted. If your suggestion was not listed please resubmit to [Chuck](#).

Closed items that are suggested will be deleted from this section. Posts on the websites may be overlooked and are not to be construed negatively in any way if they are omitted in the Suggestion Box.

### Thank You Robert Baker...

Robert has been working with *Delcampe*, a collector's website, that boasts over one million members worldwide. Through his actions they have agreed to add our 2021 Convention, "The World's Largest Casino Chip and Collectibles Show", to their agenda of events.

Convention details and the flyer are posted on the *Delcampe* website by clicking their logo, below:



## Recent "New Releases"...

CCA Member Paul Schaffer, advises us that based on data extracted from ChipGuide, these are some of the recent, new releases. Thanks Paul, and Thank You to the ChipGuide Submitters!!!



## Associations

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Tricycle? Baseball? Vacuum cleaner? Blackjack.	Casino chip. Slot token. Headphones? Table felt.	Sofa? Kitten? Headphones? Table felt.	Players card. TITO. Table felt.	Yard work? Trash day? Romantic dinner? Denny's.	Boring. Already? Denny's.	Well, you seem fine to me. I don't know what her problem is. Finally a voice of reason. Thank you.
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# It's time to Nominate for the 2020 CCA OTY Awards!

Hi Fellow CCA'ers,

As shared with you in the January edition of our newsletter, the 2020 OTY nominations window has officially opened & I am currently accepting nominations for your favorite casino collectibles from 2020!

As a reminder the 3 open nomination categories for the CCA OTY Awards are:

1. CCA Chip of the Year (COTY).
2. CCA Silver Strike of the Year (SSOTY). As a point of clarification, this is the CCA Silver Strike contest. There is a separate annual award contest held by the Silver Striker's Club which often causes some confusion. I am a member of both clubs, if you love collecting Silver Strikes and are not already a member, I encourage you to consider joining the Silver Striker's Club. You can find additional information or complete a membership application on Silverstrickers.com if you are interested.
3. CCA Slot Card/Room Key of the Year (CKOTY).

Here are our nomination rules:

- To submit CCA OTY nominations, you must be an active CCA member in good standing.
- Your choices for nominations must have been released in a casino in the year 2020 to be eligible for the 2020 CCA OTY contest.
- Nominations must be received by the deadline to be counted, prior to midnight (CST) March 31st, 2021.
- Due to a lack of physical ballots received for the 2018 contest, we discontinued physical ballots in 2019, we will continue to take all nominations through email only. If you would like to submit a nomination and do not have access to email, please reach out to a fellow CCA Member that can submit your nominations on your behalf.
- After the nomination period has closed, I will publish our finalists in April, along with details on our voting process to choose the final winners that will be announced in June at the 2021 CCA convention.

If you need some help choosing your nominees, here are some images of chips & Silver Strikes that were released this past year, along with some helpful tips on locating images of room keys & player's cards that were released during 2020:

To browse player's cards/rooms keys:

Go to the The ChipGuide. ([www.chipguide.com](http://www.chipguide.com)).

1. Click "ChipGuide Query Facility" from the options under the "Features" section on the left side of the page.
2. In the filter section, for Casino Status, select "Open". There are 2 filters that you will

need to check, for Collectible Type, choose **“Player’s Club (Slot) Cards”**, the Date Range needs to be **“Equal”**, and finally type **“2020”** in the Date 1 section. Then click **“Query”**. After you review the options presented from your first search, you will need change the Collectible Type filter to **“Room Keys”** and click **“Query”** again to see the remaining nomination options.

Please note, credit for these images go to our fellow collectors that are members of both the CCA & Silver Striker’s Club that love our hobby and kindly submitted them to both the Chip Guide & to the Silver Striker’s Club websites. I’d like to offer a special thank you to CCA member Paul Schaffer who collects the new chip release images for our newsletter each month. Since both websites rely our collectors for image submissions, every piece released in 2020 may not be represented at this time. If you notice that a favorite item of yours that was released in a casino in 2020 is missing from the image list or any of the search queries, you are still welcome to nominate the piece for the 2020 CCA OTY Awards contest. Please send a scan of missing item when you submit your completed nomination form.

I have 2 different email addresses that you may send your nominations to:

[OTY@CCGTCC.com](mailto:OTY@CCGTCC.com) and [link2179@juno.com](mailto:link2179@juno.com).

Please submit your 2020 CCA OTY nominations in the following ballot format below (You can copy and paste this table if you wish):

**Don’t forget, your name and CCA Member number must be included!**

I hope that all CCA members will enjoy this year’s contest and send in a nomination! Please stay tuned for additional 2021 CCA OTY Award updates in our newsletter, future issues of the CCA Casino Collectible News, and on our chat boards as well.

Have Fun and Stay Safe!

Chip of the Year (COTY)

	Casino Name	Denom.	Description	City/Locale	State/Country
1.					
2.					
3.					

Silver Strike of the Year (SSOTY)

	Casino Name	Denom.	Description	City/Locale	State/Country
1.					
2.					
3.					

Slot Card/Room Key of the Year (CKOTY)

	Casino Name	Description	City/Locale	State/Country
1.				
2.				
3.				

**EDITOR'S NOTE: The March issue will contain loads of candidate images!**



## CCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP:

- Quarterly magazine - Casino Collectible News
- Access to dozens of books in the club Library.
- Superior trading status - as a member of the CCA, people will be more trusting in their trade transactions with you because they know you're bound by the Code of Ethics. Additionally, members prefer to trade with other members, and in fact, some people will only trade with club members.
- Ability to vote for the Chip Of The Year, Silver Strike Of The Year, Token Of The Year, and Card/Key Of The Year.
- You can pre-register for the convention and get one of the famous goody bags.
- You can attend the Early Bird Banquet before the convention.
- You can be listed in the public, online Club Directory (along with your email and website URL) for others to learn about you and your collecting interests
- You will develop life-long friendships with other club members.
- You receive a membership card and are entitled to use the club logo on your business cards and web pages.
- You get to have a vote in the direction of the most influential organization in the hobby.
- You have access to the full Club Directory that contains many names and addresses not available in the public, online directory.
- You have the honor of belonging to an organization that takes its ethics and codes of conduct very seriously.
- You have the honor of belonging to an organization dedicated to the preservation of part of our nation's history.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

My collection interests are

☐ Chips ☐ Tokens ☐ U.S. ☐ Foreign

I would like you to publish my...

☐ Name and Address ☐ Phone number ☐ Do not publish my name and address

I have enclosed my annual dues for:

☐ One year \$35.00 U.S. ☐ Associate \$5.00 U.S. ☐ Foreign \$48.00 (postal money order or U.S. funds) ☐ Check Here for First Class Postage - Just \$14 more per year to above dues

Foreign mailings are at First Class rate. All other mailings are via third class mail.

Annual dues will be renewable in the same quarter in which the membership application was processed. Check our address labels for your membership expiration dates.

Mail your completed application with your check made payable to CCA to:

CCA Membership Officer

**Roy Nelson**

4338 Grey Spencer Dr  
Las Vegas, NV 89141

Or apply online with your credit card at [www.ccgfcc.com](http://www.ccgfcc.com)

**Join the CCA today!**

Tap or click the membership application on the left to download a printable Membership Application form.

Or, do the same **HERE** to immediately visit the CCA's online Membership Application page and join right now!



**Are you a Member of the CCA?  
Want to learn more? Please use  
the QR Code, at right, with your  
hand held, to visit the CCA's  
Membership Application Page.**



# FAREWELL TO OUR GOOD FRIEND

## Steve Palumbo



A tribute to Steve Palumbo – collector extraordinaire and a lot more. By David Spragg.

Steve's passing has left me and no doubt many others somewhat in a state of shock. He has been one of my closest friends for over 15 years, having been introduced to him by Gene Trimble shortly after I joined the Club.

Steven (Loretta would never call him Steve) was a wonderful person and had a very close family. He worked hard and played hard.

Anyone who has seen Steve's exhibits or his many themed collections that fill the walls of his house will understand he went to extreme lengths to secure rare items I've never seen elsewhere. He seemed to have a contact for everything and his organisational skills will be missed.

As well as our close involvement with many things club related, Steve used to take care of a lot of my business interests in Vegas, looked in on Gene [Trimble], and took care of my house after Gene passed. We also spent a lot of time socialising and Steve liked his food. Aside from the many meals in the Silverado Steak House, going back to the pre-South Point days we would eat anywhere from the Bellagio Steak House or Café De Paris at Venetian to most of the drive thru McDonalds in Vegas. The social aspects stand out from all that.

On most of my trips for the last 10 years or so we took a few road chips, some but not all chip related, Area 51 from both directions looking for souvenirs (and genuine antiques) for his collection, the atomic exhibit, and the 2020 cancelled convention for which aliens was the theme. Multiple trips out to Mesquite and Laughlin, and sightseeing trips to Nelson, Rhyolite, not forgetting the worlds largest sweet shop, circling most of Lake Mead including off road (plenty of off road around Area 51 also). Most of the large rental vehicles I got tended to be white to start with and got returned in a range from sand gray to black. Notably when we took an excursion into Death Valley from Armagosa. Many of these trips would start at 10am and finish well after midnight as typically Steve thought that was a good time to pick up chips on the way home. One Sunday trip even ended up with breakfast on the strip as we were so late, with Steve going straight into Marshall's to work. When I asked if anyone would notice he had the same clothes on he simply required "not a problem, I have a whole store full of clothes"). I've recounted a couple of notable trips below.

As many may know, there is a gas station out on the Paiute reservation where you can buy fireworks and let them off out back. On the way back from a road trip out to Area 51 via Crystal Springs we stopped by just as it's getting dark. Steve negotiates a deal where we buy a whole shopping cart of the items they don't seem to be selling for a couple hundred bucks and we proceed to set up rocket tubes and grenade launchers pointing in all directions and provide everyone with a display for the next 2 hours. When we got back to the house, Loretta said 'well, I know where you two have been'.

Steve knew every trick in the book when it came to obtaining new releases.

My trips to Vegas around Superbowl show time usually coincided with the release of Chinese New Year chips. Back when the Harrah's properties all issued chips many were tough to obtain. We used to go out and trek up and down the strip at night until Steve's father couldn't walk any more. Once in Bally's the cage told us they were only given out by VIP hosts and they called one down. This guy arrived with a box of them. Told us he couldn't give that many away to 3 people so we offered to pay and he let us have 50! On another occasion at the Flamingo we were told limit 3 chips per person per 24 hours. After waiting a while and trying other windows without success, we walked out back and swapped clothes, hats, glasses etc. and it worked. Next day we brought a bag of spare clothes and got the rest. He also had a hot line to someone in the cage at Palace Station who would text him if someone cashed one in (the chips used to hang in red envelopes from a tree in the pit and were given to VIP players). He was continually rushing back and forth to Palace to pick up maybe one or two chips a time before his friends shift ended each day.

Steven, we will all miss you.

#### On a Personal Note ... by Jerry Vergatos

The recent news of the passing of Steve Palumbo struck me particularly hard. When I think of all our great Club members Steve was always at the top of the list. He was soft spoken, kindhearted, fair and honest.

We would often have a meal together and not once did he ever speak ill of anyone. He was that kind of a person. He always volunteered to help with his time and money. He loved his family, friends, and the Club.

What I found most enjoyable was his quick wit especially when it came to putting labels on me. His best one was when he tagged me as "Jerry "sack of donuts" Vergatos" because of my fondness for jelly donuts. He had other ones but that one stuck.

Our Club has lost a great friend and I will miss him.

In moments like this I believe that as long as he is in our hearts and minds he will never really be gone.

Rest in peace my friend.





**L-R at the Plaza MoGH Exhibit. Steve, Doug Smith, Neal Silverman, Jim Follis**



**L-R at the Nevada State Museum MoGH Exhibit. Pam Focazio, Casey Focazio-Follis,, Jim Follis, Steve**



**On the road in Nevada with David Spragg.**



**Steve adjusting the "Cheater Devices" Exhibit at the Nevada State Museum.**



**L-R at the Nevada State Museum MoGH Exhibit. Jim Follis, Ross Poppel, Ted Whiting, Casey Focazio-Follis, Steve, Pam Focazio.**

## Recognize this webpage?...

ChipGuide - A Catalog of Casino Chips and Collectibles

# The ChipGuide



Quick Select - Region:  State:

Total Items on the ChipGuide = 264,982 as of 1 February 2021

You can help the MoGH achieve greater success in our efforts to add more content. This recent screen shot shows 264,982 images are currently on ChipGuide. But we have plenty of room for more. Do you have scans of casino memorabilia and collectibles that could be added? If so, please visit the site and offer your scans by clicking on "SUBMISSIONS."



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Novel Museum Concept Expanding in Las Vegas**

*Museum of Gaming History adds new exhibit at National Atomic Testing Museum*

**LAS VEGAS, Nevada (January xx, 2020)**— Adding to the unique flavor and experience that is Las Vegas, attendance at novel museums in the city has exploded over the past few years. One of the newest niche museum offerings, the Museum of Gaming History (MoGH) offers a unique reason for visitors and casino history enthusiasts to explore more of Las Vegas, viewing it through the lens of the city's past. The MoGH sponsors seven unique gaming memorabilia exhibits located all over town, and recently added an eighth exhibit at the [National Atomic Testing Museum](#) (NATM).

The new Museum of Gaming History exhibit captures 1950s nuclear testing and the resulting “atomic tourism” decade of the Las Vegas gaming industry, the country's 1960s obsession with UFOs, Area 51 and alien pop culture, and how casinos cashed in on star travel fascination of the 1970s and 1980s to attract visitors.

The National Atomic Testing Museum (NATM), a Smithsonian Affiliate, is a national science, history and educational foundation that tells the story of America's nuclear weapons testing program at the Nevada Test Site. The museum is located at 755 E. Flamingo Road.

Dubbed the “Trail of the MoGH”, visitors can learn more about the other seven Museum of Gaming History exhibits at <http://museumofgaminghistory.org/mogh.php?p=exhibit>.

###

## **ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF GAMING HISTORY**

The [Museum of Gaming History](#) is an educational project of the [Casino Collectables Association](#), a non-profit 501 (c)(3) club devoted to the fast-growing hobby of

*collecting casino memorabilia. With the mission of preserving gaming history, the Museum of Gaming History is currently an expanding series of kiosk exhibits in Las Vegas located within The El Cortez and Plaza casinos, the Nevada State, Mob and Neon Museums, and now the National Atomic Testing Museum. A single permanent location is the ultimate goal.*

*The world's largest casino chip and token collection, as recognized by Guinness World Records, will proudly be on display at the Casino Collectibles Association's annual show June 17-19, 2021, at the South Point Casino in Las Vegas. Featuring dealers and exhibitors of casino memorabilia from all over the world, the convention is open to the public.*

*Editor's note: The Casino Collectables Association is the dba of the Casino Chip & Gaming Token Collectors Club.*



**Photo Caption:**The new Museum of Gaming History exhibit at the National Atomic Testing Museum in Las Vegas gives visitors a glimpse at how the gaming industry of Las Vegas used the A-bomb testing in the 1950s as “atomic tourism”.

For Additional Information, contact:

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PR Director for CCA and MoGH

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## 2021 CCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION NOMINATIONS RESULTS

The nominations for the 2021 CCA Officers and Board of Directors have been submitted and tallied. 18 valid nomination forms were received; none were voided.

One member received one nomination for President and three members received one nomination for Secretary. Per the CCA Constitution, a member must receive two nominations to be eligible to run for Office.

The members shown below received a minimum of two nominations from current CCA members, per the requirements, for the CCA Board of Directors' positions shown.

President: Steve Bedo / Mark Lighterman / Jerry Vergatos

Secretary: Rich Huber / David Spragg

- Steve Bedo declined the nomination for President.
- Mark Lighterman and Jerry Vergatos accepted their nominations for President.
- Rich Huber and David Spragg accepted their nominations for Secretary.

The Election Ballot, for the positions of President and Secretary will be included in the next issue of the CCN magazine and posted on the CCA's web site Home Page.

Respectfully Submitted,

BRUCE & MARY ANN MASSEY,  
CCA Election Co-Chairmen

## **Thank you Bruce and Mary Ann!**

The following pages are Campaign Statements. as provided by the 4 Nominees, in the order they appear on the Ballot. The Ballot, while available via the Club's upcoming, magazine and on the Club's website, we are providing a copy here, (following the Statements) as well as a link to the version on the Club's website. Should that link fail, please go directly to:  
<http://www.ccgccc.com/2021election.pdf> to download a .pdf version of the Ballot.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following Candidate Statements are presented here, as provided by the candidates. They have not been edited, nor modified.

# A Special Election Announcement:

The first ever virtual "Town Hall" meetings between CCA BOD candidates have been scheduled.

The CCA Invites you to attend a question and answer session between the candidates for President, as well as a second one between candidates for Club Secretary.

The first Town Hall will take place on February 14th at 2:00 CST and features Presidential Candidates Jerry Vergatos and Mark Lighterman.

The second Town Hall is scheduled a week later for February 21st and features Secretarial Candidates David Spragg and Richard Huber.

I have been asked to serve as the Moderator for both events and will be asking questions submitted by the membership to each candidate.

I ask that anyone wanting to submit questions for the event, email me privately at [Msmith310@aol.com](mailto:Msmith310@aol.com)

I will gather and organize all questions, so that similar questions can be grouped and give both candidates a chance to answer fully.

I respectfully request that questions be unbiased, and feature wording that is suitable for BOTH candidates in each meeting, and in such a manor as to not attack any individual candidate.

These meetings will take place on ZOOM. For those not familiar with ZOOM, you don not need to have an account and anyone can log in with the proper information on their personal computer, tablet or smart phone.

Information with the link, Meeting ID and Password will be posted on the Club's Website at [www.ccgccc.com](http://www.ccgccc.com) on Saturday February 13th and 20th, one day prior to each meeting. If you would like to attend this virtual event, please check the Club message board for the needed info prior to the meeting days.

For those not able to attend, the<sup>18</sup> entirety of the meetings will be recorded and posted on the Club website, so don't worry if you can't make it live.

I look forward to a lively discussion between the candidates and an opportunity to hear what each has to say in advance of voting for these important positions.

Douglas SmithLM-3209-147 [msmith310@aol.com](mailto:msmith310@aol.com)

## **PRESIDENT - MARK LIGHTERMAN**

### **My platform**

**The future of our club is in the balance! As many of you know I have been around this club since its inception holding charter membership number Ch-006. But what many of you might not know is I have been involved with many non-profit organizations for years holding every office, from president to membership officer.**

**What do these organizations all have in common? They are all 501c3 tax exempt. This is special and there are many rules that need to be followed and that is what each of those boards have taught me.**

### **Expertise**

**Yes we all want to have fun within our club and I, as well as the other members, enjoy our time each year at our annual convention but clubs like ours have two faces. One that keeps the members happy, educates us on the hobby we all love and allows interactions that allow us to grow. There is another face which most members do not see and that is the day-to-day operations of the club. This face allows us to provide all the other services the members want.**

**Are the concerns I see unique to our club. No but as other clubs have learned and corrected their strategic plans moving forward, I have learned from those ideas and that is what I will bring to the table.**

**A. Transparency is one of the first things I would like to see happen. Most of the other clubs I have served on hold open board meetings. ANA which has a monthly board meeting holds both open and closed sessions. We should be doing the same. The membership needs to be informed.**

**B. More input from experts. Right now if anyone wants to be more involved with the club's function they must run for the board and at the very start hold a position that requires a major commitment of time and energy just to fulfill their job description. Why not appoint**



**a committee to learn the inner workings of our club to advise and to make our club stronger.**

**C. We have a lot of past officers who in their own right have been in the trenches and are willing to help. Other clubs have advisory committees made up of those individuals willing to continue to help. They have seen what has been tried before and either worked, failed or was not feasible at the time they were suggested. Let's learn from them to build on what they themselves help build.**

**D. History. As with coins, stamps, tokens and medals the best response to new collectors is through the history of those items they collect. Outside of our magazine and small exhibits setup throughout only the Las Vegas area we are not educating those in the rest of the country about the history they are holding in their hand. Bring the education to them and they will surly come to us for more.**

**E. Membership and the growth of the club is the key to our survival! Every Club, not just ours, are seeing a decline in membership. Why? Our membership is designed around a hobby that most youth can not easily collect without help from others. Thus we are in a unique position.**

**The general trend is that most collectors who start out as youths, drop out, then pick up collecting later in life. Our membership is drawn from a different pool. They are drawn from those who are old enough to enter a casino or card room. This should be our target area. For my work in recruitment for the ANA, I was awarded the John and Nancy Wilson Member Booster Award in 2017**

**For my love of the hobby this is just a small sample of what I will bring to the table.**

# PRESIDENT - JERRY VERGATOS

## Campaign Statement Jerry Vergatos President

This election cycle is upon us and proves to be a remarkably interesting one. My position in this election is to convey on how I perceive my Duties and Responsibilities as President presently and in the future.

I believe that for our Club to survive and prosper the President must be totally involved in all aspects of the CCA. To do so I have committed myself to a great deal of time and effort. Any less effort on anyone's part would be to the detriment of our Club. I have had many success's and a few failures. I have learned from those failures in that those failures can be turned into success's when there is an effort to find a different path to success.

Being accessible is also a virtue a President must have. I have always tried to be there for any member who reaches out to me. I make it a point to never turn down any assistance needed by any member.

You as club members must ask yourselves what you want out of our club. Many Club members desire to return to the old days when the club was thriving. Those days have given us great memories, but it is the future that is important now. We must embrace new ways, or we will never grow.

I have posted 5 President's messages on the Club board and have recopied them in part here.

*I wish to thank all the club members who over the past 4 years have supported me in all my efforts. I hope that they will continue that support and cast their vote for me this time around.*

*I have involved myself in almost every aspect of the club in my 10 plus years as a member. When I knew of a need for my help I got involved. I have never turned down any request to help when I was asked. I have donated my time, resources, and money to what I believe to be the best organization in the world.*

*My commitment has always been, to be honest, trustworthy, transparent, and straight forward in all my dealings. It is important that as members we have a reality check on our club. In the past, our membership was at 3500+ possibly more. Our current membership is currently under 1100.*

*We have been spiraling down every year for the past 10+ years. The reasons can vary, age of our members, lack of interest, the economy, passing of members, and I am sure of many other reasons.*

*At that rate we are losing members there may well not be a club around in 5 to 6 years. Our club is also losing money from the lack of membership and because of the canceling of the convention.*

*The only way I know how to solve these issues is to address them directly and indirectly.*

*I would like to tell you what I have done to increase **Membership** and what I plan on doing for our Club*

*With our membership declining year after year,<sup>20</sup> I felt that I must also contribute my time and resources to stop the spiraling down of our numbers.*

*In the last 4 years, I have conducted 7 membership recruiting events which have directly and indirectly brought in 100+ new members. In the past, I have partnered with Michael Spinetti, Rick Lonski, Doug*

*Smith, Rich Klabacha, Rich Burgel, Roy Nelson, and Steve Palumbo who have all donated promotional items for me to offer as incentives to join our Club.*

*The membership drives aside from bringing in new members has helped get our name out to the public. I have always felt that these types of events promote our club in a very positive way. In General*

*our recruiting should be a duty for all our Club members if we are to survive. I want to set the example so that our members will see with a little effort we can increase our membership.*

*It is not an easy task but one that must be addressed. Any Club member who shows an interest in doing some recruiting can contact me for my ideas and procedures. If time permits I may even join you wherever you are.*

*In the future, I will continue to host the recruiting events as is allowed after the COVID-19 virus is under control. I had planned to conduct my next one at the ANA show in Phoenix, but it was canceled.*

*One program that I would like to see is an enhanced version of our mentoring program. Once a new member has joined they are automatically assigned to a mentor.*

*The mentor would then have the responsibility of reaching out to the new member to connect with them to see their particular interest and expectations. That mentor could direct the new member to other Club members and help explain all the benefits that our club could offer. The main goal is to make the new member feel like they are not alone. Mentors would be assigned a territory of 2 to 3 states in order to spread out the work.*

*I would also like any new members to be allowed free access to their first convention to see what we are all about. I would have them given a red badge for them to be acknowledged by all Club members and the dealers. I am always open to assisting in any way I can to gain members. Please let me what you have in mind and let's make it happen. I have the time and motivation.*

**Museum of Gaming History (MoGH)***I have for the past 5+ years held the position of Membership Director. I have held that position before I became President of the CCA and continue to perform the duties that are required. Also as President of the CCA. I am the liaison officer between the MoGH and CCA Boards.*

*Since joining the MoGH I have consummated 4 additional exhibits throughout the Las Vegas Area. I have negotiated costs for most of our display cases at substantial savings to the Club. I partnered with the MoGH Promotions Chair to produce and sell promotional items as a source of income for our future needs.*

*When the MoGH was in the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce I was attending their member forums making contacts and seeking corporate memberships at least 3 times a month.*

*One of my greatest achievements was my ability to acquire free passes to the Mob Museum (600 passes), Neon Museum (600 passes), and the National Atomic Testing Museum. (300 passes). The passes have a total dollar value of \$36,570. These passes were given to Club*

volunteers, as prizes at auctions, Banquet attendees, and any Club member who requested them. To my knowledge, no one was ever been turned away. I was able to distribute all the passes for at least 3 years on behalf of the MoGH as a way of showing appreciation for supporting the Club.

Concerning my Membership position in my 5+ years, I have increased the Gold and Life Membership Levels by over 300% through marketing and presenting a positive and passionate attitude. As in all my actions, I have never turned down any requests for my assistance.

I truly believe that the MoGH will be our lasting legacy and that we must set goals to preserve it. Our greatest asset is the ChipGuide. The amount of work that has gone into it is beyond belief. In recent events, the possibility of lawsuits has made me very concerned. The enactment of the safeguard in placing a DMCA copyright infringement action is the best way to protect our most valued asset. The enactment of that action I feel should be decided by a majority vote of the MoGH Board and not one individual. The claim of bias would then be eliminated and if the majority approved the enactment of the DMCA then it would be a decision made with a full understanding of the board. To clarify my position, I am all for protecting our rights I just do not want to have any legal action brought before the Club. As President, the financial stability of the Club is also my concern.

**The CCA Hall of Fame (HOF)** This institution has members of the Club that have distinguished themselves through their efforts and integrity as well as the hobby. The Hall of Fame members decide amongst themselves who is to be inducted to receive the Clubs highest award. Currently, there are 29 members in the Hall of Fame.

Last June when it was announced in the CCA Club Newsletter Awards edition that there were no Club members to be inducted into the HOF. Subsequently, I received 5 emails from Club members concerned about why no one was chosen. The matter was brought up to the Board and it was agreed that I as President should write an email to Mark Lighterman the HOF Chairman. The email expressed concern that the process of selecting inductees was flawed. The recommendation in the email to Mark stated was that the HOF should reevaluate their process and make the necessary changes to allow any qualified Club members to be inducted. That email seemed to have irked a few members as an intrusion into this sacred institution. My intent in the letter was not to be involved in their process nor did I offer any recommendation on revisions as well as not recommend anyone. All I was asking for them to analyze and revise it.

MY personal opinion is that there should be at least 10 members who should have been inducted by now. I won't name them. Having spoken to a few HOF members privately they also agreed that there were members that have been overlooked.

My Hopes are that they deliberate and acknowledge the many great members who have contributed to the success of our Club. They deserve the recognition. Also, I believe our Hall of Famer's could play a very positive role in mentoring our new members. I hope that they are just as concerned about this as I am and try and come up with a more inclusive process.

**Local Clubs.** I believe that Local Clubs although not affiliated with the CCA are an important part of our hobby. Many of our members are also members of these clubs. The Local Clubs have many advantages in keeping in touch socially as well as for collecting. Many years ago there were CCA Chapters all over the country but due to certain government restrictions, they

were disbanded. Many became independent clubs and are still around today. Their membership numbers are very small and some could be on the verge of also disbanding due to lack of interest and participation. This is something I find disheartening as they are individuals with a common thread that should not vanish.

I am the President of the Southern Nevada Casino Collectibles Club (SNCCC) I became President of this club 3 years ago because no one wanted to step up and take on a leadership role. The SNCCC has over two hundred members of which over half are also CCA Members. When I first became President there were approximately 58 members today that number is over 200. This was accomplished by promoting the activities and events that we host. We have had Field trips to historic locations in Las Vegas and Nevada, Monthly meetings with an auction and raffle, Guest Speakers, Door Prizes. and sellers are also allowed to have a table to promote their merchandise at no charge. Currently, the entire SNCCC board is made up of CCA members. I have been able to negotiate our meeting room located at the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino for the last three years for no cost.

I am also the President of the Silver Strikers Club for the last year. Although not as large as the CCA with 400+ members approximately 185 are members of the CCA. Also, 3 of the 5 board members are also CCA Members. My duties there are limited as their activities are mainly focused on a couple of annual events and the issuing of Silver Strikes. I have helped increase their membership by 25+ members since taking office as I would like to see this club continue. I was a Silver Strike collector before I became interested in Casino Chips and other memorabilia. I currently have over 200 silver Strikes in my collection with a particular interest in Baseball themes.

I have memberships in three other clubs with ties to the Collecting hobby as well. The Colorado Collectors Club, the Slot Card Club and the American Numismatic Association (ANA) My thought is that as an avid collector I like being involved with other clubs in any way. I find it very interesting and educational.

I have heard some say that I have a conflict of interest being involved with these organizations. To me, that is a baseless claim. I do not believe that any club today will survive without active participation including ours. The same is true for these other clubs. My feelings are that if members of these clubs can see a similarity and possibly a connection they may want to join our club and vice versa.

This is one of the reasons that we have a local club section in the Newsletter as well as the Club Magazine. The fact that the contact list for the Newsletter is 2200+ (CCA Club membership 1075) is a testament that many other of these club members are interested in our club.

Indirectly bridging these clubs may offer opportunities for us to increase our membership as well as theirs.

I would also like to encourage our Club members to start a local club in their city. If you need any information please do not hesitate to call me to help you.

In the next edition of the Newsletter, I will have more items on my platform to show everyone the extent of my passion and commitment in making this a greater Club than it already is.

***I ask for your vote to let me continue on the work that I have started.***



# Re-Elect

## Jerry Vergatos for President

This election cycle is upon us and proves to be a remarkably interesting one. My wish in this election is to convey on how I perceive my Duties and Responsibilities as President presently and in the future.

I believe that for our Club to survive and prosper the President must be totally involved in all aspects of the CCA. To do so I have committed myself to a great deal of time and effort. Any less effort on anyone's part would be to the detriment of our Club. I have had many success's and a few failures. I have learned from those failures in that those failures can be turned into success's when there is an effort to find a different path to success.

Being accessible is also a virtue a President must have. I have always tried to be there for any member who reaches out to me. I make it a point to never turn down any assistance needed by any member.

You as Club members must ask yourselves what you want out of our Club? Many Club members desire to return to the old days when the club was thriving. Those days have given us great memories, but it is the future that is important now. We must embrace new ways, or we will never grow.

I have posted many President's Messages on the Club Board that explain in detail my positions on all the important facets I am concerned with. Please take the time to read them and see my commitment to helping the Club grow.

As a responsible Member you should set aside personal preferences and see the experience and achievements of the candidates, only then will you realize the importance of this election and who to choose. I believe I am that person.

Your choice on how the Club proceeds rest with your vote.

I ask for your vote to let me continue our path to success

Thank You  
Jerry Vergatos LM-8093-241  
President



## **SECRETARY - RICHARD HUBER**

Richard Huber LM-3053-226

CCA Secretary Candidate

I have received and accepted the nomination to run for the office of CCA Secretary. Several people must think I can help make a difference for the good of the CCA, so I welcome the chance to take on the challenge. Also I believe if one is in office too long they tend to become complacent and along with a newly elected officer, comes new ideas.

My name is Richard Huber and I joined the CCA, formerly CC&GTCC in January of 1997. In May of 2008 I became LM-3053-226. My collecting interests are chips from Laughlin, NV and Large Crown chips.

I am married with two children and one grandchild. I served in the US Army from 1960-1962. In 1965 I was hired by IBM and worked there before retiring in 2007. In 2014 I was appointed to take over the position of Membership Officer. While I was Membership Officer, I upgraded the database to run on Microsoft Excel and worked hard to update the emails of our membership. I served as Membership Officer till 2018. This past year after our convention was canceled I did fundraising by organizing a quarterly poker tournament, raising approximately \$1,140 for the CCA. I plan on continuing that fundraiser.

Enough about me, but what can I hope to accomplish as your Secretary. My platform is simple and straight-forward. I am just expanding on the Secretary's position.

I will ensure the Secretary's meeting reports are posted on our website in a timely manner, also that all other pertinent information gets posted as I see several key items missing.

Individuals that are responsible for that information should be able to post (or get posted) those items in a timely manner and I will do what is needed to speed that process up. Also, sadly in the members directory we still have former members listed, even though someone was assigned the task to remove former or deceased members. This needs to be rectified.

I will work to ensure the launching of a new website. This has been on the table since I was Membership Officer. I ask myself and maybe you should also, why hasn't one been launched? The new web site must be easy to use, yet should appeal to a younger generation.

Membership is everyone's responsibility, not just one person. I will certainly do my part and also work with and help the Membership Officer in any way He may need.

I have seen questions raised on the issue of "*what to do with my collection after I am gone*". I will work, along with the help of other members to put together some documentation to help CCA members with that very issue and get it on the new website.

The Secretary's duties are minimal, yet I am unclear who is doing this: *Conduct the Club's official correspondence and serve as the Club's prime contact on all inquiries* (needs clarifying - how is the secretary contacted, mail, telephone, etc.). I was under the impression we have an 800 number now, but who answers it and who gets the mail? This is something that I will take over, unless the current Secretary is handling and then of course I will inherit if elected.

I will also take on tasks that may be assigned to me by the CCA President.

Yours Truly

Richard Huber LM-3053-226



## SECRETARY - DAVID SPRAGG



### David Spragg – Candidate Statement

I have been a club member for almost 18 years, and have served the club in various official capacities for 15 of those, including as your current Secretary on the Board of Directors for the past 10 years.

I have been involved in many fundraising activities for the Club and Museum right from efforts to raise the initial \$50,000 'seed money' for the Museum through to soliciting a very recent donation, not yet publicly disclosed, to the value of over a quarter of a million dollars.

I have also been your auction chairman for the past 12 years, gradually soliciting a higher proportion of donated lots, to maintain this event as the Club's largest single fundraiser.

I served as the Club Webmaster for 15 years until in October of last year the decision was taken to redevelop the Club website. The Club President appointed himself to the overseeing role, indicating the new site did not require a webmaster. Since that time I have not been contacted nor heard anything about the new website so I have no idea what future involvement I may have.

I am very active in many aspects of the hobby, both online and in person and am also very active on Poker Chip Forum (PCF)

where there is a considerable crossover between poker and casino chip collectors. As most of you will know I have also published, on my own and with others, a number of books including The Chip Rack. I speak to several hundred Club members on a very regular basis.

It is my belief that any volunteers standing for the important position of Board Directors should be fully invested in the hobby, understand the market, and know what members & collectors expect. This includes being well acquainted with the major players in the hobby, including dealers, as their actions influence the entire economics of the chip market, which is fundamental to the Club's existence right now. Directors should be sufficiently knowledgeable to be able to understand these factors and advise or challenge the other Board members when necessary.

Our target audience, in terms of shows, exhibits and publicity should not be restricted to Las Vegas. I feel we have neglected anything outside this area and hope to address this soon. The typical collector is not the typical Las Vegas gambler. It is important that the Club demonstrates the value to becoming a member anywhere.

Your vote is very important. Not nearly enough club members use their officer election vote, only around 15% of members voted the last time we had a contested election. I urge you to vote for me to continue this forward journey.





# *Vote* **David Spragg for Secretary**

## **My background**

Prior to taking the decision, for personal reasons, to become involved in the chip hobby as a full time pursuit, I was a Management Consultant with KPMG. Amongst my other qualifications from 40 years in business, I qualified as a CA in 1988.

Below I lay out the reasons I believe my experience is invaluable to the governance and direction of the club.

## **What I've done for the club**

I have been fully active in the club since my joining 18 years ago, serving in a number of positions including Auction Chairman since 2008, your current Club Secretary for the past 10 years and I served as the Club Webmaster from 2005 to late 2020 when I was told a webmaster was no longer required.

During this period I have organized or been involved with many major fundraising activities for the Club and MoGH, not least the annual auction which is the largest single generator of a cash surplus for the club every year. I also incur significant costs of my own on behalf of the club, many of which are not reimbursed. Without my involvement we may well have been in a precarious position by now.

## **What I've done for the hobby**

I own and operate the most prominent communication device for the hobby by way of the ChipBoard and its associated forums and I jointly own and organize the annual Superbowl chip show.

I have been the joint publisher of The Chip Rack for the last 11 Editions and have published several other books and many research articles on the hobby. I created and developed the Preserving Gaming History website, initially a medium to publish old manufacturers records, and am a very active collector of illegal gaming chips and manufacturer's samples.

I maintain a major presence as both a collector and chip dealer in person at all major shows, and through my various websites and forums.

## **Moving forward**

It is important that the Board of Directors maintains close contact with the membership and that Officers are fully involved with the hobby. I talk to several hundred of the clubs members on a regular basis and am aware of what the membership wants and expects from the club. I have a thorough working knowledge of the hobby and Board of Director functions, something which allows me to robustly challenge ill-informed opinions. The Club needs to be governed by Officers who when necessary will challenge the opinions and decisions of other BoD members.

For many reasons, just like most other collectors clubs, we have been in decline for some years. A large part of this I feel is our neglect of anything outside Las Vegas, or even Nevada. Hopefully this is something we can address soon. There is a huge untapped market out there. Our target area is not the typical Las Vegas gambler

## **Your vote**

Your vote is very important. Not nearly enough club members use their officer election vote, only around 15% of members voted the last time we had a contested election. I urge you to vote for me to continue this forward journey.





**The Casino Collectibles Association  
2021 OFFICIAL ELECTION BALLOT**

Cast my vote for the following CCA Member in Good Standing for a 2-year term to the office as shown. [One vote per position.]

**President:**

☐ Mark Lighterman

☐ Jerry Vergatos

**Membership Officer:**

☐ Richard Huber

☐ David Spragg

PLEASE RETURN BALLOT TO:  
BRUCE & MARY ANN MASSEY, ELECTION CO-CHAIRPERSONS  
9705 WHITE CLOUD DR., LAS VEGAS, NV 89134

**IMPORTANT: On the rear of the envelope put the name(s) and membership number(s) of all Members and Associate Members whose ballot(s) are enclosed. Failure to do so will void the ballot(s) contained in the envelope.**

**NO E-MAILED BALLOTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

**Postmark Deadline: Saturday, May 22, 2021**

**(Received by Saturday, May 29, 2021)**

# Museum of Gaming History Membership Report

Our MoGH Membership upgrade program continues to grow. The Board of Directors of the Museum of Gaming History wishes to thank the following members for their financial commitment in helping to support our many ongoing and new projects.

## Life Members

Jerry Vergatos	Tom Lopez	Don Priff
Malcom McNeil	Steve Palumbo	Chris Carlson
Robert Pardue	Ron Gaudette	Steve Miller
Michael Gersie	Mike Spinetti	David Loriso
Ann Gersie	Doug Smith	Fred Bergman
Tony Kreusch	Chuck Sikora IV	Jim Steffner
James Love	Mike Skelton	Mike Quinlivan
Gary Kruehl	Neal Silverman	Jim Kruse
Wayne Thompson	Charles Kaplan	Andy Hughes
Jonathan Ullman	Geoff Schumacher	Barry Hauptman
Steve Kuska	Mike Nawrocki	Alex Cilento
Brad Smith	David Sarles	

## Gold Members

Ken Kendra	Eduardo Estabanez	Erik Isackson
Alan Schuyler	Nate Pincus	Terry Vaughan
Rich Burgel	Ross Poppel	Rick Peterson
Steve Lauber	Paul Liscio	Eric Dauplaise
Michael Blishak	Tom Pleau	Carey Burke
Dennis Lee	Roy Nelson	Jay Sands
Dennis Page	Ted Whiting	Jim Follis
Sharon Cox	George Dmitrevski	Donald Durnin
Bud Myer	Allan Anderson	James Hogg
Sharon Nickson Cox	Michael Hennessey	Herman Rush
Jim Dalzell		

## Please Join Us....

Your support is needed for the MoGH to continue to grow and succeed in our quest to someday have an actual museum. One that will carry our name forward, and one that we can be proud of.

Please contact me if you wish to upgrade your already existing membership at [vergatos@msn.com](mailto:vergatos@msn.com) for further details

Jerry Vergatos MoGH LM-0001

Membership Director

**ATTN: Gold Members.** Your annual dues are likely due now as the majority of you renew during and at, the Annual Convention. Be on the lookout for a reminder email. Thank you



## Casino Collectibles News - Errata

In Volume 33, Issue 4, page 33, an error appeared to Michael Siskin's article pertaining to Playing Card Back Designs. Below is how page 33 should have appeared. This correction will also appear in the next issue of the magazine.





## Local Club Activities....

The following is provided solely for educational and entertainment purposes and should not be construed as an endorsement of any person or entity of the Casino Collectibles Association and/or any related entity.

The **SNCCC's** Monthly 2nd Tuesday meeting at the Gold Coast Hotel & Casino, is canceled for the February 2021. We are planning to resume in March.

January was Officer Installation month, which was essentially, virtual! Congratulations to the 2021 slate of SNCCC Officers, as noted on these Club chips.



## News from the Colorado Casino Collectors Club...

To all you faithful:

Our meetings of the Colorado Casino Collectors are at the American Legion Post 21, 500 9th Street, Golden, CO 80401 as usual.

Good news is that I've scheduled all the six meeting for 2021 at this same place. They are the 3rd Sunday of every other month.

Save the following dates:

March 21, 2021    September 19, 2021

May 16, 2021    November 21, 2021

July 18, 2021

Masks and social distancing are expected.

Hopefully we'll have another good meeting.

Ken Hallenbeck

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## The Silver Strike Program Rekindled

The Silver Strike program dwindled all the way down to just two casinos left with any silver strike machines in 2018. The Four Queens Casino and the El Cortez Casino. While the El Cortez is down to one machine, Shaun Webster has been busy adding more machines to his inventory and even added one that would allow you to win a \$40 Strike.

Since that period in 2018, we have turned the corner, while ever so slightly, it is a sign hopefully that more will follow. The Route 66 Casino in Albuquerque, New Mexico started that turn by installing two machines in the summer of 2019 and issuing four clad designs. In October 2019 a coloured strike of one of the designs was released in a blue capsule. Silver Strikers were once again rewarded with the Plaza Casino coming on board in January 2020. The Plaza also installed two machine and released 4 clad designs.

I do hope that the Route 66 and the Plaza Casinos will consider adding more coloured strikes and also some red cap .999 silver strikes like the old days.

I was able to have a short phone interview with Jonathan Jossel, CEO at the Plaza Casino. Jonathan is very enthusiastic about Silver Strikes and the program. I asked him how he found out about the program. He responded that he is big fan of the vintage slot machines and games so when he seen the Silver Strike machines it was something, he wanted to bring back to the Plaza Casino. I asked Jonathan if he was looking to expand the program by offering blue cap colored and red cap silvers. I pointed out that by offering these limited edition strikes amongst the regular clad strikes people would play to win one of these limited-edition strikes. It was something he would definitely look into going forward. Another important question that I asked was if the Plaza would redeem the older strikes at the cage and then put them back into the machine among the new clad strikes. Jonathan did not know if that was happening but was eager to find out and see if it could happen. Jonathan was happy to hear that one of the older Plaza silver strikes has been nominated for the 2019 Hall of Fame!! I made him aware of the website and that the Plaza has issued over 80 silver strikes and that the club was excited to see another casino come on board with the program. He also asked that I get in touch with his Slot Manager to bring any ideas on how to increase the silver strike program at the Plaza to the next level. Stay Tuned...



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## The Rise and Fall of the Silver Strike

Ten Dollar strikes were first issued in late 1993. They exploded in the casinos, from the mid-1990's into the early 2000's, there were over 200 casinos all over the U.S. and in a few other countries issuing silver strikes (60+ in Las Vegas, 60+ other Nevada, and 80+ non-Nevada). A "rough" illustration of the rapid rise and fall can be seen by counting strikes with a date on them (of course, many did not have dates).

1993 - 10/9    1994 - 66/58    1995 - 24/117    1996 - 45/156    1997 - 33/120    1998 - 15/34  
1999 - 25/10    2000 - 135/13    2001 - 58/3    2002 - 80/0    2003 - 38/0    2004 - 30/0

\* The 1<sup>st</sup> number is Nevada strikes, the 2<sup>nd</sup> number is non-Nevada strikes

After a flurry of strikes issued for Y2K (2000) and 9/11 memorials (2001/2002), the number of strikes began decreasing among Nevada casinos; and especially rapidly among non-Nevada casinos.

The SSC newsletter reported counts of strike issuing casinos from mid-2005 thru 2010, which illustrates this rapid decline. Some of this can be attributed to the recession beginning about 2007. In 2008 the rising price of silver forced casinos to switch to mostly "clad" strikes, which were less attractive to collectors.

Chart showing number of casinos issuing strikes (data from SSC newsletter)

Date	Casinos*	Machines		Date	Casinos*	Machines
9/2005	50 (4)	96		12/2007	15 (4)	26+
11/2005	51 (4)	100		3/2008	12 (4)	26+
1/2006	47 (1)	96		6/2008	7 (1)	16
3/2006	50 (3)	101		9/2008	7 (1)	16
5/2006	46 (3)	100		12/2008	6 (1)	16
7/2006	45 (3)	92		1/2009	6 (1)	15
9/2006	36 (3)	77		4/2009	6 (1)	14
11/2006	36 (5)	71		9/2009	6 (1)	15
2/2007	34 (5)	68		2/2010	6 (1)	15
4/2007	30 (5)	63		5/2010	6 (1)	13
6/2007	29 (5)	58		8/2010	5 (1)	11
9/2007	20 (3)	45		11/2010	4 (1)	9

\* The number in parenthesis is non-Nevada casinos

From 2011 to 2017, the number of casinos issuing strikes varied from 4 to 7, but by late-2017 there were only two: Four Queens & El Cortez.

So, is there a future for strike collectors? In 2019, the Route 66 Casino in Albuquerque, NM, became the first new strike issuing casino in many years; in 2020 (after a 14 year break), the Plaza issued new strikes. There are other casinos rumored to be interested. Time will tell. And, of course, strike collectors can always work on building up their collections of older strikes, there are still plenty of those out there to be found, including many of the .999 silver strikes.

Allan Childers SS-0356



The following is provided solely for educational and entertainment purposes and should not be construed as an endorsement of any person or entity of the Casino Collectibles Association and/or any related entity.

Greetings Slowly Recovering Las Vegas, NV

Well, it's been a couple of months now and, although we are nowhere near what we used to call "normal", we seem to be headed in the right direction.

"Special thanks" to the member who pointed out to me that I completely forgot to remind everyone that club dues were due. Since most members usually pay at the convention, and since there was no convention this year, I totally FORGOT!! Anywho, I figure that since almost everything that has to do with our collecting has been shut down for the past 4-5 months, I would extend memberships through to the end of 2020. Paying your dues now will take you through to the end of 2021.

The CBS television show, LOVE ISLAND, was filmed over the summer. Since the "virus" did not allow much foreign travel, this season's episodes were filmed on the rooftop deck of the CROMWELL Hotel/Casino. Now that the season is over, the show has ended and the CROMWELL became the last closed casino on the Strip to reopen.

The newest downtown casino, CIRCA, opened on 28 OCT 2020. They say they have the "world's largest sports book" and a bar "as long as a football field". New casino = new cards and new chips. See below.

Due to the lower than expected demand for hotel rooms after the reopening, and lower mid-week visitor volume, WYNN has closed the ENCORE Hotel & Casino MON thru WED. It is now only open Thur-Fri-Sat-Sun. MGM Resorts has also said that it is CONSIDERING doing this at some of its properties too, but nothing has been announced so far.

Dave Johnston [dave53218@gmail.com](mailto:dave53218@gmail.com)

## Membership Renewal Reminder Cards

Just a reminder to those members who recently received a blue renewal postcard that your dues are due soon. Follow the directions on your postcard, or contact Roy Nelson at [membership@ccgtcc.com](mailto:membership@ccgtcc.com), to renew.

Renew now and don't miss out on your next copy of the Casino Collectible News. Not sure about when your membership renewal is due? Just email Roy and he will get back to you.

Roy Nelson

CCA Membership Officer



# The Market Place...

## Club Merchandise

Convention Chips – \$5.00 each / 3 for \$10.00  
Set of 10 (including 2019) – \$25.00  
Years Available – 2001, 04, 07, 08, 09, 11, 12, 14, 15



Poker/Blackjack Tournament Sets – \$15.00  
(2 sets \$12.00 each, 3 or more sets \$10 each)  
Years Available – 2004, 06, 07, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18



2019 Silver/Bronze Convention Medal Sets – \$60.00



(Silver front and bronze back shown)



Common back design

CCA Polo Shirts

No Pocket \$26.00

With Pocket \$28.00

Not all colors in all sizes email to check

2019 Bronze Medal \$10.00 each

2019 Convention Pin – \$5.00 each  
Prior year pins (1997 - 2001, & 2003-2018) - \$3.00 each  
Set of all 22 pins (2019 included) - \$25.00



## CCA MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM

**2018 Convention Chips**--\$5.00 each or 3 for \$10

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Prior Years Available: 2001, 04, 07, 08, 09, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17

Year/Set	Quantity	Total
_____	_____	_____

**2018 Poker/BJ Tourney Set**--\$15 each

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Years Available--2004, 05, 06, 07, 09, 2010, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17

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_____	_____	_____

**2018 Convention Pin**--\$5.00

Prior Yr Pins (1997-2001 and 2003-2017) \$3.00 each

Set of all 21 pins (2018 included) \$30.00

Year/Set	Quantity	Total
_____	_____	_____

**2018 Convention Plaque**--\$20 (only 30 made)

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-------	-------

**Membership Pin**--\$5.00

Quantity _____	Total _____
----------------	-------------

**CCA Polo Shirt**--\$26.00 (no pocket)

--\$28.00 (with pocket)

Not all colors in all sizes--email to check

Color	Size	Total
_____	_____	_____

**2018 Silver/Bronze Medal Set**--\$60 each

**2018 Bronze Medal Only**--\$10 each

Prior Yr Bronze Medals--\$5.00 each/2 or more \$3.00 each

(Yrs avail-1993, 1996--2008, 14, 15, 16, 17)

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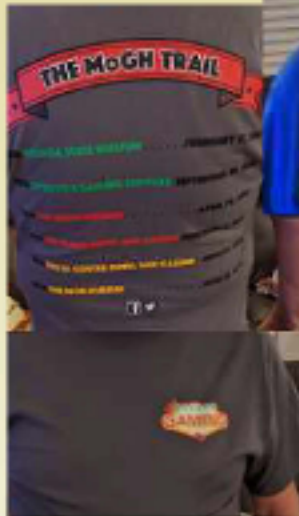
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Contact Pam Focazio to place an order for MoGH Merchandise at: [Merchandise@themogh.org](mailto:Merchandise@themogh.org)



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Annual Gold Membership Plaques are available only to Life Members at \$10 each. Email Jerry Vergatos at [Vergatos@msn.com](mailto:Vergatos@msn.com)



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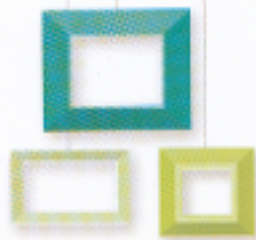
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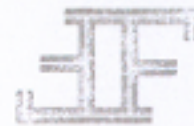
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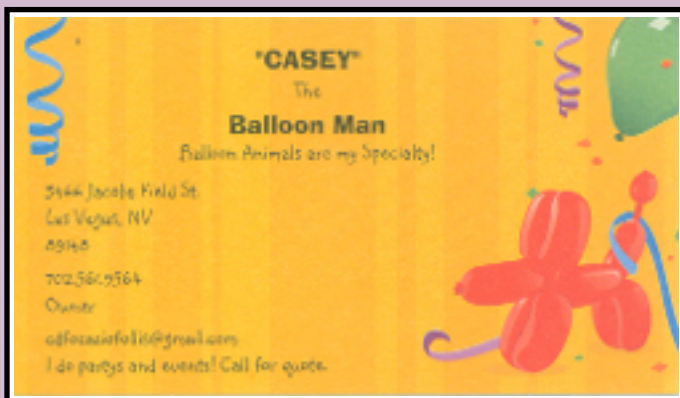
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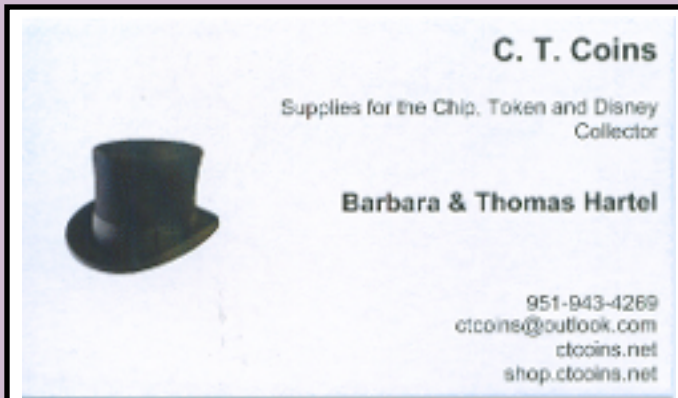
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