



2025 CONVENTION INFORMATION



Minnesota Shaker Spooktacular • July 17-19, 2025

Novelty Salt and Pepper Shakers Club
40th Annual Convention

CHAIRPERSONS

CONVENTION HOST: MINNESOTA CHAPTER SALT & PEPPER SHAKER CLUB

CO-CHAIRS: JIM & MARCIA OSWALD

REGISTRATION: KAREN WEAVER

COMMEMORATIVE SHAKER DISTRIBUTION: KAREN WEAVER

RAFFLE ROOM (RAFFLE BASKETS): DOREEN SCHMITT, MAUREEN MEYER

FIRST TIMERS MEETING: DEBBIE BARGER

GOODIE BAGS: DELORES BURGESS, JULIE SCHMUDE

JUNIOR GOODIE BAGS: MARY & JOHN RAGAN

JUNIOR MEMBERS PARTY: CHRISTY HAMMAR

COSTUME CONTEST: SALLY SEBERT

COSTUME CONTEST MUSIC: GARY MADDOX

THEME CONTEST: MARY RAGAN

DISPLAY CONTEST: KATE GENTILE

RAFFLE TICKET SALES: JOE GAYDOS

RAFFLE TICKET SALES (#1 CONVENTION SET): BOB GENTILE

50/50 DRAWING FOR THE JUNIOR MEMBER FUND: DENNIS HEINTZ

PHOTOGRAPHERS: HORST PAETZOLD & KEN PARISOT

AUCTION: SHERYL JOHNSON

AUCTIONEER: ALAN KAFITZ

AUCTION PADDLES: RUTHIE DENNEY

AUCTION CLERKS: BARRY YEDLIN, KEN PARISOT, NOREEN NEARY

PUBLIC RELATIONS / MARKETING: JIM OSWALD, JULIE SCHMUDE

BADGES: GARY & KIM MADDOX

SECURITY: DENNIS HEINTZ

INFORMATIVE PRESENTATIONS (SPEAKERS): DEBBIE BARGER, CAROL DETWEILER

SINGLE MINGLE: DEBBIE PARISOT

FRIDAY EVENING GAMES: MARILYN INDAHL

SATURDAY EVENING MUSIC: JILL LUTZ

HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST (SATURDAY): MARCIA OSWALD

CONVENTION PREPARATION - BOOKLET & REGISTRATION FORM: DOREEN SCHMITT

THANK YOU to everyone that Volunteered and/or Donated to help to make this Convention SUCCESSFUL!

SCHEDULE OF EVENT (TENTATIVE)

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
All Week	Shaker shopping and sightseeing on your own	Any room that's open Check local attractions in booklet
Sunday, July 13th		
8:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Registration	TBD - Karen Weaver's Room
Mon-Wed, July 14-16th		
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Raffle Donations	Cardinal Perch Room
8:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Registration	TBD - Karen Weaver's Room
Wed, July 16th		
10:15 AM	Gray Line Bus Tour of City starts at 10:30 AM	Hotel Lobby
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Drop off Shakers for Donation to Singles Mingle	Blue Heron Colony Room
Thursday, July 17th		
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Board of Directors Meeting	Eagles Nest Room
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Combined Chapter President Meeting / Board of Directors	Eagles Nest Room
9:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Raffle room open (Donations still being accepted)	Cardinal Perch Room
9:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Auction Entries accepted	Executive Boardroom
9:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Theme Contest and Display Contest set up	Wood Duck Pond Room
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Drop off Shakers for Donation to Single Mingle	Blue Heron Colony Room
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Junior Member's Party	Poolside
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Final Auction Entries accepted	Executive Boardroom
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Raffle room open (Donations still being accepted)	Cardinal Perch Room
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Theme Contest and Display Contest set up	Wood Duck Pond Room
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Registration	TBD - Karen Weaver's Room
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Costume Contest sign up	Blue Heron Colony Room

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	First Timers' Reception	Executive Lounge on 13th Floor
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Singles Mingle - Purchase those Single Shakers you need	Blue Heron Colony Room
Friday, July 18th		
8:00 AM - 8:30 AM	Final Registration	TBD - Karen Weaver's Room
8:00 AM - 8:30 AM	Final Costume Contest signup	Blue Heron Colony Room
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Move Raffle Prizes / Baskets to Ballroom	From Cardinal Perch Room to Minnesota Valley Ballroom-I
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Final Theme Contest and Display Contest set up	Wood Duck Pond Room
9:30 AM - 12:15 PM	Opening Ceremony, Presentation by Carol Detweiler, 2025 Convention Commemorative Shaker Unveiling, Raffle	Minnesota Valley Ballroom-I
12:15 PM - 1:30 PM	Lunch on your own	
1:30 PM - 1:45 PM	Costume Contestants gather and change into costumes	Blue Heron Colony Room
2:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Costume Contest - Vote for your favorites	Minnesota Valley Ballroom-I
2:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Theme Contest and Display Contest - View and Vote	Wood Duck Pond Room
2:30 PM - 4:30 PM	View Auction Shakers	Executive Boardroom
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM	Pick up Theme Contest and Display Contest entries	Wood Duck Pond Room
6:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Dinner, Cash Bar, Raffle Drawings, Games, and Auction	Minnesota Valley Ballroom-I
Saturday, July 19th		
7:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Final pick up Theme Contest and Display Contest entries	Wood Duck Pond
8:00 AM - 8:45 AM	Shaker Distribution	TBD - Karen Weaver's Room
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Business Meeting, Lifetime Achievement Award	Minnesota Valley Ballroom-I
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Breakout Sessions	Minnesota Valley Ballroom-I
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM	Lunch on your own	
1:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Presentation by Debbie Barger, Raffle Drawing, 2026 Convention Presentation, Auction	Minnesota Valley Ballroom-I
5:30 PM - 10:00 PM	Dinner, Cash Bar, Closing Ceremony, Contest Winners, Convention Slideshow, Drawing of #1 Shaker, Passing of S&Ps, Spooktacular Costume Contest, Dancing, Auction	Minnesota Valley Ballroom-I

GENERAL INFORMATION

Join us for the 40th Annual Novelty Salt & Pepper Shakers Club Convention in Bloomington, Minnesota at the Hilton Minneapolis-St Paul Airport. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Oswald via email at jposwald@msn.com or via phone at 651-777-1830.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Categories of Convention Registrants

There are two types of convention registrants: Club Members and Guests

- **Club Members** (Primary, Associate, and Junior) are paid club members, i.e., each has his/her name and address listed in the club's "Membership Roster" or "Junior Membership Roster." At convention, club members can enter any contest within their membership classification (regular or junior), vote in all contests, buy #1 convention set raffle tickets and convention sets, bid during the auctions, and buy and sell shakers from members' hotel rooms. Note, junior members can bid during the auctions only with written approval of the adult who will be financially responsible for them.
- **Guests** are non-club members who are registered for the convention on a member's registration form, e.g., non-member spouses and friends. Guests may attend all convention functions and activities. They may buy general raffle tickets but NOT tickets for the #1 convention set. Guests cannot vote, enter contests, buy convention sets, bid during convention auctions, buy/sell/trade shakers on their own, or vote at the business meeting. It is acceptable for a guest to help a member sell shakers in the member's hotel room.

***Daily Visitors – Club and Non-Club Members**

Monday through Thursday:

- **Club Member Daily Visitors** (not registered for the convention) wanting to buy shakers can purchase a One Day Club Member Visitor Pass for \$25 that is good for any one day Monday through Thursday.
- **Non-Club Member Daily Visitors** (not registered for the convention) wanting to buy shakers can do one of the following:
 1. Purchase a One Day Non-Club Member Visitor Pass for \$30 good for any one day Monday through Thursday.
 2. Join the Club and purchase a One Day Member Visitor Pass for \$25
 3. Join the Club and register for convention (\$90 for Thursday, Friday, & Saturday). Meals depending on availability.

Friday and Saturday:

- **Non-Club Member Daily Visitors** wanting to stop by the convention and check out our club may do one of the following:
 1. Pay a \$15 daily fee. This fee does **NOT** allow them to buy shakers in members' rooms. They can only observe the convention activities. They can apply the visitor's fee directly toward club membership dues.
 2. Join the Club and register for convention (\$90 for Friday & Saturday or \$45 for only Saturday). This will allow them to buy shakers and participate in the activities as a club member. Meals depending on availability.

Disclosure: The club does not guarantee the availability of seller rooms being open at any given time. Monday through Wednesday during the day the selling rooms are usually closed since people take that time to travel around the region, shop or visit. On Thursday during the day members may be attending meetings, setting up displays, registering for the auction, etc. The rooms are usually open in the evenings for selling after dinner.

*Daily Visitors (both Club and Non-Club members) will be issued a dated "Visitor" badge. Upon arrival please register by contacting Josh Weaver (216-533-0575).

*Please note that daily visitors are **NOT** allowed to SELL shakers.

HOTEL INFORMATION

Hilton Minneapolis-St Paul Airport

Address: 3800 American Blvd E, Bloomington, MN 55425

Telephone: 952-854-2100

When calling for reservations, mention Group code "Novelty Salt and Pepper Shakers Club." You can call the hotel directly using the number listed above. For reservations via the internet, book your group rate for the Novelty Salt and Pepper Shakers Club by using this online reservation link:

<https://group.hilton.com/e30g6b>

Our room rate is \$139.00. Hotel's room rates are based on single or double occupancy. All rates are per night, plus applicable taxes. The hotel room rate is valid from July 12 – July 20, 2025 (8 nights) so plan on coming ahead of time to visit local attractions. **Please make your hotel reservation by June 16, 2025, to receive the block rate until the block is filled. If you are told the block is full and quoted a higher rate, please notify Jim Oswald at 651-777-1830.**

Hotel Amenities:

- 24-hour fitness center
- Free Wi-Fi
- On-site restaurant
- Business center

Parking Services

- Free parking

Pool Facilities

- Indoor pool

Property Features

- Smoke free property

Transportation Services

- Complimentary shuttle to and from Airport (and within 5 mile radius & scheduled in advance)

Rooms Features

- Refrigerators
- Microwaves
- LCD televisions
- Bathrooms feature complimentary toiletries and hair dryers.

Pet Policy

- Pets allowed for additional fee.

Package receiving: Shipped packages accepted for guests of this event up to five (5) days in advance of the convention.

MEALS

Your registration fee includes the dinners on Friday and Saturday nights. If you have food allergies or dietary restrictions, please note them on the registration form.

Buffet will be served both Friday and Saturday nights.

Children Meals: Children under age 12 will receive Chicken Tenders for both Friday and Saturday dinners. All children's meals include fries, apple sauce, fruit cup, and the same dessert as served on the buffet.

Friday and Saturday Night Seating

Seating will be advanced, assigned seating. Tables will be numbered, and at registration you can select a table number based on seating charts. Seating will be at round tables with 8-10 people to a table depending on the final size of the tables and the final number of attendees. While your table number will be consistent for both nights, the location of the table will change. Changing table locations gives everyone a better chance to have a "prime" table spot for one of the two nights.

Example 1: You have table #5. On Friday night your table might be front, on the left side of the room, but on Saturday night it might be right, rear, near an exit.

To be fair to everyone, and to keep a complicated process as simple as possible, seating will be selected on a first come, first served basis. If you wish to sit with specific people, you can reserve spots for up to 8 people including yourself. Please provide the name of those for whom you're reserving places. Also, please ensure that these folks know that you will be reserving for them.

Example 1: You arrive on Tuesday morning, but your good friend won't get there until Thursday evening. With your friend's approval, you can reserve table spots for yourself and your friend.

Example 2: Your chapter wants to sit together. You will be the first to arrive at convention. With the approval of your fellow chapter members, you can reserve up to 8-10 spots including your own, i.e., a whole table, if it's available. If more than 8-10 chapter members want to sit together, then more than one person must make the reservations. Note: Your tables may not be adjacent since table numbers will be randomly placed.

TOUR (Optional) - Wednesday July 16

See Minnesota and the historic Twin Cities beauty aboard a luxury air-conditioned coach. Let Gray Line's over 100 years of sightseeing experience take you through the cities oldest, most exclusive neighborhoods. We will take a drive down historic Summit Avenue in Saint Paul to see where the lumber and railroad barons, who built the city, once lived in their stately Victorian Mansions. Enjoy a brief stop at Minnehaha Falls. Hosted by a knowledgeable step-on-guide and a professional driver. Duration 3 to 3-1/2 hours.

Bus seating is limited to the first 50 sign-ups. Bus Departure at 10:30 am (meet in hotel lobby at 10:15 am). Bring a snack, as there will be no stops for lunch. Cost is \$40 per person. See Registration Form for signing up.

- Guthrie Theater
- Minnehaha Falls
- State Capitol Building
- Stone Arch Bridge
- Summit Ave. (Governor's Mansion, James J. Hill House etc.)
- Downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul
- Walker Sculpture Garden (Featuring the "Spoonbridge and Cherry")

CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

Buying, Selling and Trading of Shakers

Buying, selling, and trading of shakers are restricted to club members who are registered convention attendees and visitors who have purchased a daily pass. **Members, guests, and visitors must always wear their name badges during convention activities, including when they are buying, selling, or trading shakers in individual hotel rooms.**

Room Selling

If you are selling and want to rent a table from the hotel, the cost is \$20.00, plus tax and will appear on your hotel bill. If you wish to order a table, please be sure to request one on your reservation form.

If you are selling from your room, here are a few things to remember:

- All shakers must be priced individually or placed on a table with other shakers offered at the same price with the price displayed.
- Any sets brought for display purposes must be clearly marked as “DISPLAY ONLY; NOT FOR SALE.”
- If you are registered at the Convention Hotel taking advantage of the discount hotel rates for the Convention, no private auctions or raffles, including on-line auctions are allowed in your rooms during the time you are at the Hotel for the Convention.
- Rooms are not permitted to be open during club functions. However, rooms can be open after 10:00 PM on Friday and Saturday if the auction extends beyond this time.
- Please return door hangers to the boxes next to the elevators on Saturday night after the evening function.

Contests

Contests can be rewarding for participants and fun for all to view or watch. You must be a Club member to participate in any of the contests. Only registered, club-member attendees may vote on contests. Contest winners will be announced Saturday evening. Adult prizes in any contest, except theme (one prize awarded per contest category) will be as follows: 1st place: either 1 free room night (based on availability) or \$100 in cash; 2nd place: \$75; and 3rd place: \$50. Prizes for participants under 18 in any contest will be determined by the convention committee.

Adult Display Contest

Adult shaker displays may be created in a choice of four sizes:

- **Little Box Display, formerly known as Shoebox display**, can be any number of shakers, but all shakers must fit inside a box that is no larger than **13” x 9” x 5” (new size)**. Neither shakers nor any part of the display can extend out of or above the box.
- **Small displays** consist of up to 30 shakers and may not occupy more than half of a standard 6-foot table with no overhang.
- **Medium displays** contain from 31 to 75 shakers and may not occupy more than half of a standard 6-foot table with no overhang.
- **Large displays** are those containing more than 75 shakers and may not occupy more than a standard 6-foot table with no overhang.

Junior Member Display Contest

- Junior displays will have no more than 30 shakers and may not occupy more than half a 6-foot table with no overhang.

Display Definitions

- **Shaker definition:** A “Shaker” means an individual shaker. A pair of shakers would constitute two shakers in the count for Small, Medium, and Large, or Junior displays. Individual shakers used in displays may be part or a pair or a single without a mate. One-piece shakers are counted as a single shaker. Trays, bases, and condiment pieces (such as mustard pots which are not salt or pepper shakers) are not counted in the number of shakers for display.

Example 1: If you enter one pair and one single in the small display contest, then three shakers have been entered.

Example 2: If you enter 6 pairs including a complete condiment set and two shakers with their egg cup bases, then 12 shakers have been entered.

- Displays must meet the above dimensions and fit on a standard 6-foot table (6 feet by 30 inches) without overhang, even if the tables provided by the hotel are larger than 6 feet x 30 inches.

Adult and Junior Member Shaker Theme Contest

- You are encouraged to bring a shaker that you feel represents the convention theme: **“Scariest Halloween Shaker”**. Only one set per member classification (regular or Jr. Member) may be entered in the contest. Shakers are accepted on a first come basis, i.e., duplicates will not be accepted. Prizes for the adult theme contest are as follows: 1st place = \$25 plus a 1-year membership dues in the Club, 2nd place = a 1-year membership dues in the Club, 3rd place = \$10
- **SETS ENTERED IN THE THEME CONTEST MUST NOT HAVE ANY ALTERATIONS, ADORNMENTS, OR ADDITIONS. THEY MUST BE AS THEY WERE IN THEIR ORIGINAL FORM. The sets must be sets that are available for any member to buy, NO CUSTOM-MADE SETS. If there are any alterations to a set entered, it will not be eligible for a prize.**

Costume Contests

Your costume must represent an entire set, even in the one-person categories. Note: A one-piece shaker is a set. Be sure to bring the actual set that you represent, or a good photo of it, when you sign up for the costume contest (see “Schedule of Events” for when and where to sign up). You may sign up for only one type of costume contest. **All participants, regardless of age, must be club members (primary, associate, or junior).** The costume contest types are described in the table below.

TYPE	CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
Adult Costume Contest (must be 18 yrs. or older)	One Person	A club member dresses as his/her favorite shaker set
Adult Costume Contest (must be 18 yrs. or older)	Double Person	Two club members dress as their favorite shaker set
Adult Costume Contest (must be 18 yrs. or older).	Multi-Person	More than two club members dress as their favorite shaker set(s)
Junior Member Costume Contest	One Person	A junior club member dresses as his/her favorite shaker set
Junior Member Costume Contest	Multi-Person	Two or more junior club members dress as their favorite shaker set(s).
Toddler Costume (must be under 5 yrs. old)	Toddler	One, two or more members under 5 years old dress as their favorite shaker set.
Mixed (adult & child) Costume Contest	Mixed	Two or more members dress as their favorite shaker set. May include ANY convention-registered club member.

There will again be musical accompaniment for each costume entry. You can either bring your own music on an USB drive or the emcee will choose and play the music.

CONVENTION AUCTIONS

This section explains everything you need to know about entering items into the auction and about bidding on items. Club auctions are held Friday night, Saturday afternoon, and a short auction on Saturday evening. Only registered club members may participate in the auctions. Check the convention schedule for the 2 times on Thursday to enter sets into the auction. There will be no auction registration on Friday. Members may not bid on sets they place in the auction. Members and chapters may choose to establish a reserve price on two (2) of the entries they place in the auction.

Shaker and Shaker Related Items Entry Allowance

Each chapter can enter up to a maximum of four sets and two trays which may contain shaker related items into the auction.

Individual members can enter four sets and one tray lot which may contain shaker related items. Members may donate as many shakers as they want to the club tray lots. Auction sets are entered at the members' risk. The volunteers working the auction are very careful; however, shakers entered into the auction have risk of damage.

Auction Tray Lots

All auction trays will be in uniform-sized cardboard box flats, measuring a maximum of 12" x 18" (30.5 cm x 45.7 cm). The auction tray lot must consist of two or more sets of shakers or shaker related items and be only one layer deep. Shakers and shaker related items put into tray lots are **NOT** checked, are sold "as is," and cannot be returned. Members and chapters are responsible for advising the auction staff of any imperfections or damage on sets or items submitted in tray lots.

Auction Material

The auction material is comprised of six types:

Type	Definition	Division of Selling Price
Club Tray Lot	Consists of shakers that are donated to the club and assembled into trays and auctioned. Whenever possible, each tray has at least one set valued at \$10 or more. No singles, wooden, chipped, damaged, or repaired shaker sets will be accepted.	100% to Club
Club Set	Shaker sets which belong to the Club or are donated to the Club.	100% to Club
Chapter or Club Member Shakers	Consists of individual sets registered by Club members or sets that belong to Club chapters. Each set must have minimum value of \$15. Each Club member or chapter in good standing can register a maximum of four sets.	If set sells for under \$1,000, the seller gets 80% of the selling price, and the Club 20%. If set sells for \$1,000 or more, the seller gets 90% of the selling price, and the Club gets 10%.
Chapter Tray Lot	A chapter in good standing may submit a maximum of two tray lots for the auction.	100% to chapter
Club Member Tray Lot	A Club member in good standing may submit a maximum of one tray lot for the auction.	If tray lot sells for under \$1,000, the seller gets 80% of the selling price, and the Club 20%. If tray lot sells for \$1,000 or more, the seller gets 90% of the selling price, and the Club gets 10%.

Auction Reserve

A Club member or chapter may put a reserve on two auction entries. **A shaker set must have a minimum reserve of \$50, and a tray lot must have a minimum reserve of \$100.** All other sets or tray lots will be entered in the auction without a reserve price.

It will be up the seller to determine the reserve price. If the Auction Committee feels the reserve to be too high, the committee may discuss the reserve with the seller and make alternate suggestions, which the seller may accept or reject. Only the Auction Committee will know the reserve price.

During the auction, if the high bidder on a reserve auction set/tray does **NOT** bid up to the reserve, the high bidder will be told the reserve price and will be offered the option to pay the reserve price or decline. If the high bidder declines the reserve price, the seller will be asked to sell the set or tray to the high bidder for the bid price. No response from the seller means 'no sale' and the auction is closed for the item.

If the set or tray lot with the reserve price is **NOT** sold, the seller will be charged a fee of 5% of the established reserve price. If the set or tray lot sells for the reserve amount or above, the reserve fee will be waived. The fund distribution will be in accordance with the established procedures.

Letter/Number Assignment

Club tray lots are lettered and chapter tray lots are assigned the name of the chapter/letter combination. The tray lots will be auctioned off in the order that they are displayed on the auction table at the beginning of each session. The order is determined by the Auction Committee to provide a balance at each session of all types of shakers registered. Tray lots are interspersed between sales of individual sets. Tray lots are **NOT** auctioned off sequentially.

Individual sets are assigned a number/letter combination. Individual sets are **NOT** auctioned off sequentially.

Bidding Numbers

A bidding number is assigned to all registered club members and is included in the convention registration packet. Members will need this number when registering sets to sell in the auction or when bidding on auction sets.

Note: Registered guests and non-club members are **NOT** permitted to participate in the auction.

Previews

Sets and tray lots to be auctioned will be available for preview prior to each auction. During the preview periods members should make note of trays and sets they are interested in. When previewing, members are **NOT** to handle the sets, point over the table, touch, or lean over the table. Members must be aware of items hanging from their arms or neck so that those items do **NOT** touch the table or come over the top of the table.

Helpers will be able to answer questions or provide a closer inspection. Tags will indicate any known damage, problems, or special details about the sets. Possible or known reproductions will be marked as such. To avoid confusion and disturbances, members should **NOT** approach the display table while the auction is in progress.

Auction Etiquette

All members bidding in the auction **MUST** have their assigned bid number with them. The best way to place a bid is to raise the bid number for the auctioneer or one of their assistants to acknowledge. But some people place more subtle bids, such as raising an arm or nodding their head. Members must be conscious of arm movements during the auctions—a wave to a friend across the room might be interpreted as a bid on an expensive set.

The Auction Committee tries as much as possible to acknowledge all bids, but ultimately it is the bidder's responsibility to make sure their bid is **NOT** overlooked. They must do whatever is necessary to make it known that they are in the bidding. It is better to interrupt for a moment than to lose out on a set they really want. Remember, once the auctioneer announces "SOLD," the sale is final.

There is no buyer's premium or sales tax on auction items. There is a minimum bid required of \$15 for individual sets, but no minimum bid for tray lots. Sets that fail to achieve the minimum bid will be set back and it will be the seller's responsibility to reclaim the set following the auction. High bidder always takes the entire tray lot or set.

It is members' responsibility to keep track of their expenditures. They should **NOT** ask the clerks to check their total while the auctions are in progress.

The first bidding cycle will go slowly, to give members a feel for the process. Then the auctioneer will move to a more rapid pace that will continue through the Saturday evening auction. This pace is necessary to sell all the sets by the end of the convention. Members must make their bids quickly or lose out on desired sets. Sellers are **NOT** allowed to bid on shakers they are selling.

Duplicate Sets

Members will be told when submitting a set for auction if there is a duplicate set already in the auction. They will be given the choice to withdraw the set or continue to place the duplicate set in the auction. All the sets will be displayed prior to the auctions. If a seller wishes to withdraw a set because there is a duplicate of that set already in the auction, such action **MUST** take place prior to the start of the first auction. An announcement of the withdrawal will be made so that all members bidding will know the correct quantity of that set remaining in the auction.

Returns

Any known damage or irregularities concerning a set will be announced by the auctioneer before the bidding begins on a set. It is the buyer's responsibility to inspect the set immediately upon receipt.

Buyers have two cycles to return a shaker set which has damage **NOT** announced prior to the sale of that item by notifying the auctioneer. Sets can only be returned if the buyer discovers any damage **NOT** previously announced. Tray lots are **NOT** checked, are sold "as is," and **CANNOT** be returned for any reason.

Any disputes or questions concerning the sets or bids will be settled by the Auction Committee, comprised of experienced volunteer club members.

Payment

Buyers should wait to settle their account until they are sure they are finished bidding. You may pay at the end of either of the Saturday auctions. The club accepts personal checks, travelers' checks, and U.S. dollars. The club also accepts credit card payments with a 3% fee. **Accounts MUST be settled no later than Saturday evening.**

Summary of Auction Rules

1. Maximum of four sets and two tray lot entries per chapter, and four sets and one tray lot per member.
2. Auction sets are entered at the members' risk. The volunteers working the auction are very careful; however, shakers entered into the auction have risk of damage.
3. Have auction entries already unwrapped prior to arrival to the auction table for submission.
4. No bidding on sets or trays you registered for the auction.
5. Members have two cycles to return a shaker set which has damage **NOT** announced prior to the sale of that item. Tray lots **CANNOT** be returned.
6. Maximum tray lot size is 12" x 18" with shakers one layer deep. Members and chapters are responsible for advising the auction staff of any imperfections or damage on sets submitted in tray lots. Tray lots are **NOT** checked and are sold "as is."
7. All disputes on bids or questions will be settled by the Auction Committee.

Best Room Contest

Don't forget about our BEST ROOM challenge. The Best Room will be voted upon by your fellow attendees and there are no rules. Each member attendee will vote for their "favorite" room. Things that will help get the votes: Best Decorations, Best Snacks, Good Deals on Shakers, Best Selection of Shakers for Sale, etc. Please consider the following... 3M Command Strips are the "approved" adhesives for the hotel if you wish to decorate walls or doors. The first place winner will receive \$100 cash (or free hotel room if available). Second place winner will receive \$75. Third place winner will receive \$50.

Halloween Spooktacular Costume Contest - Saturday Night

Our Halloween Spooktacular Costume Contest will be held Saturday night, right before the dance starts. You may wear your costume to dinner or you can change after dinner.

Categories: Best Adult Costume, Best Child Costume, Best Duo or Group Costumes.

Prizes: \$25 for first place in each category. Shaker sets for second and third place prizes in each category.

Raffle Prizes

General Raffle and Chapter Baskets: Raffle tickets will be sold throughout the convention in packs of **30 tickets for \$20.00**. There is no limit on the number of raffle tickets that may be purchased, and all registered attendees (excluding visitors) may participate. These tickets are good for the chapter baskets AND the general raffle. All registered club members and guests will receive one free raffle ticket in their registration packet. Raffle drawings will be held throughout convention.

50/50 Drawing: We will be having a 50/50 drawing. Tickets will be sold by 1 person, beginning Wednesday, and ending Saturday evening when the winner will be drawn. Tickets are \$1.00 each and the amount of tickets sold will determine the amount the winner will receive. The winner will get half the total and the club will get the other half.

Single Mingle

Wanted: Undamaged Single Shakers. NO wood please. A set with only one damaged piece would be considered a single. Do you have a tray, several trays or perhaps several boxes of single shakers and not quite sure what to do with them? Do you have a treasured single you've been trying to match up for years? The National Club is in search of single shaker donations to organize the "Single Mingle" at the convention. All singles will be sold for \$1.00 with all proceeds going to the National Club. Please consider gathering all those single shakers and donating them to our event.

Chapter Presidents' Meeting

On Thursday, July 17, 2025, chapter presidents (or a chapter representative) are invited to attend a meeting with the Club President and the Board of Directors. This is a great opportunity to share ideas with your fellow chapter presidents and to make suggestions to your officers.

Volunteering Please fill out volunteer section (III.E.) in registration form.

First Time Attendees Welcome! We hope you have a great first convention, find lots of shakers and make lots of new shaker friends. Be sure to plan on attending the "First Timers' Reception" where you'll have a chance to meet Club officers and other first-time attendees. See "Schedule of Event" on page 2.

MERCHANDISE

Convention Shaker Set

Each year a commemorative shaker set is created to celebrate the annual convention. Only 115 sets will be made this year, not including the additional special sets (i.e number 1 and 2 sets). Each member is limited to purchasing a maximum of 2 convention sets. The first sets ordered will be filled until all the first sets ordered are filled. Then the second sets ordered will be filled until sold out or there are no remaining orders to be filled. The price is \$98.00 before unveiling and \$103.00 after unveiling (if still available). Shipping (with insurance) is available for additional fees.

A special gold-trimmed "number one" set is being made and will be raffled off. Only Club members may purchase tickets for this exceptional, one-of-a-kind set at time of registration or, if still available, at convention. Club members not able to attend convention can purchase tickets ahead of time using the enclosed registration form. If an absentee member wins the number one set it will be shipped to them at the expense of the club. Tickets will be sold at \$5 per ticket or 5 tickets for \$20. Only 700 tickets will be printed. There is no limit on how many tickets a registered Club member can buy. As with the convention sets, the raffle tickets will be filled with similar sequencing. The winner of the number one set will have the option of keeping it or, if in attendance, placing the set in the auction on Saturday night.

A special silver-trimmed "number two" set is also being made. It will be placed in the Club auction on Friday night. Get your auction paddles ready! The winner of the #1 set may decide to keep it, so winning the #2 set at the Friday night auction may be your only chance to get one of the two special sets.

Convention T-Shirts

T-shirt color is "Antique Orange". Convention T-shirts must be ordered ahead of time. Please see the Registration Form for sizes and cost. Must order your T-shirts in advance because we will not be ordering extra T-shirts to sell at the convention. Deadline to order T-shirts is the Early Registration deadline (see Registration Form for date).

DONATIONS

- We hope that you will donate to the Raffles and the Goody Bags.
- If you wish to donate to the Raffles, please email Doreen Schmitt at schmitt.ent@gmail.com with any questions.
- If you wish to donate to the Goodie Bags, please email Julie Schmude at jaschmude@gmail.com

LIABILITY

The 2025 Convention Committee, the Convention Chairpersons, the Novelty Salt and Pepper Shakers Club, its respective officers and members, and the Hilton Minneapolis-St Paul Airport Hotel assume no responsibility for any injury to persons or damage, loss or theft of shakers or any other property at the convention. It is suggested that attendees contact their insurance companies to see what losses, if any, are covered.

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

Mall of America - <http://www.mallofamerica.com/>

Address: 60 E Broadway, Bloomington, MN 55425

Giant 4-level mall with hundreds of stores, plus restaurants, a theme park, cinema & aquarium.

It opened in 1992, and is the largest mall in the United States and the largest in the Western Hemisphere.

Visit the nation's largest mall and check out some of its many attractions such as:

- **Sea Life Minnesota Aquarium** - SEA LIFE brings you closer than ever to thousands of sea creatures including sharks, sea turtles, stingrays, jellyfish, seahorses and more! Explore 1.3 million gallons of water with thousands of sea creatures. Touch real sea creatures, and come nose to nose with sharks, sea turtles and more in the 300 ft long underwater tunnel.
- **Nickelodeon Universe®** - A one-of-a-kind theme park located in the center of Mall of America. Nickelodeon Universe® features seven acres of unique attractions and entertainment. Meet the Nick characters, experience spine-tingling rides, visit unique retail shops and much more!
- **The Lego Store** - Visit The LEGO Store for a giant pick-a-brick wall with 180 different LEGO elements to choose from. Plus, there's a variety of play tables to inspire creativity and eight larger-than-life models, including a LEGO robot towering over 34 feet tall!
- **Universe of Light** - Join the nightly experience that will take you on an emotional journey through light and sound. Universe of Light combines cutting-edge production with the fun, playful ambiance of Nickelodeon Universe®. Lasers, strobe lights, music and smoke effects transform the air space into a Technicolor dream sure to excite and engage adults and kids alike.
- **FlyOver America** - A flight simulation ride that brings guests on a breathtaking, aerial tour of some of the greatest landmarks and regions throughout the United States in virtual flight technology. The attraction is a fully immersive experience including wind, mist and even scents while soaring across some of America's most spectacular sights.
- **Museum of Illusions** - Experience the impossible in Museum of Illusions! An interactive experience that will trick your eye, entertain your mind, and show you the exciting science behind illusions! Over 60 astonishing exhibits will make curious minds of all ages encounter the impossible while having unforgettable fun.
- **Mirror Maze** - Challenge yourself in a labyrinth of reflections that will test your sense of direction. The maze is designed with a series of optical illusions and endless hallways that will intrigue and amuse visitors as they navigate their way through. It's an attraction that combines fun and mystery, making it a memorable stop for those who love puzzles and games.
- **Moose Mountain Adventure Golf** - Putt your way through an 18-hole miniature golf course. Themed around the great Northwoods, this mini-golf experience is fun for all ages and a great way to take a break from shopping. The course is filled with whimsical obstacles and challenges that add an element of excitement to the game. It's an ideal activity for a family outing or a friendly competition, complete with scenic views and playful décor that capture the essence of the great outdoors.

Science Museum of Minnesota - Address: 120 W. Kellogg Blvd, Saint Paul, MN 55102

- The Science Museum was founded in 1907.
- 8.5 acres of exhibits and activities with boundless opportunities to explore and learn for all ages. The museum's current location on the banks of the Mississippi River in Saint Paul offers 370,000 square feet of space.
- See website for hours. <https://www.smm.org>

Fort Snelling State Park - Address 101 Snelling Lake Road, St. Paul, MN 55111. 612-279-3550 or Visitor Center: 612-279-3559

- Located in the heart of the Twin Cities, this park offers extensive hiking and bike trails that link to Minnehaha Park and the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.
- Canoe on Gun Club Lake, play golf, swim in Snelling Lake, or hike on Pike Island where the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers converge.
- Interpretive exhibits and films on display in the Thomas C. Savage Visitor Center give visitors a good background on the history and resources of the park and area.
- Trails also allow visitors to hike up to the historic Fort Snelling for a view of military life in the 1820s.
- The park is named after historic Fort Snelling, built in 1820 on the bluff above the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers to control traffic along the waterways. The area was established as a state park in 1961.
- This is a day-use only park; no camping is available.
- See website for hours. http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/fort_snelling/index.html

Minnesota Zoo - Address: 13000 Zoo Boulevard, Apple Valley, MN 55124

- Created by the State of Minnesota, the Minnesota Zoo opened in 1978 with a mission to connect people, animals, and the natural world to save wildlife.
- Cutting-edge exhibits provide exciting experiences with animals and their habitats introducing guests to species from around the globe.
- Conservation programs protect endangered species and preserve critical ecosystems.
- Located on 485 acres in Apple Valley, Minnesota.
- Home to more than 4,400 animals and 485 species in award-winning exhibits. 68 Threatened and endangered species.
- See website for info about hours and admission fee: <https://mnzoo.org/>

Como Park Zoo and Conservatory - Address: 1225 Estabrook Dr. Saint Paul, MN 55103

- Admission is Free. A suggested \$4 donation per adult visitor, and \$2 for a child, is suggested to help with the cost for care of the plants and animals.
- For over one hundred years, Como Park has played a vital role in meeting the recreational needs of residents of Saint Paul and surrounding communities.
- The zoo features a seal island, a large cat exhibit, a variety of aquatic life, primates, birds, African hoofed animals and a world class polar bear exhibit.
- The Marjorie McNeely Conservatory has two acres under glass with a number of different wings dedicated to a variety of plant life including bonsai trees, ferns, orchids and seasonal flowers and many outdoor gardens.
- <https://comozooconservatory.org>

Minnesota's Largest Candy Store - Address: 20430 Johnson Memorial Drive, Jordan, MN 55352

- You can't miss the big yellow barn on Highway 169 near Jordan known as Minnesota's Largest Candy Store.
- In addition to candy, the store sells a dizzying array of sodas, pies, cotton candy, popcorn and so much more.
- Established in 1978, Minnesota's Largest Candy Store is a family-run destination offering an extensive candy selection alongside seasonal produce, local groceries, and gift items.
- A family-run business has been operating for nearly 40 years.
- No Website available.

Casinos -

- **Mystic Lake Casino** - Address: 2400 Mystic Lake Blvd, Prior Lake, MN 55372
Website: <https://www.mysticlake.com>
- **Treasure Island Casino** - Address: 5734 Sturgeon Lake Road, Welch, MN 55089
Website: <https://www.ticasino.com>

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge - Website: https://www.fws.gov/refuge/minnesota_valley/

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1976 to provide habitat for a large number of migratory waterfowl, fish, and other wildlife species threatened by commercial and industrial development, and to provide environmental education, wildlife recreational opportunities, and interpretive programming for Twin Cities residents. The refuge is part of a corridor of land and water stretching nearly 70 miles along the Minnesota River, from Bloomington to Henderson, Minnesota. Comprised of more than 14,000 acres, the refuge offers a variety of free outdoor recreational experiences for individuals and families.

Before visiting either of our visitor centers, please call to make sure we are open. Staff may be working off-site conducting educational programs or out in the field.

- Refuge Headquarters and Bloomington Education and Visitor Center
3815 American Blvd. East
Bloomington, MN 55425
952-854-5900
- Rapids Lake Education and Visitor Center
15865 Rapids Lake Road
Carver, MN 55315
952-361-4500

Minnesota Institute of Art (MIA) - Address: 2400 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55404

- Government-funded public museum. Admission is free except for special exhibitions.
- MIA inspires wonder with extraordinary exhibitions and one of the finest wide-ranging art collections in the country. From Monet to Matisse, Asian to African, 40,000-year-old artifacts to world-famous masterpieces, MIA links the past to the present and enables global conversations.
- Call to verify hours 888-642-2787 or check website: <https://new.artsmia.org/about/>

Minneapolis Sculpture Garden - Address: Walker Arts Center, 725 Vineland Place, Minneapolis, MN 55403

- The Minneapolis Sculpture Garden is one of the crown jewels of the city's park system, uniting two of Minnesota's most cherished resources—its green space and its cultural life.
- The 11-acre site is home to the iconic Spoonbridge and Cherry. The Garden showcases more than 40 works from the Walker Art Center's renowned collection. It is one of the largest urban sculpture gardens in the country.
- <https://www.walkerart.org/>

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum - Address: 3675 Arboretum Drive, Chaska, MN 55318

- The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum is a 1,137-acre horticultural garden and arboretum. It's the Upper Midwest's largest public garden.
- The Arboretum has grown dramatically over the years to include 28 specialty gardens, 44 plant collections, more than 150 permanent works of art, 300+ staff members and a stunning array of 5,900+ unique species, cultivars and hybrids.
- See website for hours and admission fee: <https://www.arboretum.umn.edu/>

Padelford Riverboats - Address: 205 Dr. Justus Ohage Blvd, Saint Paul, MN 55107

- Spot bald eagles, herons, egrets and falcons as you travel back in time from St. Paul's bustling downtown harbor through the Mississippi National Great River Park.
- Several cruise options available. Book reservations online. Prepaid reservations required.
- <https://riverrides.com>