

Cernick family helps the Roller Skating Museum sell largest number of raffle tickets ever

By James Vannurden, Director and Curator, National Museum of Roller Skating

The Roller Skating Association hosted its annual trade show and convention in early May. Hosted at the Silver Legacy Resort and Casino in Reno, Nev., this congregation of roller skating enthusiasts enjoyed the many aspects of the convention, including speakers, discussions, round tables, and vendors.

Each year the RSA invites the Museum to participate in the convention, both with a booth at the trade show and with our annual raffle.

The Museum booth educates those in the industry on the Museum and why it exists. To accomplish this, this year the Museum showed old archival footage on a television screen while selling some of its book from the gift shop. We also promoted the sale of Museum memberships, handed out brochures, answered questions, and sold raffle tickets.

But the most important reason for the Museum's presence at the RSA convention is the annual Museum raffle. This is the Museum's largest fundraiser of the year. Each ticket costs \$50, and all of the proceeds go to the Museum's

operating costs. While tickets are sold before the convention, the bulk of tickets purchased are a direct result from the generosity of the attendees of the RSA convention.

All prizes from the raffle are cash. Twenty-four tickets are drawn for a total of \$10,000 given away to ticket holders. The prizes are broken down as follows:

- 15 winners of \$100
- 4 winners of \$250
- 3 winners of \$500
- 1 winner of \$1,000
- 1 grand prize winner of \$5,000

This pyramid of prizes gives an opportunity for more people to win. This generates more excitement for the raffle and lends to greater participation.

One grand gesture boosted the raffle ticket sales this year. Our long-time board member Frank Cernik decided to retire from the board of trustees this year at age 85. To "go out with a bang," as Frank put it, Mr. Cernik decided to match every ticket sold at the President's Dinner the last night of the convention. During this two-hour window, Cernik matched every ticket sold up to 100. With the buzz of this announce-



The Museum showcased historic photos and videos at the 2013 RSA Convention.

ment, the members of the RSA in attendance of the dinner really stepped up and came through for the Museum. During the dinner the Museum sold 117 tickets! Frank and his wife Phyllis then matched with a contribution of 100 as promised. This pushed the total ticket sales to 444 tickets sold, a number not reached in many years.

The 2013 Roller Skating Association Convention and Trade Show proved very successful for the Museum. Not only did our booth attract lots of

attention and questions, but the raffle also provided more greatly need funds than it has in years. Thanks again to all of those at the RSA for their support of the Museum during this very important time.

Visit the museum at:
48th and South Streets,
Lincoln, Nebraska
Museum hours: Mon.-Fri., 9-5
Admission: FREE!
www.rollerskatingmuseum.com

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