

How to Enjoy the CCA Show to the Fullest

An Insider's 26 Tips to Saving Money, Time and Maximizing Your Show Experience

Casino Collectibles Association 33rd Annual Show
June 18-20 at South Point Casino in Las Vegas

Tip #1. \$40 CCA Membership Saves Money and Time

The show is open to the public, but many events you'll read about here are reserved for members. Also, see Tip #26 for a potential rebate for new members. Easily join online at ccgtcc.com/membership/newmembership

Tip #2. Plan Your Trip Based on Your Favorite Activities

Read through all the tips first and plan the length of your stay. Some of the events start as early as Tuesday, June 16 and run through Saturday night June 20. It's always fun in Vegas to fit in other entertainment before, during or after the Show. As the show draws near there will be a full Show Schedule on the CCA on our About the Show page. Events, times and locations in these Insider's Tips are subject to change.

Tip #3. Where to stay

The CCA has arranged discount room and resort fees if you book your South Point room using the CCA special discount. See link at the bottom of the Show webpage at: ccgtcc.com/events/convention . The rooms are nice, there's lots of amenities – including 11 restaurants of all types – and the chip show is just an elevator ride away. Booking your discounted stay saves you money and time, plus the club gets credit toward a minimum number of nights promised in our contract with South Point.

Tip #4. Preregistration Benefits

Your prepaid entry to the show floor gets you a goodie bag, a personalized ID name tag and “early admission” to the show an hour early on the first day, Thursday. ONLY members and associates who preregister get this opportunity to shop before the general public. As an option you can also sign up to attend the Early Bird Banquet Wednesday evening. See Preregistration link at the bottom of the Show webpage at: ccgtcc.com/events/convention .

Tip #5. Reading Name Tags

June's show is frequently the only time to meet your fellow collectors “live and in person”. Make the most of it. Members are wearing those name tags so you can identify others you've gotten to know online, or through eBay sales. As the saying goes: “Make a friend; be

a friend.” It’s refreshing to rub shoulders with others just as interested in casino collectibles as you are.

BEFORE THE SHOW OPENS

Tip #6. Attend the “Susong Get Together” Tuesday Evening,

This is an informal gathering honoring a revered CCA Hall-Of-Famer. Held in the South Point lounge area; it’s a great way to meet and greet other chippers, explore common interests and even exchange “Personal” chips (not required).

Tip #7. Pick Up Your Preregistration Packet Wednesday

As early as Wednesday morning you can pick up your preregistration packet and study the Show Program and refine your activity plan.

Tip #8. Attend the Cocktail Hour and Early Bird Banquet

This members-only pre-show gathering is complete with a cocktail hour followed by a buffet dinner, special speaker (this year it’s the Mayor of Las Vegas!) and award presentations. As a tradition, many of the past Hall of Fame recipients attend too.

Tip #9. Trading Sessions Start Wednesday Evening

These are an opportunity for non-dealer CCA members to trade chips and tokens (NO SELLING though, just TRADING.) and swap stories. There is a separate trading room set up across from the show floor that’s open for 20+ hours total, over 4 days, during specified hours when the show floor is closed. Check the Show Program for time and location. Experienced and first-time traders are encouraged to bring their dupes and spares. Whether trading lower value chips at 1:1 exchange, or higher value chips at book value or other exchange rates, it’s a chance to look over additional chip stocks and meet other club members. Admission is by member badge.

OPENING DAY

Tip #10. Thursday’s Early Hour Exclusive / Plan Your “Attack”

After the ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday morning, it’s SHOW TIME! Members who preregistered can enter the Show floor at 9:00 am, an hour earlier than all others. It can be a significant advantage to check out dealers’ chips and other collectibles before the general public. To make the most of it, study the Show program you received at check-in. There’s a map of the show floor, with all the dealer tables noted. The program also lists dealer names and the type of items they have for sale. Pick out the dealers you want to see first, then plan your attack! Sometimes it really IS the early bird that gets the worm!

Tip #11. Review The Gems Available at the Thursday Night Auction

At the front of the showroom floor you will find glass cases displaying chips to be auctioned on Thursday night for your review. There's also a selection of additional "Silent Auction" chips with instructions on bidding. Thursday evening at 7 pm, in one of the rooms nearby, the club's live Auction will be held, complete with Auctioneer. Proceeds from these auctions – seller's commission and buyer's premium – benefit the club and donated chip proceeds also support the club.

Tip # 12. Thursday's Show Floor – Tips for Working the Room

Here are a few suggestions help you navigate the show, check out dealers' stock and purchase those chips you have been looking for.

1. Back-to-front. When the show floor opens, it's usually more crowded with dealers in the front of the room. Instead, start in the back, where it's less crowded.
2. Display cases first, binders later. Many dealers have their best chips in display cases but also have binders with additional chips. Both may have chips you're looking for.
3. Survey first round, then act on the second round. Walk the entire show floor first, then return for purchases after you've surveyed your options.
4. Know a good value when you see it. Be deliberate in your search, but also be opportunistic—if you see a desired chip at a good price, it may not be there if you come back later.
5. "Bargain boxes." If you know what you are looking for, you may find some surprises in the bargain boxes or bins that some dealers have.
6. For old timers- visit your favorite dealers before seeing the rest of the show.

Tip # 13. Tips for Dealing with Dealers

1. Most dealers tend to specialize in certain areas – geographic; newer or older; price point; types of collectibles. Scope out which dealers have the items you're most interested in.
2. Lower price items are offered at the marked values, but dealers of medium and higher priced items are usually amenable to negotiating in price. If possible, research what fair value should be and negotiate a price where both buyer and seller are happy. Price guides like The Chip Rack are often available for purchase at the show.
3. Bundling a group of items for a better price is often a good strategy.

4. Cash is king – bring cash for purchases, though some dealers may accept credit cards or checks, particularly for larger purchases.

5. If you're on the show floor on Saturday afternoon, and that special chip you've seen is still available, perhaps the dealer will sell it for a better price, rather than pack it up until next time. Worth a try?

MOST SHOW DAYS

Tip # 14. Make Time for Educational Seminars

Check the Show Program Book for the four free Educational Seminars put on through our educational arm, the Museum of Gaming History. They are at 8 am and 3 pm on Thursday and Friday in a small room across from the show floor. Always interesting presentations from specialists in their areas. Open to the public.

Tip #15. Celebrity Meet & Greets on the Floor

Check the Show Program for the times when special invited celebrities will be on hand to meet, greet and mingle with show attendees. It's your chance to chat informally with a mix of very approachable gaming authors, celebrities and casino insiders with perspectives you won't otherwise hear about.

Tip #16. Raffles & Prizes

The club conducts raffle drawings on Thursday and Friday for substantial prize bags full of donated casino collectibles – chips and more – as a fundraiser. Tickets may be purchased in advance at the CCA raffle table or at the show. For preregistered attendees, you will also receive a ticket for prizes as well. And in recent years, a "50/50" raffle offers a chance to win a cash prize and raise funds for the club at the same time.

Tip #17. Visit the Club Tables in the Back of the Room

There's more happening on the show floor besides dealer tables. In the back you'll find the:

1. Promotions tables with CCA chips and merchandise for sale.
2. The Museum of Gaming History (MoGH) tables and exhibits of fascinating memorabilia donated over the years.

Tip #18. Check Out the Exhibits Corral in the Back of the Room

Here you'll find exhibit cases filled with members' competitive and non-competitive exhibits. There are also displays of the chips, tokens and slot cards/room keys nominated

for the CCA's best "Of The Year" (OTY) award, and the member personal chip of the year. Take time to check them out and vote for your favorites.

FRIDAY ONLY

Tip# 19. Attend the Splashy Awards

In memory of Brian Cashman members gather from 4:30 to 5:30 to "roast" a member who has accomplished the most outlandish "feat" of the year. It's all in good fun. See show program for location.

Tip #20. Member's Only Friday Night Poker Tournament

Entry fee of \$100 can be paid through preregistration or Friday evening at the South Point poker room before the tournament starts. Texas Hold'em is the game and rules, buy-ins and rebuy specifics are available there. The club has some pretty good players to compete with, but win or lose, it's a unique experience for chippers during the Show

SATURDAY ONLY

Tip #21. CCA's Annual Business Meeting

At 8 am an hour before the show floor opens, it's time for the CCA annual business meeting. In addition to the formal part of club business, the new Officers and At-Large Members that were recently elected will be sworn in for their new terms of office.

Tip #22. Best of the Year Awards Announced

Toward the back of the room all of the winners of the "best of the year" awards will be announced and presented with their plaques at 2 pm.

Tip # 23. The Rewards of Volunteering—And the Volunteer Reception

Prior to the June CCA Show the club reaches out for members willing to volunteer a few hours to help. Volunteers are needed to pack up and transport all the club-owned items (display cases, etc.) back to CCA's storage lockers, the reverse process from Wednesday's set-up activities. The tasks are simple, and the manpower is essential. There's no better way to get to know other collectors, one-on-one, than signing up for a volunteer slot or two. Scot Parriott is volunteer chairman. Ask him how you can help at hkp4@icloud.com.

A big benefit of volunteering your time is being invited to attend the Saturday evening Volunteer Reception, free of charge. Refreshments are offered, there's a speaker, a special thank-you gift and one more chance to interact with fellow collectors.

Tip #24. Saturday at the Show

The show floor may have a different vibe, as it's free entry to the public, and the morning may bring additional visitors to the show. Saturday afternoon, show traffic may slow down a bit, but it's also time to make any final offers on chips and other collectibles.

Tip #25. "Last Dance" Trade Session

This is the last scheduled event of the Show, from 7 pm till 11 pm.

Tip #26. Limited time Bonus offer for NEW MEMBERS

For the first 10 new members who join the CCA and ALSO Preregister for the 2026 CCA Show an anonymous CCA member has offered to provide them with a \$20 rebate. But act quickly – it applies to the first 10 new members only.

See you at the 2026 Show and Convention!