

Hello Midwest Regional Button Association friends.

I hope this finds everyone doing well and continuing to enjoy the hobby of button collecting. As always, there were so many amazing buttons at the 2023 MRBA show and my hope is that you found a few new treasures to take home with you. I know I sure did!

Our MRBA board takes its work very seriously, and we strive to ensure that show attendees have a positive and educational experience throughout the show. I wanted to share with everyone how pleased we are with the wonderful turnout at our fourth Midwest Regional Button Association show! The constant buzz in the showroom, the excellent turnout for our workshops and programs, and good vibes throughout the event all indicated that people had a great time. We received an overwhelming amount of positive feedback, and I want to thank our hard-working board members, volunteers, and presenters for their efforts in creating a memorable and fun-filled weekend.

The 2023 show theme was “Pearls and Gems” and we had a wonderful variety of educational programs. One was a special presentation by Dustin Joy from the National Pearl Button Museum in Muscatine, Iowa, which was very informative and enjoyable. The 2023 favor buttons were designed by Kay Ferguson and they were amazing! The design was a beautiful etched treasure chest overflowing with sparkling gemstones on Mother of Pearl.

At each MRBA show we ask attendees to complete an evaluation of the show, which includes suggestions for improvements. Our board takes each suggestion seriously and has been working hard since October to see what, if possible, can be incorporated into the next MRBA show in 2026. We will provide more information about this at a later time.

Because the next two NBS National shows will be in the Midwest (2024 Appleton, WI, and 2025 Springfield, IL), there won't be a MRBA show until 2026. Please be assured that the board will work diligently between now and the 2026 show to plan another fantastic event. The MRBA representative from each member state will make sure MRBA 2026 show information reaches the state's members via postings on state Facebook pages, state websites, and state bulletins as well as being posted on the MRBA website.

Please stay tuned for another great event in 2026 brought to you by the Midwest Regional Button Association.

Respectfully,  
Paul Edw. Thomas  
MRBA Board President