
December 2025

A-1 Region Newsletter

Greetings,

I hope everyone had a lovely Thanksgiving. In this season of gratitude, I think back to my "mini" supporters including my mother, my miniature mentor Mrs. Whyte, and the many teachers and artists I have met along the way who encouraged my curiosity and wonder for all things miniature. This year I had the opportunity to start mentoring a young miniaturist who was not much older than I was when I started. I am impressed by her creativity and feel hopeful for the next generation of miniature enthusiasts. In "Pass It On," Sharon Zingery describes her experience as a first-year State Representative for Illinois. I hope her story will inspire others to volunteer.

Sincerely,

Meredith Hink
Newsletter Editor
zondagmd@hotmail.com

PS: Our next newsletter will be published in April so please send me your updates anytime throughout the winter.

Regional Coordinator Notes

Greetings A1,

First thank you to Barb Anderson for her many years serving as A1 Welcome Chair. Your dedication and work for NAME is appreciated.

Since the last newsletter, we have celebrated NAME Day 2025. I hope everyone enjoyed this project. I somehow missed out. I was asked about my project this year and had to really think about it before realizing I didn't order a kit. I hope you were not in the same situation! The NAME Day Committee is set to reveal the 2026 kit in the January/February Gazette.



Image by [yesman111](#) from [Pixabay](#)

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The holidays are fast approaching. NAME will once again have a shopping event, so make sure you check out the NAME's Create website and the NAME newsletter for more information.

I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Beth Grabau

Events

T&D Miniatures Shows 2026 Schedule

Chicago Spring Showcase of Miniatures, Wyndam Garden Hotel, 1725 E Algonquin Rd, Schaumburg, IL, April 9-11

Ann Arbor Dollhouse and Miniature Show, Wyndam Garen Hotel, 2900 Jackson Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI, May 8-9

Cleveland Miniature Show, Don Umerley Civic Center, 21016 Hillard Blvd., Rocky River, OH, May 15-16

Kansas City Dollhouse and Miniature Show, Abdallah Shrine, 5300 Metcalf Avenue, Overland Park, KS, June 5-6

Minnesota Dollhouse and Miniature Show, New Brighton Community Center, 400 10th Street NW, New Brighton, MN, July 31-August 1

Tennessee Dollhouse and Miniature Show, Patriot Hall, 320 Emberson Dr, Ringgold, GA, September 5-6

Indianapolis Dollhouse and Miniature Show, Wyndam Westfield (Cambria Hotel), 18592 Carousel Lane, Westfield, IN, September 12-13

St. Louis Dollhouse and Miniature Show, Machinist Hall, 12365 St. Charles Rock Rd., Bridgeton, MO, October 2-3

Chicago Autumn Showcase of Miniatures, Wyndam Garden Hotel, 1725 E Algonquin Rd, Schaumburg, IL, November 13-14

Want to host a NAME table at a T&D show? Contact Teresa Zwiener at tminiatures@gmail.com; 314-277-2601.

Club Information

Illinois

Midstate Minimakers of Illinois
Meets every two weeks 1:00-4:30 PM
Bloomington, IL
Contact: Sandy Staker
309-585-0384

Mini Wonders in Chicago
Meets 2nd Saturday at 3:00 p.m.
Chicago, IL
Contact: Delia Gray (773-820-1519)
President Carla Burruss (312-404-7986)

Wee "C" Miniature Club
Meets 4th Friday at 7:30 p.m.
Oakbrook Terrace, IL
Contact: Monica Bernard
773-251-5180

North Shore Miniature Society
Meets 2nd Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
Contact: Sharon Zingery
773-262-7699

The 993 Club
Meets Saturdays at 1:00 p.m.
St. John, IN
Contact: Lula Martlink
219-627-4770

Town Hall Minis
Meets 3rd Tuesday at 12:30 p.m.
New Lenox, IL
Contact: Karen Dircks
815-462-9527

Metro Mini Makers
Meets 2nd Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
Moline, IL
Contact: Karen Cockerill
309-797-6489

Iowa

Miniature Club of Cedar Rapids
Meets 2nd Saturday at 9:30 a.m.
Contact: Linda Freeland
Marion, IA
319-373-1993

WEST
Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month
Contact: Beth Grabau
Windsor Heights, IA
515-993-3240

Omaha-Council Bluffs Miniature Guild
Meets 3rd Sunday- La Vista Community Center
La Vista, Nebraska
Contact: Sheila Froendt
402-305-2989; sfroendt@cox.net

Minnesota

Midwest Miniature Guild**
1st or 2nd Saturdays February, May, October
Minneapolis, MN
Contact: Eva Donaghue
eva@evasetceteraetc.com
www.midwestminiatureguild.org

Missouri

Dream Builders (all scales welcome) **
3rd Wednesday of the Month – 10:30 am
St. Louis Area
Contact: Elaine Levine
314-323-6193
elainebio@aol.com

MINIS ONLY
Meets 1st Wednesday at 11:00 a.m.
Wentzville, Mo
Contact: Frances Gerardi
636-887-0167

Wisconsin

Madison Area Miniature Enthusiasts (MAME)
Meets 2nd Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
Madison, WI
Contact: Janice Waisman
608-770-8458

Milwaukee Miniatures
Meets 1st Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Greenfield, WI
Contact: Carolyn Mitchell
414-355-8492

Lakeshore Miniature Makers
Meets 3rd Saturday at 9:00 a.m.
Sheboygan, WI
Contact: Elaine Dunisch
920-452-4798

Mini Diversions
Meets Sundays every couple of months
Greenfield, WI
Contact: Lynn Jensen
414-235-8193

Retreat Into Miniatures (RIM)
Meets second weekend (Friday-Sunday) October
Cedar Valley Retreat Center – West Bend, WI
Contact: Carolyn Mitchell
414-355-8492

Three Rivers Miniature Club**
Meet Saturdays once a month
La Crosse, WI
Contact: Yarrow Brown
Yarrowbrown74@gmail.com

** Non-NAME clubs

State Representatives

Iowa: Beth Grabau
greta@alumni.iastate.edu

Wisconsin: Alician Pearce
ubfaep@yahoo.com

Illinois: Sharon Zingery
szingery@gmail.com

Minnesota: Jane Sanem
janeannsanem@gmail.com

Missouri: Susan Goodwin
aspsusang@gmail.com

Welcome Chair: Barbara Anderson
barb-a2110@hotmail.com

NAME Updates

Alician Pearce is looking for people that would be willing to help at the National Convention in A1 Region (location TBD) in 2028. If interested, please contact Alician at ubfaep@yahoo.com.

Iowa News

Plans are being made for the 2026 Combined Day event, which will be held in March of 2026. This is an annual event for Iowa NAME Clubs. Each club takes turns planning and coordinating the project. WEST Miniature Club is planning the upcoming event, which is the 40th anniversary since this event began! Happy Anniversary Combined Day!

Nebraska State Day News

We know it has been a while, but the Nebraska State Day will be back in 2026 and will be better than ever!

The project is so amazing that we are extending the event to 2 days — and providing lots of gifts (welcome gift and 2 souvenir gifts), door prizes, tote bags, raffles and much, much more!

The kit for the event - inspired by Brooke Tucker's Golden Christmas room - is half-scale (1/24th) and was designed and laser-cut with precision so that it goes together beautifully. The kit also has many optional features to allow for customization if desired.

Please join us for two fun-filled days of collaboration, education and skills-sharing.



The Registration Fee for this event is \$175. The fee covers the kit, gifts, prizes, tote bags, two catered lunches, snacks, coffee and bottled water.

The fee may be paid in two installments: a \$85 deposit is due upon registration and the remaining \$90 is due by July 1, 2026. If you cancel your registration before July 1, 2026, your deposit will be refunded. (If you cancel after July 1, you will NOT receive a refund, but you will still receive your kit. You must cover the cost of shipping.)

REGISTRATION:

You may register for this event by either printing the registration form (see website below) and mailing it with a check to Sandy Sokoloski (645 Antelope Circle, Papillion, NE 68046). Alternatively, you may complete an online registration form and pay using your credit card. After reading through the details of the event, scroll down and complete the registration information. Then scroll down past the photos and click the 'SUBMIT' button. You will immediately see a confirmation screen and a link to make your payment. Please note that your spot is not secure until your deposit is received, so please complete that process after completing the registration form.

REGISTER HERE:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScfEIS5zWzR1D0FNG4tPVo-XvCPUm6Wb_HGn8_Ony4eaKhGEQ/viewform

Pass It On

Submitted by Sharon Zingery

It's my first year as the Illinois NAME representative. I didn't realize I was supposed to set up and man tables for NAME at local shows. It was a bit overwhelming at first, but it's true...when you give, you get a lot back! First, I got a lot of donations from other Club members and friends of Miniatures which enabled me to make a whole bunch of grab bags to sell at the T&D show in Schaumburg, Illinois, on November 7 and 8. Several of my Northshore Miniature Society members showed up to help me with the table and that really warmed my heart. Lynn Jensen, A past regional coordinator, spent most of Friday with me, helping to set up and learn the ropes. Sitting at the table and chatting with all the participants was the highlight for me. The Grab bags and other items enabled me to raise \$238! At the end of the show, I had two bags left! I also had an application for membership, and several other people expressed interest and took brochures. I was surprised to learn that many people did not even know that we existed. It was fun talking with them about the culture of miniatures and how much they could get out of joining a club. I was surprised to see that many of the attendees were young with colored hair and piercings. The owner of the show has developed a large Instagram following, and she credits Instagram with bringing in a lot of newbies. This gives me hope for our future. Something each of us can think of to expand our club membership. The experience makes me more excited about preparing for the April T&D Show which will run concurrently with the Tom Bishop show.





CALIFORNIA DREAMING 2026

It's not too early to mark your calendars. The 2026 NAME National Convention is scheduled for July 23 – 26, plus three days of Pre-Convention workshops. Make those dreams come true and come for the week!

It's exciting that the National Convention will be back to the West Coast and will be within a day or less driving distance for many of you or the ease of using one of the 13 airlines flying to Palm Springs International Airport.

The three western NAME Regions (N1, N2 and N3) are directly supporting the Convention with human and monetary resources. General Registration is online beginning February 14th.

The upcoming Gazette issues, Social Media, and our NAME Website (<https://miniatures.org/26Cal>) will have all the information to excite your appetite for the breathtaking oasis that defines the La Quinta Resort and Club in La Quinta California near Palm Springs. (Check it out at: <https://www.laquintaresort.com/>)

**As a Hilton resort property, the La Quinta is not the affiliated
with the Inns and Suites located across the Country.**

We'll have unique centerpieces, workshops by skilled artisans, opportunities for networking and purchasing from your favorite new or familiar artisan. Self-parking is free so once you are settled in, getting around the Resort and Club is a breeze, too—golf carts will shuttle us wherever we need to go on the resort grounds, so no long walks required.

So, why should you attend?

There are so many reasons so put these dates on your 2026 calendar and watch for detailed information in forthcoming media releases. For questions, contact: Carol Hodgson, Convention Publicity Chair, cadreaming2026@yahoo.com or Kim Ash, NAME Office, kim@miniatures.org, or visit <https://miniatures.org/26Cal>.

LAKESHORE MINIATURE MAKERS RETREAT JUNE 18 – 21, 2026

What is it? A weekend get-together of up to 30 miniaturists begins on a Thursday afternoon and concludes after breakfast on Sunday. No classes, no gifts, and no centerpieces. This will just be a fun, relaxing time to work on unfinished miniature projects or other artistic endeavors, meet old friends, and make some new ones.

Where? Cedar Valley Retreat Center, West Bend, WI -- <https://ucci.org/cedar-valley/>.

Cost – per person: Based on three nights lodging, plus eight meals.

Single Occupancy: \$485.00

Double Occupancy: \$435.00

Commuters – Meals Only: \$215.00

Full payment is due by January 31, 2026. Complete this form, along with a \$50.00 deposit to reserve your spot.

Cancellations:

90 days or more prior to arrival date

100% of deposit less \$50.00 processing fee

61-89 days prior

80% of total deposit

60 days or less to arrival date

No refund

Silent Auction: We will again be conducting a silent auction. You keep the proceeds. It will be on Saturday evening, after dinner, around 7 PM. All items must be registered and a bid sheet attached. If there are missing pieces, it must be noted on the bid sheet. Bring cash, as no checks or credit cards will be accepted. You may bring up to ten items.

Free Table: There will be a free table. But be sure the item has some value. DO NOT BRING JUNK!!!

Contact Person: Laura Graney

Email: Laura9326@charter.net

Phone: (920) 452-9326

Please make checks payable to: Laura Graney



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LAKESHORE MINIATURE MAKERS RETREAT JUNE 18-21, 2026
REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____ Single room _____

ADDRESS: _____ Double room _____

Roommate's name: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____ Meals only: _____