

## Welcome, First-Timers, to the ICES Convention and Show . . . *A Convention Overview*

Members are called “**First Timers**” when they attend an ICES Convention for the first time. There is so much to see and do at an ICES Convention! To help you through this very busy time, we have a **First Timers’ Orientation**, which is presented by Bonnie Blackburn. You will find it very informative, interesting and enjoyable. The First Timers’ Orientation is a “must” for everyone who hasn't yet attended an ICES Convention. The San Diego 2010 Tentative Show Schedule lists the First Timers’ Orientation on Wednesday, August 11, at 3:00 p.m., and Thursday, August 12 at 4:00 p.m. Be sure to check the Convention Schedule for updated information when you arrive. You will want to get there early so you won’t miss out on anything.

**Research** The very first thing you should do, before even leaving home, is visit [www.ices.org](http://www.ices.org) and start learning about ICES. Visit the link “Convention News”. There is a wealth of information to be found under many categories. This is your best resource for learning about all things convention: registration, convention schedule, tour information, demonstrations, vendor listing, sugar display registration, photo studio procedure (yes!...we supply a professional convention photographer; be sure to get your cake photographed for free). So much more information is listed on that page. If you would like to learn more about San Diego, CA, you may also visit [www.ices10.org](http://www.ices10.org). Information about lodging, visiting the San Diego area, tour details, etc., can be found in detail there.

Your **ICES Representative** can help to prepare you for convention with ideas and suggestions. For example, she or he can let you know what to do if you wish to sit together as a group at the Saturday night banquet.

**Register** The easiest way to register for convention is online. Online registration begins March 1. Visit Convention News under the “Upcoming Events” designation. Scroll down to “Register Online for Convention” and follow the directions. It’s that simple. If you wish to register by mail, you may request the paperwork from your State Representative, a Show Director or me. Please note that if you don’t own a computer, you may also use a public computer at your local library and either register online, or download the paperwork from that location. My contact information may be found at the conclusion of this letter.

**Clothing** Attire for the convention is casual, so take very comfortable clothing, especially comfortable shoes. You will want to be sure to bring some dressy beach/tropical wear for the Saturday Night Awards Banquet.

**Sugar Art Display Registration & Photo/Video/CD/DVD Release Form** Go to the ICES web site at [www.ices.org](http://www.ices.org) (click on “Convention News” under “Upcoming Events”) to register your sugar art display, which includes space for a description. Only sugar art displays which are pre-registered and postmarked by July 21, 2010, will be placed by state/area/province/country. Sugar display registrations received after that date or on site will be placed on a first-come, first-served basis at the Show Committee’s discretion. Set up your sugar art display as soon as possible during the scheduled times on Wednesday and Thursday of the convention.

**Show Rules and Regulations** Read these carefully so that you are educated about the rules for your sugar art display.

**Cake Hospital** You may make any necessary repairs to your sugar art display in the cake hospital if it should be damaged while traveling, but you may not ice and decorate your display there. Decorating and icing may be completed in your room. Bring along anything that might be needed to repair your display in the event it is damaged.

**Photo Studio** Be sure to read the ICES Photo Studio Procedure on the ICES web site so you’ll know how to have your cake photographed for free. The ICES newsletter features about 16 color convention photos of cakes every month for the next eleven months, so bring your best work. One day you may open up your ICES newsletter and notice that your cake is featured there. You might also remember that the home page of the ICES web site features cakes from our conventions as well. How would you like to see your cake featured on the home page?

Don't forget to pick up a **Century Club** ticket when you finish setting up your sugar art display. Complete the necessary information and keep your part of the ticket(s) for the drawing of great prizes at the banquet on Saturday night. The more displays you have, the more chances you will have to win prizes.

**Shopping** Make an inventory list of the cake decorating items you already have. This is easy to do on the computer, plus it makes updating simple. Suggested categories are as follows: Books (which you will list by author), Cake Stands, Cutters, Molds, Pans, Rolling Pins, Separator Plates, Stencils, Tips, Videos, etc. You will find the list very

helpful in preventing you from buying duplicates of some items you already have. Also, make a "wish list" of items you would like to purchase from the convention vendors. Perhaps you have seen something in a cake decorating magazine that you've been waiting to buy. Come to think of it, it's a good idea to have a computerized inventory list even if you're not going to the convention.

**2010 ICES Vendors** are listed on the ICES web site; you may wish to do some research, visit their web sites, or place orders before you ever leave home.

**Money, Money, Money!** Take as much money as you can in traveler's checks and cash. You will feel like a kid in a candy store when you see all those vendors' products. You will think you simply must have some of those items, especially from vendors outside the U. S., because you can save on shipping expenses. Please note that most vendors do not accept personal checks.

Please sign the Hospitality Book which will be located near the Registration area. There is a section in the book for each state or country, which has space for your name and hotel. This information is very helpful and sometimes it is the only way to locate people either from your own state/area/province/country, or people you know from other states or areas.

**Voting** You must have your voting ballot to vote at the General Membership Breakfast Meeting. A time for ballot pickup will be announced and posted. No ballots will be handed out during the meeting. Remember: no ballot, no vote.

**The Sunday Night of Sharing** is a wonderful event! Be sure to attend this if at all possible; you will learn so much. You can go from table to table to see all the things that are being demonstrated at no charge. You may see a demo that you missed or something repeated that you wanted to see again. Maybe you have something to share; you are welcome to do that by simply sitting down at a table and demonstrating.

**Demonstrations** will be listed on the web site with descriptions, as well as what mediums are being used. Note that you are allowed to pick up to eight demonstrations (at \$7 each) when you register and you may also purchase an additional four Standby tickets. Standby tickets allow you to attend any demonstration within the last 10 minutes of seating if there is space available.

We also have **Hands-On Classes** (2 to 2½ hours each), which are \$75 per session. Presently, the instructor provides all supplies. Check the Convention Schedule for updated information.

**The Certification Program** is in its third year at the ICES Convention. Candidates taking the day-long test work to be named either an ICES Certified Sugar Artist or ICES Certified Master Sugar Artist. The purpose of this program is to expand and enhance the qualifications of ICES members and to encourage members to develop their talents in the sugar arts, strive for excellence in achievement, and acquire new sugar art skills.

Check out the ICES web site often for the latest information, as we list any changes as soon as possible. We want to keep you well informed.

**Questions?** Always feel free to ask your Representative or other people with any questions you have. You will find that ICES members are very willing to help you with their caring and sharing. Feel free to contact me personally with any questions by e-mail at [lcicing@msn](mailto:lcicing@msn).

Try to get plenty of rest before the convention starts, because you will be so busy seeing and doing things during the convention. You will be exhausted with information and excitement when the convention ends, but as many have said before you, it will be worth every minute!

Linda Fontana

ICES Convention Chair

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**International Cake Exploration Societé**

35th Annual Convention and Show

August 12 - 15, 2010 • San Diego, CA

