

FOHBC

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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We hope you like this issue of *Bottles and Extras* which is dedicated to our recent 2017 Springfield National. You will find within, an excellent comprehensive Springfield article by Jim Bender, one of our co-chairs. We decided to pair the Springfield article with Eric McGuire's outstanding "Another Look at Sandwich Glass" article that initially appeared in the Springfield National souvenir program. These two feature pieces took most of our space within this issue. You will still find your section favorites like Member News, Shards of Wisdom, Member Photos, History's Corner and Lost & Found etc. We even added a new page for Virtual Museum News which will now appear each issue. This update is being authored by Richard Siri who initially came up with the Virtual Museum idea.

I get asked often about the future and direction of the FOHBC and am pleased to say this topic was very much discussed, as usual, at our semi-annual board of directors meeting at the Springfield National. You can find meeting notes on the FOHBC web site under FOHBC: Notes of Record in the horizontal green menu bar. Of course, our future involves leadership, great ideas, volunteerism and contributions so we can address the many challenges facing an individual collector or club nowadays such as a dwindling group of younger hobbyists and competition from online bottle sites and other activities that seem to captivate the next generation. I mean, when I was a little guy and collected stamps, Matchbox cars, Hot Wheels, comic books, 45 RPM records, GI Joes, rock & roll posters etc., it just seemed natural to collect. I am just grateful that I was passed on the collecting gene from my father and his parents. Everyone just doesn't get the collecting bug. Just a lucky few. I wish we could bottle and sell it. Wouldn't that be great!

With that said, the board is now taking applications for the 2018-2020 slate of Federation officers. First Vice-President Sheldon Baugh is heading up an independent committee to provide a board-recommended slate while we are also encouraging others to consider running against any of the other board suggested candidates. Instructions will be in the January February 2018 issue of *Bottles and Extras*.

I would also like to note here that I will not be running for President again. It seems that six years is an adequate amount of time to get some limelight or tossed tomatoes (I say this with a playful smile) so we are looking for a new team to take our hobby forward in the coming years. There are so many good people and ideas that it is best to have a changing of the guard to keep things fresh. Our present board is spectacular and I hope that most decide to stay on. I would, however, like our membership and board to allow me to remain on

the board in a Director-at-Large position to assist the FOHBC in areas of my familiarity. The President is supposed to move into this position per our bylaws.

I would also like to ask for volunteers to help us in areas of *Bottles and Extras* (articles, component authoring, proof reading, advertising solicitation), our FOHBC web site (show posts, show listings, archiving) newsletter (develop and issue bi-monthly), Virtual Museum (research) and National Conventions (many volunteers needed), to name the big areas. We need help as it is not fair or wise to just have a few pulling the rope. We are stronger as a group. I have said this many times.

Our national events are moving forward with the FOHBC 2018 Cleveland National Antique Bottle Convention & Expo and 2019 FOHBC 50th Anniversary Augusta National Antique Bottle Convention. You again can get an update on the latest news by referring to the Springfield National semi-annual FOHBC board meeting notes on the FOHBC web site.

Ok, now for some gallows or dark humor. Back in early August, I was contacted by a lovely young woman from The History Channel. They wanted to talk to me about an upcoming series on collecting and possibly visit the collection in Houston. We talked and I said every bottle has a story. I did mention that the collection was previously featured on an episode of Extreme Collectors but that did not seem to deter her. Well, things happened. We had a fateful appointment with a fellow named Harvey and I was offline and away from my world for a number of days. When I finally looked at my emails and phone messages, she had been trying to reach me to schedule a Skype web interview. My reply was simple... "OK. Underwater at the moment" Her reply was "Sounds fun! Let me know when you've come up for air!". Ha. That was a good one. I didn't reply as survival was on my immediate list of things to do. A few days later another email came in saying, "Oh my gosh.... I did not even realize you were in Houston! I misunderstood what you were saying in the last email. Stay safe!"

Well, we've now had a 100-year flood, 500-year flood and now this 1,000-year flood in a year and a half. Don't put any stock into that baloney. There are changes in our environment, our natural world and with the millions of acres of development that have occurred on the vast rice fields, prairies and natural vegetation that once absorbed our downpours. This last one took the cake. I stopped measuring with my rain gauge when the raised urn and gauge floated away at 30". That's biblical. We are now considering raising the house or razing the house.

Elizabeth and I thank you all for the concern and well-wishes we received. I have been asked many times if any bottles broke? Actually, only one bottle broke. A figural barrel fell off a higher shelf and broke on my head. Probably a message there somewhere. No, it wasn't a Headache Bitters! Lions, tigers and bears, oh my!

Enjoy your family, your friends and your glass. There are just so many other things going on in our country and our world that you must keep the core and foundation strong. Follow and fuel your heart and passion.