

FOHBC

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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It is 27 November and I am sitting in my studio on a Monday after the Thanksgiving holiday. I am grateful and in the spirit. You see, today is the day I start playing traditional Christmas music here in the studio and it makes me happy. I remember growing up and being with my family. Warm and fuzzy feelings. With the flood and the house in disarray, we had Thanksgiving and we plan Christmas at my daughter's house with the grandkids (and 12 dogs). I got all excited and said I wanted to try something new under the circumstances and wanted to take them all to a nice hotel suite for a few nights and have Thanksgiving in a local restaurant. Well, I started a riot. I had forgotten about tradition and family and had to back pedal quickly. Maybe next flood.

Thank you for all the nice e-mails and notes regarding myself stepping down from being FOHBC President this past six years. I really do appreciate it. Leading eighteen other outstanding, passionate board members is taxing at best. It's been great though, and I wish the next team the best!

With that said, we have formed a committee headed by First Vice-President Sheldon Baugh to propose the FOHBC recommended board candidate slate. I always thought this was an odd process but that is what our bylaws say. I just do not want our membership to think that they would not get a fair opportunity to run for a position. Actually, they can run against any position and I have seen upsets before, I guess we all have.

Here is the slate proposed on the next column though I must admit I am a bit concerned. You see we have 19 positions and four regions (Northeast, Midwest, Southern and Western). Our goal should be to have at least four board members from each region. This slate heavily represents the Northeast and Midwest. Don't get me wrong, these are super candidates, but we need to get Western and Southern candidates to step up in short order. Please look at the positions and see if there are any areas where you might fit in (vacant position) or run against a candidate. This is how Democracy works. Our four regions are distinct. We must not let them be forgotten or give any one region too much influence. This is dangerous.

I am hearing from the 2018 Cleveland National chairs, Louis Fifer and Matt Lacy, that table sales are a bit slow. They are hearing that dealers just don't want to commit to such a long weekend. I reminded them to push and state as often as possible that 1) this will be the shortest show for the FOHBC in years. There are four hours on Sunday (9 to 1:00 pm) (you can go home early!), a half day on Saturday and a half day Friday (afternoon Early Admission). A dealer might only need two nights at the host hotel or inn of their choice. The dealers would not have to attend all the popular front-end events. Let's get this Rocking and Rolling!

The finances are just in from Bob Strickhart (co-chair) for the recent 2017 Springfield National. It looks like we are a couple thousand dollars in the black which is good. I think we were all a bit disappointed with the financial results as it was far below the recent Reno 2012, Manchester 2013, Lexington 2014, Chattanooga 2015 and Sacramento 2016 FOHBC events. Some fear this is just a sign of the times. We really need to focus on what makes these shows work and what doesn't. Please remember that the FOHBC barely breaks even with our stellar *Bottles and Extras*. Printing costs and mailing always seem to go up. Your donations, national show support and membership is critical!

A shorter president's message this issue. Please think hard about the candidates and how we should go forward. Thanks, and Happy Collecting!

FOHBC Candidates

Here is the slate of FOHBC recommended candidates put forth by the nominating committee headed by Sheldon Baugh, Chairperson, for the 2018 - 2020 term.

Anyone desiring to run for a position may choose to run fill a vacant position or run against one of the candidates by going to the FOHBC website and printing out a nomination form. Then, mail or email to Sheldon Baugh, 252 W. Valley Drive, Russellville, Kentucky 42276.
sbi_inc@bellsouth.net

The closing date for nominations is April 1, 2018 at midnight.

Additional nominations will be printed alongside the slate proposed by the nominating committee and will be listed in the May-June 2018 issue of *Bottles and Extras* along with a short biography of each candidate.

FOHBC members will vote by a form provided by mail. The new board members will be announced after a vote count at the annual Membership Meeting Breakfast at the FOHBC 2018 Cleveland National Antique Bottle Convention & Expo.

FOHBC Officers

President: Matt Lacy
Austinburg, Ohio (Midwest)

First Vice President: Louis Fifer
Brunswick, Ohio (Midwest)

Second Vice President: Sheldon Baugh
Russellville, Kentucky (Midwest)

Secretary: Val Berry
St. Johnsville, New York (Northeast)

Treasurer: Jim Berry
St. Johnsville, New York (Northeast)

Historian: Jim Bender
Sprakers, New York (Northeast)

Editor: Martin Van Zant
Danville, Indiana (Midwest)

Merchandising Director: Position Open

Membership Director: Linda Sheppard
Sprakers, New York (Northeast)

Conventions Director: Bob Strickhart
Pennington, New Jersey (Northeast)

Business Manager: Elizabeth Meyer
Houston, Texas (Southern)

Director-at-Large: Ferdinand Meyer V
Houston, Texas (Southern)

Director-at-Large: Position Open

Director-at-Large: John Pastor
New Hudson, Michigan (Midwest)

Midwest Director: John Fifer
Brunswick, Ohio (Midwest)

Northeast Director: Jeff Ullman
Cobleskill, New York (Northeast)

Southern Director: Brad Seigler
Justin, Texas (Southern)

Western Director: Eric McGuire
Petaluma, California (Western)

Public Relations Director: Position Open