

FOHBC

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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Sometimes I feel like the 'Peanuts' character Charlie Brown. It's usually when I say or think 'oh good grief!' Just when I feel like I am on top of the day, Lucy (or Elizabeth) or Snoopy (one of my many dogs) or something entirely unrelated, does or says something that makes me scratch my head and mimic old Charles. There are many pauses and smiles along the way, and a few grimaces.

Today, it is 18 January and Elizabeth and I made it in to Houston from Peach Ridge. The last two days, Houston and the entire southeast Texas, has been shut down with an ice storm and temperatures in the mid-teens. No school, no businesses open, stores closed yada-yada. I know it is winter, but "good grief!" I know you 'Northerners' are probably smiling as this is just a mild winter's day for you. And this is after it snowed on Christmas.

The antique bottle world goes around and around too. Many stops along the way. Regional and local shows continue to happen against a growing sentiment and collector base that can be satisfied by not leaving their home. Who would have ever thought? Some of the shows are prospering while some are status quo and some may be on their last legs unless a new generation of bottle collectors can figure out a way to marry the new world with the old. This is where the FOHBC comes in. We are the glue that holds all this together. Please attend some shows, volunteer to help, give us your ideas and support the hobby. I'm hearing these challenges all across the hobby world. Please, tell us how we can help you, too.

The Federation is now reaching out more than ever and communicating with other similar groups such as the National Bottle Museum, National Insulator Association (NIA), International Perfume Bottle Collectors (IPBC), National Association of Milk Bottle Collectors (NAMBC), Antique Poison Bottle Collectors Association, *British Bottle Review* (BBR), *Antique Bottle & Glass Collector*, auction houses, digging groups, historians and local clubs. Let's share our events and goals, learn from each other and figure out a way to bridge the many challenges that face us. Time is happening faster that we can react. We need to be pro-active rather than reactive, positive rather than negative, leaders rather than followers.

I am asking that all Federation clubs, if you have not already, add the FOHBC logo and our 2018 Cleveland National show art to your newsletter. We have had a couple of 2018 Cleveland National conference calls recently and while we have a super core team led by Louis Fifer and Matt Lacy, we need assistance in many areas. All you procrastinators need to send in your table contracts, purchase early admission, make your hotel reservations and reserve a spot at our banquet where

Terry Kovel will be our keynote speaker. We will also be opening the Virtual Museum's first gallery during the banquet.

Most of all, we need you to come to our event. Make it a vacation. Did you know that Cleveland was named to *National Geographic Traveler's* 2018 'Best of the World' list? Quite amazing. You can read all about it on the Federation web site and on the Cleveland National show page. We are taking full advantage of this dynamic city by having our event in the heart of downtown at the Marriott Key Center. Located directly next to the Key Tower, the pinnacle of the Cleveland skyline, the Huntington Convention Center offers a vast and modern headquarters for the bottle event of the year! We warmly welcome you to share this once in a lifetime experience with us!

This is the first time the FOHBC has brought the National Expo back to the shores of Lake Erie since the 1992 Toledo Expo, successfully chaired by Adam Koch. We are excited to share all Cleveland has to offer as a central meeting ground, as 60% of the US population lives within 600 miles of this energetic, picturesque city. Cleveland's rich history from country settlement to thriving port town to industrial metropolis is displayed among the beautiful architecture and vivid culture found all over the city.

Once checked into the lavish host hotel in the heart of downtown, all amenities and attractions are within reach. A short walk will lead you to an array of museums and sites, such as the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame (where we are having our opening reception), the Great Lakes Science Center, Public Square and the JACK Casino, just to name a few. Locally owned restaurants are generously dispersed throughout the neighborhood, from gourmet burgers to plush steakhouses and everything in between. Living up to the title of being "The City of Rock," East 4th Street and The Flats are near-by neighborhoods thriving with entertainment and music of all genres.

We need you to buy an advertisement in our Cleveland National Souvenir Program, and considering offering to help in the many ways such as the front desk, security, and other hospitality areas. It's also not too late to display at the convention. We will make space for you.

We continue to get a lot of praise on the continued development of *Bottles and Extras*. We hope you enjoy this issue as much as we have had fun putting it together. We are getting a growing backlog of fine articles and have many plans including a section on club news. Not the old way that was page after page of minutiae but pertinent club news that is interesting and fundamentally important as we grow our hobby. There are some great people and ideas out there and we must connect as I said before.

There will be a 2019 FOHBC 50th Anniversary Augusta National Antique Bottle Convention conference call in the coming weeks. We have a great team and super plans to commemorate our 50th anniversary. We are also looking to have our national event in 2020 in the Western Region. The Request for Proposal is out with the local clubs. Richard Siri is already working on Las Vegas or Reno as an option.

As I complete this president's message on the 3rd February, I remind you to stay warm in body and heart as the groundhog hath spoken! Welcome to six more weeks of winter. This past Friday morning, Punxsutawney Phil scurried out of his little marmot hole and saw his shadow. This omen indicates a long winter. Good grief!