



**The Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors
Board of Directors Conference Call
April 18, 2013, 9:00 pm EST**

Ferdinand Meyer V, called the conference call of the Federation to order at 9:00 pm EST.

Present: Ferdinand Meyer V, President
Bob Ferraro, 1st VP
Jamie Houdeshell, 2nd VP
Gene Bradberry, Director at Large
Gary Beatty, Treasurer
James Berry, Secretary
Pam Selenak, Public Relations Director
Richard Watson, Historian
Tom Phillips, Convention Director
James Bender, Membership Director
Martin Van Zant, Bottles and Extras Editor (part time)
Alan DeMaison, Business Manager
Dave Maryo, Western Region Director
Randee Kaiser, Midwest Region Director
Ed Kuskie, Northeast Region Director
Jack Hewitt, Southern Region Director

Absent: John Panek, Director at Large
John Pastor, Director at Large
Sheldon Baugh, Merchandising Director

Agenda 1: Membership - Status/Drive - Jim Bender

Continuing efforts are being made to increase FOHBC membership. Reminder letters/post cards to rejoin are being sent to those whose membership have expired. A new membership ad will be placed in the *Antique Bottle & Glass Collector* magazine. Ferdinand is also checking into an ad being placed in Alan Blakeman's quarterly magazine, the *British Bottle Review*, as well as other antique/bottle magazines. It was also suggested to place an ad in member club newsletters - ask newsletter editors in your club or region.

As modern technology moves forward, Jim noted that few clubs publish hard copies of their magazines/newsletters - they are being sent digitally, over the internet. This is not only a cost savings, but they feel it is a convenience and may attract more people. He suggested that we think about a "digital membership" in the future be offered at a lower cost; however, our magazine will continue to be produced.

Jim has also contacted the Regional Directors to help with getting in touch with memberships in their region and they did. It is believed that the most common reason for not renewing is oversight; however, they learned that several members are no

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longer in the hobby and are, in fact, planning on selling their collection; some are older and no longer interested; several had medical concerns that take precedence over bottle collecting; and economical reasons. It was also mentioned that the past problems need to be forgotten and the Federation will continue to be positive.

Alan DeMaison reported that we now are at 1,266 members

Action taken:

No action taken.

Agenda 2: National Show Reports - Tom Phillips

Manchester, New Hampshire:

Tom reported on the current status of the Manchester show. At this time:

218 tables sold; 38 remain

91 banquet tickets sold

19 early buyers

346-room count

20 displays (the Federation will also have a display)

Several new memberships were purchased through the sales contracts.

The souvenir program's deadline for advertising is May 1st.

Consignments for the auction have a deadline of June 1st.

Nine seminars scheduled and are listed on the FOHBC website.

Bottle Battle - 3 categories:

Colored Medicines

Utilities

Whimsical Objects

Tom also reported on an anonymous donation of \$5,000 to be used as raffles at the show.

As Federation officers, it is hoped that there will be volunteers to help cover the Federation table and also the merchandise table.

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Pam Selenak will coordinate a schedule for Federation officers to sign up and help cover our tables. She will follow up with an e-mail to officers.

2014 Lexington, Kentucky:

Randee Kaiser, Sheldon Baugh and Tom Phillips are currently working on preparing the sales contracts. They will be available around the first part of July (for those unable to attend Manchester) and will definitely be available at the Manchester show. Events will be similar to those of Manchester (seminars, bottle battle, auction, banquet, etc.).

2015 Chattanooga, Tennessee:

The contract with the Marriott has been completed and a deposit will be made for the convention center. When signed, a press release will be prepared. Other details will be worked as needed.

It was mentioned that at this point in time, we are way ahead with scheduling dates for National shows and should help eliminate conflicts with other shows. Having additional local assistance to help Tom Phillips coordinate the shows, such as Maureen Crawford and Mike George for the Manchester show, have been a great benefit. Other events, such as the bottle battle and auction, make these shows a little more exciting.

Agenda 3: Virtual Museum - Ferdinand Meyer V and Alan DeMaison

Ferdinand is hoping to give a brief presentation (architectural plans, galleries, three-D layouts, progress, etc.) on the Virtual Museum at the membership meeting at Manchester. This will be promoted on the website and other venues in an effort to get good attendance at the membership meeting.

Alan reported on the fundraising efforts made on behalf of the Virtual Museum, which has only been for 2½ months. There has been minimal expense at this point; however, Ferdinand will need some financial support to continue moving forward on the site. The FOHBC website has a page with the “bottle” is filling as donations are received and those who have donated (no dollar amounts) are listed there as well.

Alan stated that a raffle will be held at the Manchester show - prize will be a thousand dollar bottle with proceeds being donated to the Virtual Museum Fund.

Alan will be doing a donation “e-mail blast” to those on-line. Attendance into the Museum will need to be further investigated. The virtual museum will give the

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FOHBC the opportunity to expand and offer more and more information in the bottle/glass field, than is allowed in the magazine.

Action taken:

Alan DeMaison will prepare a report showing costs incurred for the Virtual Museum and potential costs that we may not be aware of. He will discuss further at the Board meeting in Manchester, NH.

Agenda 4: Business and Finances - Alan DeMaison, Gary Beatty

Gary reported on the current financial status of the FOHBC. He did note that there are a couple of checks outstanding at this time. He will follow up with the bank.

Ferdinand explained that the Business Manager and Treasurer work in conjunction with each other making the organization run smoothly.

Ferdinand also explained that the FOHBC investments are just that - money put safely away to be used only when necessary as “operational funds,” when shortfalls happen. Annual financial reports are normally prepared but not necessarily published. Information can be available at the membership meetings. To maintain the Federation financially, we need to keep these investments in place and use the interest wisely and only when necessary.

Explanation was given regarding the cost of developing the Virtual Museum. After doing some investigating on the internet through a “clubs” site, it was found that there are very minimal “virtual” sites. It is a very involved process and not just a “website.” Most people are not aware of what is involved in creating a virtual site - it is not just pictures.

Action taken:

No action taken.

Agenda 5: Region Director Responsibilities

Ferdinand stated that the Region Directors are responsible to help with memberships and also get information/stories/events from their regions/local clubs for the digital newsletter. Region Directors act as liaisons between their region and the Federation. This helps us to keep in contact with these clubs and also with promotion and support for the hobby on a national level. Please get information to Ferdinand for the digital newsletter.

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Action taken:

No action taken.

Agenda 6: New Website Person - Ferdinand Meyer V

As has been the plan since the “new” website was developed, Ferdinand is preparing to be replaced as webmaster. He will soon place an ad for a website person to take over the FOHBC site under his guidance. He will continue with the Virtual Museum.

Action taken:

Members approved.

Agenda 7: Member Clubs - Alan DeMaison

As a membership classification, Alan explained the definition of the club affiliation per the bylaws. He also reported on the wording used on the club affiliation application to certify that the club is in compliance. The application does not read the same as the bylaws and may prohibit some “clubs” from joining.

Alan is recommending that the wording be changed on the application so it conforms to the definition of the bylaws.

Action taken:

A motion was made by Alan DeMaison that the current club affiliation application form be amended to reflect the wording in the bylaws. It will read as follows: ‘I certify that our club, association or organization which has ten (10) or more members, meets at least annually and fosters the mission of the Federation as set forth in Article I [of the bylaws],’ (C - to encourage growth and public awareness of the bottle hobby and to enhance the enjoyment of such through collecting, dealing and educational endeavors and to promote fair and ethical conduct within the bottle hobby.) Motion was seconded by Dick Watson and all were in favor.

For clarification, as a benefit to being a member club of the Federation, all member clubs are automatically included in the Federation’s group general liability insurance plan for their shows and other club-sponsored events.

Agenda 8: Collecting Diversification - Ferdinand Meyer V

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Recently there has been an exchange of ideas regarding the misperception of bottle collecting and the Federation. Specifically, the high cost of buying and owning bottles. Board members reported that they are being told the Federation “caters” to these types of collectors and not the others, such as milk bottle or beer bottle collectors. Articles being published in magazines, ours included, were usually about expensive buys or finds.

Ferdinand reported that *Bottles and Extras* is now printing articles on all types of bottles - not just the hundred thousand dollar bottle. We need to encourage these collectors to get on board with the FOHBC and to submit articles with their stories of finding, digging, or just collecting what they like. The bottle-collecting world needs to know that the Federation is here for all types of collectors and encourage them to write articles for the magazine.

Action taken:

No action taken.

Other Discussion:

Gene Bradberry: Gene stated that as discussed at a previous conference call, the information on the revision of the bylaws, should be published on-line with an insert in the magazine (*Bottles and Extras*) to check on-line for an explanation of the changes being recommended. The general membership should be able to review before the final ratification at the Board Meeting in July.

Gene also noted that if any officer has any suggestions or comments regarding the bylaws, to please let Gene know.

Action taken:

Gene Bradberry and Ferdinand Meyer V will discuss what needs to be done to have information ready for the June/July issue of *Bottles and Extras* and the FOHBC website. We would like to get as many members as we can to attend the general membership meeting at Manchester, NH.

The conference call was ended at 10:42 pm EST

Respectfully submitted,

James Berry, Secretary