



The Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors Board of Directors Meeting

FOHBC 2017 Baltimore Antique Bottle Show

March 11, 2017, 8:00 am EST

Ferdinand Meyer V called the meeting of the Federation to order at 8:00 am EST.

Present: Ferdinand Meyer V, President
John Pastor, Director at Large
Ron Hands, Director at Large
Elizabeth Meyer, Business Manager
James Berry, Secretary
James Bender, Historian
Linda Sheppard, Membership Director
Valeri Berry, Merchandising Director
Louis Fifer, Conventions Director
Alicia Booth, Public Relations Director
Matt Lacy, Midwest Region Director
Eric McGuire, Western Region Director
Robert Strickhart, Northeast Region Director
Brad Seigler, Southern Region Director (via conference)

Absent: Sheldon Baugh, First Vice President
Gene Bradberry, Second Vice President
Steve Ketcham, Director at Large
Gary Beatty, Treasurer
Martin Van Zant, *Bottles and Extras* Editor

Guest: Todd Knisley, Ohio Bottle Club

A. Call to Order (Meyer)

Welcome, Attendance Roll Call, Weekend Events, State of the Hobby

Ferdinand called the meeting to order at 8:00 am with attendance taken. One guest (Todd Knisley) was in attendance and he introduced himself. Brad Seigler, Southern Region Director was on the conference line.

Ferdinand stated that this was our 'semi-annual' meeting. Conference calls are held periodically keeping board members up-to-date on Federation news, issues, etc.

Ferdinand typically reports on the 'State of the Hobby' through his President's Message on the website and within *Bottles and Extras*. He continues to feel that joining clubs, FOHBC included, is important. As the Federation, one of our responsibilities is keeping the bottle collecting hobby active and unified. We must continue to reach out for new memberships and retain our existing memberships.

Action Taken: None

B. 2016 National Antique Bottle Convention & Expo | Sacramento, California (Meyer)

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Closure report. The FOHBC 2016 Sacramento National Antique Bottle Convention & Expo account has been closed and monies sent to the FOHBC account.

Ferdinand briefly reviewed the Sacramento National profit/loss statement. It was agreed that the convention was a huge success.

Action Taken: None

C. National Show/Convention Profit & Loss Statement Filing (Meyer)

Historical P&L Report handout.

Ferdinand explained that for many years, there was no actual financial report submission following Federation national shows, such as a profit/loss statement (PL). He reviewed past shows and found that records were poorly kept, mismanaged and that a PL statement was, in some cases, never submitted.

Ferdinand specifically mentioned missing records (costs, expenses, profit, loss, etc.) for the FOHBC 2008 York National Antique Bottle Show & Expo, the FOHBC 2010 Wilmington National Antique Bottle Show and the FOHBC 2011 Memphis National Antique Bottle Show. Ferdinand noted that he also spoken with the then Business Manager, Alan DeMaison who also expressed frustration and concern with the noted record keeping above.

During 2012, a new Conventions Director, Tom Phillips, took on the responsibility of handling the national shows. Due to his expertise and commitment, complete record keeping protocol was established and a comprehensive financial report was prepared following each show thereafter.

Ferdinand and others reiterated that although making a profit for the conventions is a nice ending, it still remains that the Federation's position is to continue to promote, foster and encourage the hobby of bottle collecting. Having a great event, bottle collecting experience and making a profit should be the rule.

Action Taken: None

D. Legal [Closed Door] (Meyer)

Ferdinand reviewed an issue that has been resolved.

Action Taken: None

E. Bottles and Extras (Meyer)

Ferdinand reported that the May/June 2017 issue is almost complete. This issue will feature several 'Northeast' region articles including Jim Bender's article titled *History of Springfield* and *My visit to the Philadelphia Museum of Art to examine its cross-swirled Pitkin flask*, by Dana Charlton-Zarro.

Ferdinand reviewed the working schedule for *Bottles and Extras*. The publishing and distribution of the magazine has been well ahead of schedule and is typically mailed from ModernLitho in

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Missouri, 2-3 weeks ahead of time.

Due to his concern with the magazine schedule, Ferdinand has been doing much of the design and layout work and making sure the publication is on schedule. Most of the magazine design is done by Ferdinand in Houston (cover, table of contents, president's message, member news, all articles, member photos, show calendar etc.). Board members agreed that the magazine has shown considerable improvement in the past few years due to Ferdinand's efforts.

With visuals, Ferdinand and Elizabeth explained how the member's portal on the FOHBC web site can be used to view back issues of *Bottles and Extras*. Ferdinand also noted that historical copies of *The Pontil*, is available as well. *The Pontil* newsletter is from the Antique Bottle Collectors Association (ABCA), the forerunner of the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors (FOHBC). A special thanks to Federation board member Eric McGuire for scanning *The Pontil* issues.

The next historical years of *Bottles and Extras* (1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002) need to be scanned. Ferdinand will work on those issues when he time is available. Note: The requested copies were provided prior to the meeting by Val Berry.

Ferdinand explained that he has had discussions with Martin Van Zant, Editor, regarding his work and salary related to working on *Bottles and Extras*.

Martin Van Zant has agreed to adjust his bi-monthly salary from \$1,200 an issue to \$600 an issue. We will continue with this arrangement until there is a comfort level with Martin's schedule and abilities to produce the magazine, both in quality and schedule. This is a \$3,600 annual savings in the interim as Ferdinand did not want to be financially compensated.

Action Taken: A motion was made by Alicia Booth to approve the adjusted salary of Martin Van Zant. Motion was seconded by Matt Lacy. All were in favor. This new arrangement will start with the May/June 2017 issue.

It was agreed to reduce the number of archived copies (hard copy) of *Bottles and Extras* from five to two. Archived magazines are accessible via the member's portal.

F. FOHBC Web Site (Meyer)

Status and goals, show reports.

The web site contains the latest up-to-date information. The site continues to be updated daily.

With the web site visual shown on screen, Ferdinand and Elizabeth went through all the information available on the FOHBC web site. Great features such as FOHBC history, officer listings, bottle show postings, articles and feature stories, the member's portal, merchandise, meeting notes, etc., are available.

Payments for merchandise, individual memberships and club memberships can be done with PayPal through the web site. You can also call Elizabeth with your credit card number if you do not want to pay online.

All information on upcoming FOHBC National Conventions (2017 Springfield and 2018 Cleveland) is on the web site. Information is continuously being updated.

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Action Taken: None

G. FOHBC Virtual Museum (Meyer)

See 25 Jan 17 Memo.

Video and Filming Update, Status, Financial, Board Members and Goals, Mission Statement, Policies & Procedures (Bylaws).

Alan DeMaison and Ferdinand Meyer V lead. Early April filming in Houston. 28 & 29 April filming in Denver. Springfield National presence and unveil at banquet.

Progress continues and it is anticipated that the first gallery for the Virtual Museum will be ready for presentation at the banquet in Springfield. Alan DeMaison has been working to master 'spinner technology.' He has a few photo and filming trips planned for the near future to prepare for opening of its first gallery.

Policies and Procedures for the FOHBC Virtual Museum (VM) as well as a governing body (FOHBC Virtual Museum Board of Directors) has been developed. Information regarding the aforementioned has been sent to board members. Material to be finalized and issued to board members for approval.

Action Taken: None

H. 2017 Springfield National Antique Bottle Convention Update (Bender, Strickhart)

Overview, Springfield Armory Reception, Battle of Springfield bottle competition, Membership Breakfast (MassMutual Center), Registration, Seminars, Displays, Banquet, Watson One Auction, Room Hopping, Bottle Grab Bags, Scavenger Hunt, contracts, team, budget update etc. New category for judging?

A field trip with Bender, Strickhart, Berry and Meyer (among others) occurred on 22 February 2017.

Operational Report.

Souvenir Program discussion. Advertising sales discussion. Baltimore effort to sell ads. Use examples of the Sacramento National Souvenir Program. Ferdinand brought additional copies.

A current report was distributed to board members. Bob Strickhart reported that the account balance for the Springfield convention has no outstanding debts as seed money has been repaid.

Total rooms sold to date is 450

Vendors have reserved 154 tables - approximately 45% sold

Banquet tickets are at 82

Early admissions are at 20

As has been normal in the past, reservations will pick up in the next 2-3 months.

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It was noted that room reservations are robust and that very few Sheraton Monarch Place host hotel rooms are left. Alternative arrangements are being made at the Springfield Marriott (across the street). The Marriott will not honor the room rate given by the Sheraton. The room rate for the Marriott is higher plus a parking fee will be added. Other local hotels/motels may be available nearby, however, driving, parking and parking fees at the convention center may be an issue. It was always stressed at the beginning that reservations should be made as soon as possible.

An auction company has not yet been chosen at this point in time to run the Watson One Auction.

The first winner of the two-night stay at the Sheraton was drawn from the first 50 contracts received. The lucky winners chosen were Peter and Trish Manfredi from South Glasonberry, Connecticut. The second winner of the one-night stay was picked from the first 100 contracts received and the winners are Ed and Kathy Gray from Dubois, Pennsylvania. There will be one more drawing taken from the first 200 contracts received. Rooms at the Sheraton will be available for the photographers as well as any Honor Roll/Hall of Fame winners, if needed.

Jim Bender has been discussing the concession food that will be available at the show itself with the MassMutual Center exhibit hall vendor. It is a rule that outside food is not allowed to be brought into the convention center and Jim will continue to make sure there is adequate food available (sandwiches, salads, etc.) for purchase.

February 22nd trip overview. Jim Bender, Bob Strickhart, Jim Berry, Fran Hughes, Jeff Ullman and Ferdinand Meyer. Jeff has volunteered to oversee the security aspects (he is a former investigator as a NYS Trooper). He actually had contact with security at the MassMutual Center reviewing the camera locations (i.e., loading dock, exhibit hall, etc.) and reported that security coverage is good. Camera videos are kept for 21 days before looping out.

Fran Hughes was able to see where the displays will be set up. He will work out any issues with exhibit hall staff.

The group then visited the Springfield College and the Springfield Armory Museum (both National Historic Sites) where an afternoon VIP reception is planned on the 7th floor on Thursday, August 3rd. This will be followed by museum tours. Ferdinand is overseeing this event. The group was met by John Reynolds, Springfield Technical Community College - Campus Events Coordinator and Joanne M. Gangi-Wellman, Chief of Interpretation, Springfield Armory NHS.

Jim briefly discussed other planned events such as the bottle battle, banquet, auction, membership breakfast, room hopping, bottle grab bags and scavenger hunt for children, etc.

Regarding room hopping, Jim explained that this is a small event for a few hours on Saturday night where people can get together in an informal atmosphere in their hotel room. However, the hotel is very strict with maintaining security and people's privacy and we cannot publicize who is in what room. It was suggested to use a balloon on the railing in front of the room to announce that someone has their room open for visits. Jim said we do need a point person to handle the room hopping event and will continue to be planned.

Jim also said Alicia Booth will take care of the grab bags and scavenger hunt along with Matt Lacy's son, Owen, and Ferdinand and Elizabeth's granddaughter, Isabella Alucema. Others will also be available to assist Alicia.

Jim and Val Berry continue to work on obtaining advertisements for the souvenir program. Sales

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will occur at the Baltimore Show.

Action Taken: None

I. 2018 Cleveland National Antique Bottle Convention Update (Fifer, Lacy)

A FOHBC 2018 Cleveland National Antique Bottle Convention & Expo coordination call occurred on 02 February 2017 (Meyer, Fifer, Lacy). See notes.

Overview, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Reception, Bottle Competition, Membership Breakfast, Registration, Seminars, Displays, Banquet, Auction, Room Hopping, Bottle Grab Bags, Scavenger Hunt, contracts, team, budget update etc.

Matt Lacy reported on the latest information on the 2018 Cleveland National. For the opening reception, they have looked into holding it at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, one of the most famous venues in Cleveland. A signed contract and deposit would need to be finalized to secure the facility as soon as possible. Matt reported on the expense associated with this Rock and Roll Hall of Fame event. Cost would include the facility, hors` d'oeuvres and free admission for attendees into the museum. 50 people is \$2,500, 100 - \$5,000, etc. There would be a cash bar. It is anticipated that sponsors could be solicited to help cover the costs. This facility for the reception is open to our entire group. It is limited to about 130 people at any given time, however, people would be broken into smaller groups, touring the museum and other options so the general area is not crowded. Final numbers of attendance to the event must be made two weeks in advance of the event.

Action Taken: A motion was made by Jim Berry to approve the opening reception be held at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Motion was seconded by Alicia Booth and all were in favor. Matt Lacy will make the reservation for the facility for 150 to 250 in attendance, sign the contract and deposit of \$500.

Other events for the convention were discussed by Matt and Louis. A speaker for the banquet is still being considered with two strong candidates.

Matt and Louis are also considering holding the auction in the morning.

Options for a Saturday night event are still being worked on.

The schedule of events and information on Cleveland's activities was distributed to members. In regards to the general membership meeting and breakfast, Jim Berry noted that with other happenings occurring at the same time, (i.e., dealer registration/ticket sales; dealer unloading and display set up, seminars), some board members are not able to attend the membership meeting breakfast. As officers, they should be able to attend.

As we have done in the past, contracts for the 2018 Cleveland National will be available one week before the 2017 Springfield National. However, some information will be made available through the website to stimulate interest.

In order to keep records in order, Elizabeth Lacy has prepared binders with all details to keep co-chairs in line and informed.

J. 2019 Southern Region National Antique Bottle Convention Update (Fifer, Meyer)

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A 2019 FOHBC 50th Anniversary National Antique Bottle Convention & Expo coordination call occurred on Wednesday, 01 February 2017 (Meyer, Baugh, Fifer, Booth, Bender). Location presentation, review and obtain direction. Anniversary Bottle.

Louis Fifer, Convention Director, reported on the venues for the 2019 Southern Region 50th Anniversary Convention. Information was distributed to members. Louis reviewed the pros and cons of each venue.

Louis Fifer has been working on soliciting sites in the Southern Region for the 2019 convention, our 50th anniversary. Louis presented his findings including locations in Georgia (Savannah, Augusta), South Carolina (Myrtle Beach), Louisiana (Shreveport) and Mississippi (Jackson). Places in Texas (Galveston, Houston, Fort Worth) and Florida (Orlando) were also explored; however, costs were very high and, therefore, excluded. Pros and cons for each location were reviewed and discussed.

Action Taken: A motion was made by Jim Berry and seconded by Jim Bender authorizing Louis to proceed further with two sites - Augusta, Georgia and Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, for the 2019 anniversary convention. Recommendations with then be made to the board at a later date.

Thanks were given to Lindsey, Louis' fiancé, who so graciously helped put his presentation together.

K. Financial (Meyer)

In Gary Beatty's absence, Ferdinand reviewed the status of FOHBC finances. Any questions can be directed to Gary.

Action Taken: None

L. Insurance (Meyer)

FOHBC National Show insurance coverage. Director's \$912, Club \$5,375.

Example of bottle breaking on table.

Ferdinand discussed concerns regarding the national show insurance coverage. Insurance coverage for dealer tables is the responsibility of the dealers. Sheldon Baugh can be contacted if further information is needed.

Action Taken: None

M. Hall of Fame & Honor Roll (Meyer)

Richard Allen (Dick) Roller, Richard T. Siri & Mark & Charles Vuono presentations for FOHBC Hall of Fame.

Jon Landers for FOHBC Honor Roll. Status for 2017.

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Four proposals for the FOHBC Hall of Fame (3) and Honor Roll (1) have been received. Information was forwarded to board members via email. Hard copies (2 sets each) were at the meeting. Ferdinand stressed that members must read each nomination thoroughly as well as the criteria required for Hall of Fame and Honor Roll nominees.

Per Hall of Fame Guidelines and Regulations, “no more than two persons may be inducted into the Hall of Fame per year.” It is also noted that approval must be by a 2/3 majority vote of the entire board.

In Bill Ham’s absence, Eric McGuire presented the Hall of Fame nomination for Richard T. Siri.

The nomination for Mark & Charles Vuono was presented by Jim Bender. Based on the Hall of Fame Guidelines and Requirements, ‘Applications shall be made on an individual basis only, i.e., no couples or groups of people shall be listed on the same nomination form,’ Jim explained his reasoning for submitting Charles and Mark as a ‘pair.’ As Charles, Mark’s father, began with bottle collecting, Mark was right there next to him every step of the way. It would not be appropriate to submit a Hall of Fame nomination for Mark without including his father, Charles, according to Jim.

Action Taken: A motion was made by Bob Strickhart that an exception be made concerning the guidelines for the Hall of Fame application for Charles and Mark Vuono and the application be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Eric McGuire. There was no opposition from any board member present. Motion was approved.

Due to time constraints today, a conference call will be held to discuss and review the remaining nominations. Again, Ferdinand reiterated that members read each application.

Action Taken: Following the conference call, Business Manager, Elizabeth Meyer will prepare a ballot form and email to every board member. Members will be asked to respond to *her only* with their vote by a deadline date given. Elizabeth will then tally the vote and follow up by email informing board members of the results.

General Discussion: A brief discussion was held regarding former FOHBC officer, Bob Ferraro, and current Second Vice President, Gene Bradberry. Both Bob and Gene are having medical issues and the Board sends its thoughts and prayers to both families.

The remaining agenda items will also be addressed on the conference call.

N. Club Awards (Val Berry, Meyer)

Status of club awards, Stimulate interest.

O. FOHBC Merchandise (Val Berry, Meyer)

P. FOHBC History (Bender, Meyer)

Q. FOHBC | Next Generation (Meyer)

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Show Presence, Advertising, Membership Levels & Goals, Life Membership, Tiered Membership, Digital Membership, Membership Tri-Fold, Member Portal, Member Club Promotion, Blue Sky Exercise (Bricks and Mortar Museum, Magazine, World Show/Anniversary)

R. General Discussion, Conclusion

The Board of Directors meeting concluded at 12:00 pm EST

Respectfully submitted,

James Berry, Secretary