



The Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors General Membership Meeting Minutes

FOHBC 2017 Springfield National Antique Bottle Convention & Expo

04 August 2017, MassMutual Center | Rooms 4 & 5

Ferdinand Meyer V called the meeting of the Federation membership to order at 7:30 am.

Ferdinand welcomed everyone to the FOHBC Membership meeting breakfast. He recognized the FOHBC board members present and those who were not able to attend the breakfast.

Ferdinand explained that the FOHBC web site is currently maintained by himself which includes a lot of work to keep it current and relevant. He reported that there have been over a million visitors to the site meaning that people can talk bottles 24/7/365 and not leave home. Ferdinand reported on web site statistics. For example, the FOHBC Facebook members total 2,535, the Peachridge Glass Facebook page with 1,793 members, the Bottle Collectors Facebook page with 7,530 members and the Early American Glass Facebook page with 1,187 members.

It was questioned why can't we get more people to these events? In many regions, there are several bottle clubs and most people can get their needs are met locally with several local shows held per year. Nationally, there are close to 100 clubs who usually conduct a show annually. This dynamic directly affects our ability to sell tables.

Ferdinand explained that we may need to redouble our marketing efforts. We are marketing primarily to the members and dealers. We need to market the Federation National events to the public. Currently for the Springfield National advertisements have been run in several antique magazines, however, we need to think different. This is a four-day event, but in reality, a two-day show. The Federation did agree to try this four-day format and the Springfield National is the second attempt. The Sacramento National was the first and was a successful event.

It was also noted that the Coker Auction from Tennessee surprised the FOHBC and took advantage of our event to hold an unsanctioned auction at our host hotel. This coincided with our VIP event (The Springfield Armory Reception) which did have a decline in anticipated participation. In the future, we will be more proactive and consider placing a non-compete clause in our contract with the host hotel and convention center venue.

The Springfield Bottle Battle event was held the previous night and went very well, although there was a minimal amount of participation.

Jim Bender spoke regarding the show. He stated that he was happy to see everyone here. Jim explained how he became involved with being a co-chair for the Northeast Region. He said that there was little interest from a local club and he didn't want to skip the region.

Jim further acknowledged that although he and Bob Strickhart are the co-chairs, the Springfield National was a combination of many people helping with the different events scheduled. He also noted the tight security in place for the show. He is proud to host the banquet as a tribute to Dick and Elma Watson. The upcoming seminars will be videotaped so everyone will have a chance to see them all. The auction has been moved to Saturday morning rather than the evening as it was felt that people would be more receptive in the morning. Room Hopping was added for Saturday night and encouraged everyone to meet and talk with other bottle collectors.

Ferdinand reiterated that Jim and Bob have been working on the Springfield National for a couple of years now. The many volunteers have certainly helped, but without the co-chairs, there wouldn't be a

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show. He added that Jim has also organized children's events including a grab bag and scavenger hunt. We need to help encourage the young ones to get involved in this hobby.

Ferdinand explained to the membership the current status of the FOHBC noting that this is one of the best group of directors with good participation by all. As in many organizations, many challenges occur.

The FOHBC stands on four legs:

1. Our publication: *Bottles and Extras* is one of our strengths, however, it was noted that challenges lie ahead with design, production, delivery and cost management.
2. Our National Convention: The biggest antique bottle and glass event each year rotating in our four FOHBC regions. Usually a great collaborative effort to stage. Challenges with an evolving hobby and audience.
3. FOHBC Web Site: Probably one of the most comprehensive hobby web sites. The site needs to be maintained in order to be relevant and current with news and information.
4. Virtual Museum: The next generation of bottle and glass information viewing and sharing. An immense task with a separate governing board.

Ferdinand briefly reported on the possibility of becoming associated with another magazine – *Antique Glass & Bottle Collector*.

Matt Lacy and Louis Fifer, co-chairs for the FOHBC 2018 Cleveland National Antique Bottle Convention & Expo, reported on their progress to date. They are still working on many details; however, it was noted that the reception will be held at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and the featured speaker for the banquet is Terry Kovel, noted author and antique collector. There are many sites to see and eateries within walking distance of the host hotel.

Ferdinand mentioned that the 2019 FOHBC 50th Anniversary National Antique Bottle Convention will be held in Augusta, Georgia.

Ferdinand talked about the Virtual Museum and its Board of Directors (Alan DeMaison, Sandor Fuss, Steve Libbey, Ferdinand Meyer V and Richard Siri). The mission statement states in part that it “will display, inform, educate and enhance the enjoyment of historical bottle and glass collecting by providing an online virtual museum experience for significant historical bottles and other items related to early glass.” Ferdinand is hoping to show a brief presentation at the banquet if time allows. Alan DeMaison has done very well with the learning process of filming bottles. A table in the display area at Springfield National will be set up for information and observation of the filming process. Ferdinand reiterated that there will be many galleries, exhibitions, research and resources. The museum will be able to grow and be expandable but it cannot be done all at once.

Gary Beatty, Treasurer, stated that the Federation has done well in the money market and financially is in good shape. The Virtual Museum has a separate account as does each convention. Alan gave a brief report on the Virtual Museum's finances. This account is primarily based on donations.

Board Member, Steve Ketcham said that he and Dana Charlton-Zarro have set up a system for members of Facebook bottle groups to be identified. There will be a sign at the front registration table and will hand out round blue stickers to put on their name tags. That way, all Facebook group members can meet and talk personally with those they don't normally meet when they are online. If possible, they may try to get a group photo.

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Virtual Museum board member, Alan DeMaison briefly explained how he has been able to travel to obtain filming of bottle 'spins' and imaging. It does consist of a lot of work to ensure they are done correctly. It is a time-consuming process but definitely worthwhile. Alan has asked people if they are willing to have their collections filmed for the Virtual Museum. He will actually go to the home so bottles do not have to be shipped or transported. Alan repeated that they are taking 'baby steps' but will continue to work on the project.

In conclusion, Ferdinand thanked everyone for attending the membership meeting and hopes everyone has a great experience at the Springfield Convention.

The Board of Directors meeting was adjourned at 8:15 am EST

Respectfully submitted,

James Berry, Secretary