



The Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors Board of Directors Conference Call January 15, 2015, 8:00 pm CST

Ferdinand Meyer V, called the conference call of the Federation to order at 8:00 pm CST.

Present: Ferdinand Meyer V, President
Sheldon Baugh, First Vice President
John Pastor, Director at Large
Bob Ferraro, Director at Large
Steve Ketcham, Director at Large
James Berry, Secretary
Gary Beatty, Treasurer
Elizabeth Meyer, Business Manager
James Bender, Membership Director
Valeri Berry, Merchandise Director
Martin Van Zant, Bottles and Extras Editor
Eric McGuire, Western Region Director
Matt Lacy, Midwest Region Director
Ron Hands, Southern Region Director
Andrew Vuono, Northeast Region Director
Jack Hewitt, Chattanooga Show Co-Chair (on briefly)

Absent: Gene Bradberry, Second Vice President
Rick DeMarsh, Public Relations Director

Agenda 1: Remembering Dick Watson

A very nice report regarding the passing of Dick was given by Jim Bender. Jim and Linda and Jim and Val Berry attended the funeral and met Dick's family. It was a wonderful tribute to Dick. He will be missed. Elizabeth sent a funeral arrangement from the FOHBC.

Ferdinand said the March/April edition of *Bottles and Extras* will feature a tribute to Dick and has been primarily coordinated by Jim Bender. The write-up will deal with memories of Dick Watson from his close friends.

Agenda 2: Open Board Positions - Ferdinand Meyer V

Ferdinand reported the position of Conventions Director remains open. At this time, he is covering this as necessary.

Due to the passing of Dick Watson, the position of Historian is open. Jim Bender expressed interest in assuming this position as he has been working closely with Dick on FOHBC history the past few years. It is also at Dick's request that he assume the position.

Action Taken: If there is any interest in the position of Conventions Director, please let Ferdinand know.

A survey was taken with members present regarding the appointment of Jim Bender as Historian. The appointment was approved, effective immediately, with no objections. Jim

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agreed to remain as Membership Director for the time being. Elizabeth will help Jim with membership responsibilities.

This information will be announced in the March/April issue of *Bottles and Extras*.

Agenda 3: Baltimore Board Meeting - Ferdinand Meyer V

The FOHBC Board of Directors semi-annual meeting will be held in Baltimore on Saturday, March 7th from 8:00 am to noon. The meeting will be held at the LaQuinta-White Marsh Hotel, 4 Philadelphia Court, Baltimore, Maryland. The conference room, along with food and drink, has been reserved by Jim Berry.

Action Taken: Ferdinand will distribute the meeting agenda to Board members in early March.

Agenda 4: Bottles and Extras - Ferdinand Meyer V

Again, there is a concern regarding the lack of articles for the magazine. Ferdinand thanked those who continually write for the magazine. He also suggested that Regional Directors/board members ask their member clubs if they have articles from their newsletters that we could publish in *Bottles and Extras*.

The discontinuance of including the *Bottles and Extras* as a benefit to the club membership was discussed. As Membership Director, Jim Bender felt that there were several people who would not join the FOHBC for the benefit of the magazine if they are able to read it for free from their club. Approximately two months ago, Jim sent a letter to member clubs informing them that the magazine will be stopped at their next renewal date. At this point, he nor Elizabeth has received any comments.

Action Taken: This matter will be monitored by Elizabeth Meyer and refer any comments or information to Ferdinand Meyer.

Agenda 5: 2015 Chattanooga National Update - Jack Hewitt (John Joiner not on call)

A brief update was given by Jack. He reports that at this point in time, there are:

- Tables - high 80s
- Banquet tickets - 24
- Displays - 3 or 4
- Hotel rooms - 160

Jack talked about advertising for the show that has been done on Craig's List as well as eBay. Responses/inquiries have been received through e-mail. It was announced that a photographer has been acquired - Mallory Boyle (a link to her website was sent via e-mail).

Jack said the auction dealer is beginning to acquire items for the auction. The FOHBC will help with consignments when needed.

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At this time, as is normal, table reservations have been slow. Board members are encouraged to distribute show contracts to vendors at other shows they attend. The Chattanooga show will be promoted in Baltimore as well. Regional directors were asked to check with membership clubs on including the national show information (contract, link to website) in their newsletters, websites and Facebook. Anyone who has a Facebook page was also encouraged to put the show flyer and website link on their site.

Action Taken: Please contact Jack Hewitt or John Joiner if there are any questions regarding the show. Jack left the call at this point.

Agenda 6: 2016 Sacramento National Convention Update - Ferdinand Meyer

Ferdinand reported that Richard Siri has been helping with this show and has designated others to help with different aspects of the show, i.e., Eric McGuire with seminars, Warren Friedrich with table sales, Russell Umbraco with displays.

Contracts should be ready one week before Chattanooga.

Action Taken: A motion was made by Ferdinand Meyer to approve Richard Siri as Chairman for the Sacramento National Antique Bottle Convention. Motion was seconded by Jim Bender. All were in favor, motion carried.

Agenda 7: 2017 National Convention Update (Northeast) - Ferdinand Meyer V

Ferdinand reported that at this time, there have been no membership club proposals submitted to host the 2017 show. Solicitation letters for club hosts was sent in early August 2014 and the deadline was December 15, 2014. Jim Bender and Andrew Vuono are continuing to solicit clubs in the northeast including Hartford, CT, New Jersey and New York.

Action Taken: Further discussion regarding the 2017 show in the Northeast will be held at the Baltimore meeting.

Agenda 8: History on the FOHBC Website and in Bottles and Extras - Ferdinand Meyer V

As a result of continuing interest regarding the history of the Federation, Ferdinand created a new page on the FOHBC website called 'Federation History.' It is noted that the page is in the process of being developed. With the new piece "History's Corner" added to the magazine and older newsletters (given to Ferdinand by Eric McGuire), much bottle collecting history/information can be gathered and put on the website.

Action Taken: No action taken.

Agenda 9: Regional Reports (Region Directors)

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Ferdinand has been keeping in contact with the regional directors in regards to improving a previous lack of communication between the FOHBC and member clubs. Some of the information we need to ensure that member clubs have is that the FOHBC is willing to help clubs with whatever they may need; make sure they are aware of the FOHBC National Shows (advertise in their newsletters with links to the website); advertising their show in *Bottles and Extras*; as well as the benefits included with their membership.

Regional Directors have been in contact with their clubs. Efforts are being made as noted below:

Eric McGuire, Western Region Director, reported that the effort to communicate with clubs has been difficult for a variety of reasons. Many clubs/club members do not take the initiative to pass on information. It is not consistent and he is hoping this will improve to make club members/individual clubs be more respectful of what the FOHBC is trying to do.

Ron Hands, Southern Region Director, agrees with Eric. He has also tried contacting clubs and gets very little feedback, but has had some favorable discussions.

Matt Lacy, Midwest Region Director, sent an e-mail regarding his efforts to work with membership clubs in his region.

Andrew Vuono, Northeast Region Director, has attended local shows and promotes the FOHBC.

Action Taken: Regional Directors were requested to send 'progress reports' on what they are doing within their region and any comments/responses they have received.

Agenda 10: Merchandise, Shipping Charges - Ferdinand Meyer V, Val Berry

Ferdinand explained that we will look at a 'limited run' of merchandise for our Chattanooga logo for the show. We have also been getting a few online orders from the website and shipping charges will be added to the total payment due.

Action Taken: An updated list of current merchandise on hand will be distributed to board members.

Agenda 11: Life Membership / Digital Membership - Jim Bender, Ferdinand Meyer V

Ferdinand explained that an FOHBC Life Membership is still being considered; however, a decision will need to be made on the fee for a Life Membership. Jim Bender also stated that with the Life Membership, it must be stipulated that receiving a printed copy of the magazine will not be guaranteed for life. Other options could be considered.

Action Taken: The board is asked to consider this proposal and give suggestions. Ferdinand gave a presentation "FOHBC - Next Generation" at the 2014 Board Meeting in Baltimore. He will forward that information to all Board members for review. Jim Bender and Ferdinand Meyer will submit a report in Baltimore and it is expected that this proposal will be voted on at that time.

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Agenda 13: Postal Problems - Elizabeth Meyer, Business Manager

It was reported that there have been a few issues with the postal service and receiving mail.

Action Taken: As a result, Elizabeth and Gary Beatty, Treasurer, have worked out a procedure to ensure all mail is sent and received safely.

Agenda 14: 2015 Hall of Fame, Honor Roll

Nominations will be submitted, reviewed and voted on at the Baltimore meeting.

Action Taken: At this time, there are two potential candidates for Hall of Fame and one for Honor Roll.

Agenda 15: Club Awards - Jim Bender, Ferdinand Meyer V

The FOHBC Club Contest (Newsletter; Show Flyer; Website; and Articles) paperwork will be handled by Jim Bender and Val Berry.

Action Taken: Information will be sent to membership clubs by the end of January 2015. The deadline for submissions is June 1, 2015. Information to be updated in *Bottles and Extras* and on the Federation web site.

Agenda 16: FOHBC Stationery - Ferdinand Meyer V

As FOHBC stationery is no longer being printed, Elizabeth has set up a digital version of the FOHBC letterhead. If Board members are sending any correspondence, they can use the digital letterhead, which can also be printed and mailed. Printed FOHBC mailing labels are also being used for larger envelopes and packages. Elizabeth can set this up if it is needed, just let her know.

Action Taken: None

The conference call was ended at 9:27 pm CST

Respectfully submitted,

James Berry, Secretary