



**Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors
Board of Directors Meeting Notes | Baltimore
March 12, 2016, 8:00 am EST**

Ferdinand Meyer V, called the meeting of the FOHBC Board of Directors to order at 8:00 am EST.

Present: Ferdinand Meyer, V, President
Sheldon Baugh, First Vice President
Robert Ferraro, Director at Large (via phone)
John Pastor, 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
Matt Lacy, Midwest Region Director
Eric McGuire, Western Region Director
Ron Hands, Southern Region Director

Absent: Gene Bradberry, Second Vice President
Steve Ketcham, Director at Large
Rick DeMarsh, Public Relations Director
Andrew Vuono, Northeast Region Director
Gary Beatty, Treasurer
Martin Van Zant, BOTTLES and EXTRAS Editor

Guests: Alicia Booth, FOHBC member and candidate for Public Relations Director
Bob Strickhart, FOHBC Life Member and co-chair of the 2017 Springfield National Troy Scafuro, Matt Lacy's cousin and bottle collector

Agenda A: Call to Order - Ferdinand Meyer V

Attendance was taken. Opening remarks by Ferdinand Meyer V. Ferdinand noted that the flat screen would be used to project imagery during the meeting.

Agenda B: FOHBC Elections Update - Ferdinand Meyer, Jim Bender

The Elections Committee has presented its slate of officers and this information has been published in the March/April issue of BOTTLES and EXTRAS. Ferdinand reported that the next issue (May/June) will include a 2-page spread with bios of the candidates. At this point in time, there are no other nominations; however, if there are, the election slate will be revised to include their biography as well. The deadline to receive other nominations is April 1st.

Biographies are important so FOHBC members and member clubs know "who we are." Ferdinand will make minor revisions on the current biographies, email to directors and if needed, please notify him of any changes, additions, etc.

Jim Bender is heading up the election voting and he reviewed the process. Regions will be color-coded as all the slate of officers up for election will be the same except for the region directions - therefore, the reason for color coding. Ballots will be sent out by USPS on or before June 1st with return date of July 15th. All current FOHBC members, as well as member clubs, will receive a ballot with return envelope. Ballots will be collected by Jim and remain unopened until the General Membership Meeting Breakfast in Sacramento, California, where they will be counted and announced. The newly elected and re-elected officers will serve a 2-year term from 2016-2018.

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Action taken: No action taken.

Agenda C: FOHBC Next Generation - Ferdinand Meyer, Jim Bender

Membership Update

Our goal is to continue increasing our membership as well as keeping our current membership. Changes were approved last year, (i.e., increased membership costs, reinstating Life Memberships, adding Digital Membership). Membership Director, Linda Sheppard, and Business Manager, Elizabeth Meyer, continue to mail postcards informing members that their membership is about to or has expired. They do this every two months. Ferdinand will send a personal email as well to those who may not have renewed yet and noted that he receives good responses back.

Elizabeth reported that most clubs are nearing their expiration date (May) so this will be targeted soon.

The importance of having an FOHBC presence at bottles shows and member club meetings was mentioned.

We have our trifold brochure for membership available and should be placed on the entrance table at shows, as well as a few magazines, if possible. Trifolds were distributed after the meeting.

Member Portal

The member portal is available for FOHBC members only. Ferdinand went over the procedure for access to the portal through the FOHBC website. He is able to add new users through his administrative access; a password is generated and sent to the user's email. Ferdinand and Elizabeth check periodically to ensure that those whose membership has lapsed are denied access (delete access).

Member Club Promotion

Ferdinand reviewed information from a member who disagreed with our decision to stop sending member clubs the magazine and his response. Again, it was agreed that it is important to have an FOHBC presence with member clubs; however, when the magazine is "passed around," it was stated that a person cannot fully enjoy the great magazine that we publish in just a couple minutes.

We do need to keep our presence in the forefront of these clubs/bottle shows to give them support and assistance when needed. The Public Relations Director and Region Directors, as well as any FOHBC officer, can attend club meetings, local bottle shows, or other events. For instance, Jim Bender has attended several shows within the Northeast region, took pictures and wrote articles about his trip and the show which is put on our website and facebook page. Recently, he did a presentation on the history of the FOHBC at his local club (Mohawk Valley Antique Bottle Club, Utica, NY) and as a result, the club held a raffle to pay for five FOHBC memberships. This is a great promotion and Ferdinand would consider doing something similar in the Western region in collaboration with the 2016 Sacramento Convention.

Sheldon Baugh reiterated that keeping good relationships with FOHBC members and member clubs is critical. Members and clubs do appreciate it when the FOHBC shows interest in them and is able to give them recognition for things they do. Other possibilities are visiting with and writing about collections by members. To help promote the West, Ferdinand is currently including articles in BOTTLES and EXTRAS pertaining to the Western region as that is where our convention is this year. Next year, articles will concentrate on the Northeast (for 29017 Springfield).

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A brief discussion was held in regards to having promotional efforts be made to three local clubs in the Sacramento region. Therefore, a motion was made by Jim Berry giving approval for Ferdinand Meyer, as President of the FOHBC, to follow through with a promotional effort to help and support three local clubs (San Diego, Los Angeles and Sacramento). Motion was seconded by Jim Bender. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Jim Bender Northeast Survey

In an effort to gather an understanding of what people think regarding the FOHBC conventions, as the 2017 will be held in the Northeast, Jim Bender sent out a survey to FOHBC members in the Northeast Region. He received quite a few back and tallied the responses along with some comments. A copy was distributed to members present. The survey was reviewed and it is hoped that some improvements can be made, if necessary. It was questioned whether some of the questions could be broken down by dealer versus collector.

Baltimore Table

Two people will be allowed in to staff the FOHBC table.

Blue Sky Exercise

Ferdinand briefly discussed a goal of having a place where all our research material, bottle information, etc. can be stored such as a real museum. The idea of having a “world show” may be contemplated for the future.

Agenda D: FOHBC BOTTLES and EXTRAS - Ferdinand Meyer

Ferdinand reported that the magazine is looking great with the change now made to full color. With the help of articles being written, ads getting in, the layout for each issue is able to be made farther ahead. Thanks to those who are writing and submitting articles, they are able to be “held” for future issues. Some changes have also been made in addition to color (i.e., the table of contents) and a new section titled “FOHBC Member Photo Gallery.”

Issues continue with mailing of the magazine by the USPS. The next issue (May/June) will be ready shortly for editing.

Action taken: No action taken.

Agenda E: FOHBC Website – Ferdinand Meyer

The status of the website and information currently available on it was reviewed. The site is kept up-to-date with additional information added daily. Adding short stories/events/shows, etc., is easy and informative. Send pictures, articles to Ferdinand and he can get them up on the website.

Action taken: No action taken.

Agenda F: FOHBC Virtual Museum - Ferdinand Meyer

Alan DeMaison, ex officio, continues with fund raising and promotion of the Virtual Museum. His display at the 2015 Chattanooga National Show was very well received. Equipment was approved for purchase and Alan is presently photographing for the museum. A separate Board of Directors for the Virtual Museum will be needed and Ferdinand will make a proposal soon.

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Action taken: No action taken.

Agenda G: FOHBC 2016 Sacramento National Antique Bottle Convention & Expo - F. Meyer, Eric McGuire

The current status of the convention was given. As is normal, January was a slow month for receiving contracts. However, we do have approximately 125 dealers with 60+ banquet tickets sold. It is expected that business will pick up as the convention gets closer. Events were reviewed such as the General's House Reception, seminars, souvenir program, club contests and auction.

It was asked if the Regional Directors could make an effort to encourage clubs to participate in the contests for articles, show flyer/poster, newsletter and website. All clubs were emailed in January and another will follow

Eric McGuire explained the article that will show the best bottles of the area (as is done with each region). With this article, a picture of each bottle (four to a page) will be added, making the program larger than normal. Eric said that after much consideration, the number of best western bottles was reluctantly stopped at 70!

Action taken: No action taken.

Agenda H: FOHBC 2017 Springfield National Antique Bottle Convention & Expo, Northeast Region - Jim Bender, Bob Strickhart

Jim and Bob, co-chairs for the convention, explained how things are progressing with the event. They are working on the seminars, banquet, auction, etc. and have quite a bit in place at this time. There is an excellent security system (cameras everywhere), which will be publicized extensively in an attempt to stop thievery. Jim, as one of his many talents, has made several items to be used as door prizes and will also have items available in Sacramento to encourage dealers to sign up quickly. They will offer an award of two free nights (at the host hotel) to one winner chosen randomly from the first fifty contracts received; and one free night from the first one hundred. Also, two banquet tickets will be chosen from the first 200 received.

The show packet is being worked on as well. A draft schedule of events was distributed to members. Bob explained a concern with the long days (7:00 am to 10:00 pm) for both dealers and helpers. In an attempt to help alleviate this, he is suggesting that Saturday's auction be held in the morning rather than the evening. This leaves the evening free for a leisurely, relaxing dinner, touring as a group or whatever people want to do. Brief discussion was held among board members regarding the change in the auction time.

Jim said they are also working on decreasing the amount of time it takes to complete the bottle battle. For example, they will try to have a better-organized check-in and pre-judge entries.

Action taken: The committee for the 2017 Springfield Convention will continue with phone conferences and review the contract and schedule of events before the final contract is ready.

Agenda I: FOHBC 2018 Cleveland National Antique Bottle Convention & Expo Update - Matt Lacy, Louis Fifer

The dates for this convention is August 3-5, 2018. The proposal to hold the FOHBC 2018 Cleveland National Antique Bottle Convention & Expo in Cleveland, Ohio, was approved in December and

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contracts were then signed and initial payment made. Announcements have been made via the website and will be in BOTTLES and EXTRAS. Matt and Louis briefly reviewed what they are and will be working on.

Action taken: No action taken.

Agenda J: FOHBC 2019 Southern Region National Antique Bottle Convention & Expo Update – Ferdinand Meyer

The 2019 convention will be the FOHBC's 50th anniversary and all agreed it should be special. Information will be published soon in BOTTLES and EXTRAS and suggestions will be encouraged for a commemorative bottle.

Action taken: Board members are asked to come up with some ideas, locations and possibilities for this special event.

Agenda K: Financial Report - Ferdinand Meyer

A Financial Report was submitted by Treasurer, Gary Beatty and distributed to members present. Ferdinand briefly reviewed. Sheldon Baugh did state that the Money Market Funds listed on the report is actually a Mutual Fund Account. Correction was made. There were no other concerns or questions at this time.

Action taken: No action taken.

Agenda L: Hall of Fame / Honor Roll - Induction at the 2016 Sacramento National Convention

Three submissions for the FOHBC Hall of Fame and/or Honor Roll have been received. Copies were sent to board members via email. A hard copy was distributed during the meeting.

Ferdinand recapped the criteria required for Hall of Fame and Honor Roll nominees. Per Hall of Fame Guidelines and Regulations, "no more than 2 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.

Action taken:

As has been done in the recent past, 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. Ferdinand will notify each recipient of the results by a phone call and letter.

Agenda M: FOHBC Merchandise - Val Berry, Ferdinand Meyer

Val talked about the merchandise on hand at this time - T-shirts; denim shirts, short-sleeve collared shirts, hats and mugs. An order will be made shortly, but it was noted that due to carry over from last year, the order will be minimal. An order will also be made for show shirts, which sold very well in at the FOHBC 2015 Chattanooga National Show.

Ferdinand updated the merchandise page on the FOHBC website and will continue to have updates.

Action taken: No action taken.

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Agenda N: FOHBC History - Jim Bender, Ferdinand Meyer

As there has been a few years of non-activity with the history of the FOHBC, we are now focusing more on it. The FOHBC 2016 Sacramento National Convention is considered to be a “Back to our Roots” event as California was the beginning of organized bottle collecting. Jim has put together a wonderful display of FOHBC history. Since assuming the role of Historian, he is collecting an enormous amount of items, both from bottle people as well as the many, many items collected by previous Historian, Dick Watson.

The piece, “History’s Corner,” is now a part of BOTTLES and EXTRAS.

Action taken: No action taken at this time.

Agenda O: General Discussion, Conclusion

Members discussed possibly changing the location of our bi-annual meeting. This option will be further investigated.

As there sometimes are issues in contacting clubs due to changes in officers, a suggestion was made to recommend member clubs to obtain a PO Box for mail. Also, email addresses may change as well. Updates need to be given to the FOHBC Business Manager if and when they happen.

The Meeting of the FOHBC Board of Directors was adjourned at 11:30 am EST.

Respectfully submitted,

James Berry, Secretary