



Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors

President's Message

President:

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This may be the last President's Message from me. You'll actually have choices in the next election and I hope you will all participate in it.

I'll have to admit that the last two years was an experience unlike any I had before. When I became President, the FOHBC was having a real problem getting a magazine out. Remember waiting months for your next issue? I'm sure most of you have heard of the "Garden Path;" well, I was given the grand tour down it before the light came on. At that point, I hired Jesse Sailer to be the editor and we have had a magazine out since.

I forgot to get the whole board of directors to vote on the hiring. My fault. But when the ship is sinking, you plug the hole and start bailing. You would have thought the part of the board that wasn't informed of the decision would have been happy that we saved the ship.

Ah, then there is the web site. This was maintained by a person who had edited the magazine before illness had taken her out of the picture. It was then given to another person to maintain. I was appalled at the condition of this site. It was dated at best and nowhere near current. When I questioned the acting webmaster about the site, I received back in an e-mail, "Don't get you underpants in a tizzy. I have a real Job and I do this stuff in groups as I have Time." I relieved the webmaster of this job. Man, did I catch flack over that. Forgot to ask the Board again. It took awhile to get another person trained to do the site as I'm not very computer savvy, but now clubs and members listing are up to date and we have no problems with it now. The site is kept current. Had I not made the change, I'm sure we would still be looking at years-old information on the site.

Some other things that have happened is the development of a Honor Roll and Hall of Fame guideline. And we have been working on bringing the bylaws up to date. This is something that should be reviewed periodically so as we evolve we will be compliant with the bylaws. We should be finished with the revisions at the Ohio meeting. We now have a corporate mailbox and I have put a notice in the magazine regarding bequeathing to the FOHBC. Another thing I did was to develop an ad for the FOHBC merchandise (shirts) that is placed in the magazine and can be accessed on the website.

Realizing that a brick and mortar museum was not doable and would not serve the membership well, I came up with the idea for a Virtual Museum that could be accessed from your computer. How great would that be, to be able to visit the world's best bottle museum without having to drive there? Think "Green." Well, as I stated before I'm not computer savvy so Ferdinand

Meyer is taking on the project to develop the museum. We need help with the funding and that's being worked on. Hopefully, a future Board will continue to pursue this idea.

All in all I think we have the ship on a even keel and even moved it forward some. I don't expect that the FOHBC will need or have to go through the types of problems we experienced in the last two years. I know I upset the Board a couple of times, but I feel as President I needed to do what was good for the membership -- not the Board.

One Board member said I didn't understand organized bottle collecting, whatever that means. What I do understand is the membership expects and deserves a quality magazine that comes out 6 times a year and a national show on an annual basis. If we get the Virtual Museum going and modernize our existing web site in the next year, I think the membership will be satisfied that they are getting their money's worth.

The nominating committee put together a slate that will work well together. Please consider it when you cast your vote.

Richard Siri
President, FOHBC

Where there's a will there's a way to leave collections to FOHBC

Did you know the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors is a 501C(3) charitable organization?

How does that affect you?

It allows tax deductions for any and all donations to the FOHBC. You might also consider a bequest in your will to the FOHBC. This could be a certain amount of money or part or all of your bottle collection. The appraised value of your collection would be able to be deducted from your taxes.

An example of a bequest would be:

(This is not legal advice, please consult an attorney)

I give and bequeath to the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors, 401 Johnston Ct, Raymore, MO 64083, the sum of \$ _____ to be used as its Board of Directors determines.

The same type wording could be used for bequeathing your collection or part of it, however, before donating your collection (or part of it), you would need the collection appraised by a professional appraiser with knowledge of bottles and their market values. This is the amount that would be tax deductible.

Thank you for considering us in your donation plans.

Richard Siri, President
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