

I would like to thank everyone for their support in electing me president of the FOHBC for the next two years. I find that there are many challenges and opportunities awaiting us in the near future.

To bring everyone up to date, the following action has been taken: I have appointed Tom Lines, of Birmingham, Ala., as our new treasurer. He was approved unanimously on a conference call to the board of directors. Tom comes from a banking background and has served as Southern Region director for the federation. He also has served as president of the Birmingham club as well as perennial show chairman for the Birmingham show.

He is a longtime collector and friend of bottle collecting as well as a personal friend. Welcome aboard, Tom!

I would like to thank Alan DeMaison, our retiring treasurer, for his longtime dedication and service to the federation. Alan and Tom will be working together to make for a smooth transition.

Also a hearty thanks to Richard Siri's granddaughter, Stacey LaFave, for her efforts to bring our website up to date over the past several months. We will be making further changes to that as we go along and Ferd Meyer, our new second vice president, will be working to redesign the website which we hope to have functioning in two or three months. Ferd also is coordinating our efforts for a virtual museum and you will be hearing much more about that in the months to come.

I would like to welcome the new officers just elected and say on their behalf that we look forward to working together for the betterment of the hobby and the federation. A listing of these new officers is in this issue of the magazine, as well as the election results. I really appreciate the response we had to our "GET OUT THE VOTE" campaign.

A special thanks goes to Jim Bender for heading up the election committee and to the folks who volunteered to do the counting. The count was conducted at the open membership meeting by nonboard members of the federation. Thanks for a job well done.

A special thanks to the Findlay Bottle Club, especially chairman Jamie Houdeshell and co-chairman Joe Hardin, for chairing the national show. They did a fabulous job. Jamie got sick with a virus the last couple of weeks before the show and Joe filled in admirably. We wish Jamie a speedy recovery

The show was a resounding success and the Wilmington, Ohio facility was just marvelous. I can see us going back there in the future. There were so many great bottles and great fellowship. More details on the show later.

Our national show and convention is set for next year on June 24-25-26 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday), using the same meeting and

show format we used this year. Put that on your calendar as you won't want to miss this one. It will be held at the Memphis (Tenn.) Cook Convention Center at the same site as the 2004 EXPO and the same host hotel, the Marriott. More details will be carried in the next issue. We moved it back a month to help those who have kids in school as well as those who teach.

There is so much happening, I could type on for three or four more pages, but I will close with this: A special thanks to our outgoing president, Richard Siri, for his efforts over the past two years. I look forward to utilizing his talent over the next two. Thanks, Richard.

I look forward to serving the hobby through the federation's efforts to make collecting more fun. As always, LET'S KEEP THE FUN IN BOTTLE COLLECTING!

Sincerely, Gene Bradberry, President, FOHBC

