



FOHBC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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I write this report today in April and notice that snowstorms and blizzards are in the forecast for the Rockies and tornadoes are projected in advance of a major weather front in the Plains. The birds are chirping outside here in Houston as the trees are filling with new leaves. We are expecting cooler weather (in the low 40s) here at the house later this week. This constant change, diversity and movement remind me of our hobby. Always something going on.

Right off the bat (hey, baseball season just started last week!) and in the forefront is the FOHBC National Antique Bottle Shows. The Manchester National in New Hampshire this July is almost sold out as far as dealer tables. We even had to increase our take on hotel rooms and all indications are that this will be one "grand slam" of a show. Occurring in New England for the first time, we have planned great seminars on fascinating topics like Connecticut Glass Rarities by Rick Ciralli, 20th Century South Jersey Glass by Thomas Haunton, Blown Three Mold Glass by Ian Simmonds, New Hampshire Glass Factories and Products by Michael George, Mount Vernon Glass Co. - History, Products and People by Brian Wolff, Early 20th Century Milk Marketing in New England and Markings and Seals Embossed on Milk Bottles by Jim George and Al Morin, Saratogas by George Waddy and Uncovering Demijohns by Dave Hoover. And to top this off, historical flask king, Mark Vuono will be giving a talk at the Awards Banquet! There will also be the Norman C. Heckler sponsored New England Bottle Battle (colored medicines, utility bottles, whimsical objects) on Friday evening and the Glass Works Auction on Saturday night! You can find much more information about the show on the FOHBC.org web site. A big thanks to Michael George and Maureen Crawford (show chairs), Tom Phillips (conventions director) and Rich Ciralli (seminars) for their continued effort to make this the best National yet.

The artwork for the marketing components are being developed for the FOHBC 2014 National Antique Bottle Show in Lexington, Kentucky. The events on Aug. 1-3, 2014 will be held at the Lexington Convention Center. The Hyatt Regency Lexington will be the host hotel and is connected to the Convention Center. Sheldon Baugh and Randee Kaiser will be serving as co-show chairpersons. Lexington is a historic city and was founded in 1775. Lexington has many area attractions including Ashland (Henry Clay's Home), Mary Todd Lincoln's House, Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill, and thoroughbred horse farms. We are even thinking about calling our bottle contest the

Lexington 'Run for the Roses'. With the Reno Shootout in 2012 and the upcoming New England Bottle Battle in Manchester, this seems appropriate. I wonder what the bottle categories will be? Stay tuned as more information will be posted soon.

The FOHBC will also be announcing the location for the 2015 National Antique Bottle Show in the Southern Region very soon. We are finalizing our contracts with the host facility and hotel and are extremely excited about the city that was selected from a pool of seven or eight contenders. Our Federation membership is broken into four regions and now it is time for the South to shine. I will give you a clue on the location... "Choo-Choo".

That leaves us with the FOHBC Expo in 2016. Boy do we have some great possibilities there!

I would like you all to think about increasing our National Shows to two days for the public. With better marketing and planning we can make this happen and be successful. As it stands now, we are having an increasingly difficult time putting together an outstanding show with seminars, a banquet, an auction, a bottle contest and all of the other great things in a one-day show with a half day for early admission. If we think bigger, we will get bigger. Our Federation national shows should be events to remember.

The Federation would also like to thank all of our members who have graciously contributed to the Virtual Museum 'Fill the Bottle' campaign. The development fundraising gifts, as of this writing, are very close to the \$10,000 dollar mark. We really need more to make this successful. Please visit the FOHBC.org web site and click on the bottle to give a gift, get information and see a list of donations. Design development for the museum continues in this monumental endeavor and we hope to have the 'virtual' architectural plan of the museum unveiled by the Manchester National.

The Federation also realizes that our strength is our membership and with that said, we need to grow our membership base. While we are now at our highest membership level ever, we are short of our planned milestone of achieving 2,000 members. We are in the midst of a 2,000 Member campaign to broaden our horizons, and to unify the many types and ages of our collectors. We also have announced a contest to award a prize to any new member or renewal from three years back or more. The prize for 2013 is a GII-11, half-pint pontiled Eagle/Cornucopia, Pittsburgh-made flask with beaded edges generously donated by FOHBC Membership Director Jim Bender.

Times have changed. I have said this many times before. We are stronger as a group. We have so many things to tackle and we need your help! Think of the giant organizations for stamp, coin, toy and yes, gun collectors. Where would they be without organization and support? If you know someone who collects bottles or is interested in our hobby, get them to join. If it is time to renew, renew. Every person counts.

Well, as I glance at my word count I see that I am nearing the zone that will fit in one page. Thank you all very much for the many emails showing support, constructive criticism and about what you collect. We are also getting many more new articles to choose from. Happy collecting. Make your plans to attend a show or two and tell us your story.