



2013
MANCHESTER
COVERAGE

FOHBC Manchester

Board Meeting

by Dave Maryo
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Walking into the FOHBC board room in Manchester, New Hampshire seemed like any other small gathering of friends. Board members were greeting each other and catching up on each other's lives. The FOHBC board is a diverse group with some being businessmen, public servants, religious leaders and professionals.

Some board members have been involved with the FOHBC board for many years. They are the anchors that keep us in line with the organization goals set when the FOHBC was founded. Others became involved over the years and bring new ideas that help us guide the organization into the future. The room was nearly full when a few more members arrived and joined in sharing the latest news.

When our president, Ferdinand Meyer V, brought the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m., the friendly gathering of bottle collectors suddenly turned into a business meeting. At this point, I could tell by the looks on faces of board members sitting around the room that they are serious about supporting the bottle hobby. After presenting some statistics during his opening statement, Ferdinand directed Alan DeMaison to present an overview of the FOHBC business matters before moving on to other topics on the agenda.

One of our first topics was finance. Our treasurer, Gary Beatty, and business manager, DeMaison, reviewed the income and expenses for the year, confirming that the FOHBC is financially sound. Although most people would find this portion of the meeting boring, keeping the FOHBC financially healthy is the only path to support our membership for years to come. The next topic was membership. Alan DeMaison reported to the board that membership has grown to the largest it has been in the history of our federation. Discussions about supporting our membership now and into the future highlighted that the FOHBC will need to change to support our members' needs in a digital world. The reinstitution of Lifetime Memberships was also discussed.

Several board members commented that we now have more ways to



communicate with members than we had when our communication was limited to the FOHBC magazine. Board members are committed to using the latest technology available to our membership. As the meeting continued, our past president Gene Bradberry reviewed proposed by-law revisions regarding Internet communication and misconduct. The proposed revisions to the by-laws were approved by the board.

The next topic was our national shows. Manchester show chairman Michael George and co-chair Maureen Crawford joined us to give us an update on the show. It was a nice change from the less exciting business that was covered up to this point. After discussing the Manchester show our convention director, Tom Phillips, presented plans for our upcoming national shows in Lexington, Kentucky and Chattanooga, Tennessee. Board members brought up many ideas to improve future shows. It was suggested that we provide general admissions on Saturdays as well as Sundays and other changes that would improve and lengthen the national shows for our members.

We went on to discuss many other topics during the four-hour meeting, but we did not finish the aggressive list of items on our agenda. At noon, the board members agreed to adjourn the meeting for the day and take up the remaining items on the next conference call. The meeting was adjourned and board members left to join their spouses for lunch before the rest of the day's events began.

From my perspective as West Region Director, one of the most important topics from the Manchester FOHBC board meeting was related to better communication with our membership. FOHBC Board members would like more direct communications with our clubs and members to help guide our organization. I encourage all our FOHBC members to get involved, contact their board members, support the FOHBC and improve our organization and the hobby.

