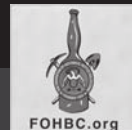




FOHBC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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As we put away holiday displays in January and say good-bye to football in February, most of us are thinking that Father Time goes by so fast. Soon the seasons will change again and it will be time to focus more intensely on the big bottle and glass shows and events planned for the remainder of this year. Right off the bat in 2013, we saw exciting bottle shows in a number of cities across United States and now many of us are focusing on the great and popular annual Baltimore Bottle Show and Sale on March 3. This show in many rights, has grown from a city to a regional to an East Coast to a national event, drawing many bottle enthusiasts from across the country. This club has its act together and is a model for other clubs to follow. Of course, I may be a bit biased as I am from Baltimore, I am a club member and the Ravens won the Superbowl!

By the way, you can get a comprehensive list of all the shows in the United States and many of the big ones overseas on the FOHBC.org website. You also can see the latest information regarding the FOHBC National Antique Bottle Show in Manchester, New Hampshire on July 20-21. It's the first Federation national show ever held in New England! The Manchester information on the web site is updated often and you can always get the latest news on table procurement (there are not many left), hotel reservations, show times, the auction, seminars, banquet, bottle battle and so much more. This is going to be a super one, folks. Interest has been so high since FOHBC Conventions Director Tom Phillips announced this locale with chairs Michael George and Maureen Crawford heading up the effort. Finalize your show and travel plans now as July will be here before you know it. I would specifically like to suggest, if you haven't already, that you make your hotel reservations, banquet reservation (legendary historical flask authority Mark Vuono will be giving a talk), plan for early bird admission if it applies and consider consigning bottles to Jim Hagenbuch and Glass Works Auctions for the auction planned on Saturday evening. For the most part, all of these events take much advance planning and it helps us better forecast our crowd and plan for the specific event.

We are also thankful to all of our members and collectors submitting constructive comments and suggestions regarding the era of the dwindling bottle club and what we all can do to turn the tables. A few of the communications have been highlighted in the FOHBC News section on page 4 of this issue. We are also especially pleased to see the resurrection of the Wisconsin

Antique Bottle & Collectibles Club and the many ideas from the membership about how to make a club stronger. Federation member Jeff Burkhardt, from Cedarburg, Wisconsin, even rejoined the Wisconsin club after a 30-year absence! New bottle club web sites, facebook pages, newsletters and multi-dimensional events like scavenger hunts, museum trips, bottle digs, tavern hops and creative bottle and glass displays seem to be an exciting trend that could help turn the tide and boost individual club membership, meetings and local show attendance.

I am reminded that when I first joined the hobby and Federation that I, along with our Houston Bottle Show chair and Fed member Barbara Puckett, tried to get a Houston club meeting scheduled and was disappointed with only a handful of attendees back in 2003. Though the Texas and Houston area is rich in collecting history, time has marched on. The economy, even back then, immense distances, business and personal commitments and other factors certainly contribute to the logistics of having regular meetings. We do see our Houston show growing again, and that is encouraging.

One of the best comments, and we heard this often, was that we should involve and engage our youth, the next generation of antique bottle and glass collectors. We especially liked the 'discount' bottle idea to spark the interest of a young collector. It worked with my granddaughter, Adriana, who is now a member of the Antique Poison Bottle Collectors Association (thank you, club members Tom and Alicia Booth).

In a world of digital and instant online communication, we must not forget the value of our people, what they know and our history. Get creative. Think outside of the box. The collectors are out there. Let us give them options to stimulate membership. Speaking of the digital world, did you know that the FOHBC facebook page is now up to 1,550 plus likes and followers? Amazing. This is somewhat like a club itself, isn't it? With members and visitors from all over the world, I would say it is. Also, please be on the lookout for an updated plan of action that is being compiled by a prominent Federation member on ideas and tips on how to start and maintain a bottle club.

In another direction, your FOHBC is also now taking a more advanced and far-reaching role in education and historical archiving. We plan on contacting the many glass museums to try to foster a relationship that will be mutually beneficial for all involved. Just this past week or so, we have made plans to send all past issues of Bottles and Extras to the New Bedford Museum of Glass and we have forwarded bottle images to the Smithsonian National Postal Museum. Now that is exciting!

We also wonder what our readers think of the various reality show outfits that are contacting our collector base and asking about putting their collections on television. You can also read about this further on our Federation web site and within this issue in the FOHBC News section. This is really a hot topic that has really generating some interesting comments.

So everyone speak out, let's all talk and communicate. We are all in this together and are bound by our love of old bottles and glass. Stay warm, too; spring will be here soon.